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## 'We are broke' - BNF

- Motshegwa attributes low voter turnout to resources scarcity
- BNF dogged by primary election appeals, Shoshong & Tonota results disputed



Motshegwa

BAKANG TIRO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

SECRETARY GENERAL OF Botswana National Front (BNF), Kethlalefhe Motshegwa has decried acute lack of funds and resources, which has resulted in poor pre-primary election preparations/campaigns that led to low voter turnout experienced recently.

Motshegwa said there have been several factors at play which have contributed to low numbers of voters in some constituencies and wards, which include migration from the old to new membership database. A decision was taken that only members who existed in the old database as of 31st October 2023 were eligible to vote, rendering those registered thereafter not eligible.

"We also have a common issue of resources such as money for mobilisation. It has been difficult

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Reatile

[PIC: PINO KILANO]

BAKANG TIRO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE OPPOSITION UMBRELLA for Democratic Change (UDC) has rattled their erstwhile darling, Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF), by fielding Omphemetse Kwapa of Botswana National Front (BNF) as their parliamentary candidate for Jwaneng-Mabutsane in the 2024 general elections.

Until recently, when their bromance collapsed, the UDC had allocated the Jwaneng-Mabutsane constituency to BPF where the latter is represented by its President Mephato Reatile.

Before defecting to the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) under the Ian Khama administration and onward to the BPF, Reatile had been a long time die hard BNF comrade during the Kenneth Koma era. He first came to Parliament under the BNF ticket and was

earmarked to represent the UDC in the October 2024 general elections.

Observers concur that fielding Kwapa in Reatile's backyard could deliver a debilitating blow to the BPF, who are battling power struggles between their leadership. Another master stroke was when the UDC leadership offered BPF would-be candidates who wish to contest under the coalition ticket to come forward.

Although the three incumbent Serowe MPs - who all belong to the BPF, have been playing their cards close to the chest, information turned out by The Patriot on Sunday suggests that all is not well within the BPF as members are carefully examining the political ground and majority may jump ship to contest for elections under UDC symbol.

### Mass exodus

Addressing the media on Wednesday, BNF Secretary General Kethlalefhe Motshegwa confirmed that the UDC has received expression of interest from some

# UDC shakes Reatile

- Invade Jwaneng-Mabutsane, field Kwapa
- BPF losing candidates to UDC, insist on pact model

BPF members who want to contest elections under its banner.

Motshegwa said so far, Shadrack Baaitse is one BPF member who had openly declared his intention to represent the UDC and he is already hitting the ground running campaigning under it at Tswapong South. "UDC partners have since decided on some constituencies that had been allocated to BPF and those that have been reallocated are Jwaneng-Mabutsane and Mmadinare. Consultations amongst UDC partners regarding other constituencies are ongoing," added Motshegwa. BPF decided to leave UDC last month.

Also, Motshegwa said they have negotiated some wards amongst the coalition and are on the verge of concluding the remaining, adding that this process must be guided by principle amongst the partners.

### Pact Model

On Friday, BPF Publicity Secretary, Amogelang Mokwena said there are no recent developments taking place regarding BPF and UDC reconciliation, adding that there is no room for cooperation as BPF insists on pact model while on the other hand UDC insists that it can only work with BPF under alliance model.

He said there is an offer on the table to rescind the decision by Reatile that withdrew BPF from the UDC and possibly the BPF can rejoin

the coalition before the elections. He, however, could not be drawn into discussing decisions taken by some BPF members to contest for elections under the UDC banner, noting that such members are best suited to speak for themselves.

Meanwhile, political science lecturer at University of Botswana (UB), Dr Adam Mfundisi the marriage of the BPF and UDC was short lived because there was absence of thorough interrogation of issues related to coalition politics. He said it was a marriage of convenience by the BPF leadership, adding that BPF failed to investigate why other political parties have left the UDC and how it was going to navigate the obstacles and challenges in the UDC.

The BPF has a dearth in character and leadership. The absence of the Godfather Ian Khama has deprived the BPF of stability, endurance, and sustainability. Political factionalism has contributed to the messy in the party. How the UDC benefits from the shambles in the BPF is not also clear at the moment," he said.

According to him, both formations will win and lose in the current debacle, buttressing that UDC is not strong in North of Dibete more so in Bangwato heartland where the BPF is supreme.

In addition, Dr Mfundisi said opposition parties should work together where their interests converge.

# 2024 UNFAIR VOTE

- IEC Documents/forms discriminate against LGBTQI+
- Gender marker only recognizes Male and Female



Kelemi

CALISTUS BOSALETSWE

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL Commission (IEC) has been criticised for using documents with a gender marker which only recognizes male and female persons, in all their election processes leading to the 2024 general elections.

Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ+) persons who fall outside the gender binary recognizing only male and female are unable to meet requirements of IEC documents in their quest to participate and vote in the 2024 general elections. LGBTIQ+ rights groups fear that the recognition of only male and female gender marks in all IEC documents during voter registration could deny non-gender binary persons to participate in elections.

Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) Executive Director, Cindy Kelemi said there is a need to talk broadly about recognition of a third gender stating that this has to be within the framework of the constitution. "That is why we have been agitating for constitutional review process to recognize transgender. We were surprised that intersex are to be recognized at the exclusion of transgender. So, this constitutional recognition will ensure that all their rights including political

participation are promoted, protected and fulfilled," said Kelemi. She expressed concern that there are serious issues relating to identity cards, where official documents are not aligned to LGBTQI+ preferred gender. Consequently, according to Kelemi, Botswana Government is denying transgender persons their right to vote, a gross violation of their Constitutional rights.

A human rights and advocacy non-profit organization - Success Capital Director, Dumiso Gasha indicated that not all LGBTIQ persons are impacted by gender markers. "Gender diverse people - including transgender, gender non-confirming and non-binary are impacted by gender markers. However, this has not stopped us from participating. Using only two binaries on a form might exclude us but it is the people who designed, deploy and facilitate using those forms who perpetuate stigma and discrimination," Gasha observed.

Gasha further noted that it becomes a barrier if someone is judged based on their looks and what they are wearing when they seek help. "It is how we are treated that becomes a barrier not a piece of paper. If I can navigate an immigration point I can navigate a form that needs to be filled. We have

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## Wilderness & Claws alleviate human-lion conflicts

**I**N PARTNERSHIP WITH local Botswana non-profit, CLAWS Conservancy (Communities Living Among Wildlife Sustainably), Wilderness is continuing to make a positive impact to help reduce human-wildlife conflict in the Okavango Community Trust (OCT) areas neighbouring Wilderness Vumbura Plains.



“Closely aligned with our Impact strategy pillar of Protect, and our commitment to do more for the reduction of human-wildlife conflict in the OCT community areas, we are proud to be working closely with CLAWS in this region and to see the positive results of our collective conservation efforts over the past six months. By offering both a logistical and physical presence, as well as monitoring and additional collaring where needed, we have assisted CLAWS to refine and further improve their work in mitigating conflict through fostering co-existence and the expansion of their early warning system”, noted Wesley Hartmann, Wilderness Botswana Conservation Ecologist.

CLAWS Lion Program Coordinator, Virginia Pelayo Malet added that this work is critical due to the significant decline in lion populations over the past 25 years.

“The initiative focuses on the development of the first-of-its-kind Lion Alert System that aims to mitigate human-lion conflicts by providing real-time warnings to farmers when satellite collared lions approach. Our Lion Response Team (LRT), supported by village volunteers, is then able to intercept the lions, using deterrents to encourage them to

retreat to safer areas”, she said.

Important impact measurements and results from the first six months of implementation (Oct 2023 – Mar 2024) have highlighted a significant increase in the proportion of alerts attended, the number of conflicts averted, and total distance lions moved away; demonstrating a positive impact on mitigating human-lion conflicts and reducing lion mortality.

The number of known lions in the study area has also increased, probably due to a better understanding of lion groups and composition in the area at these early stages of implementation. Additionally,

over 300 individuals have signed up to receive alerts, with over 78 alerts dispersed during the initial six months since Wilderness support began.

“While we have increased the number of collared lions and the growth of the Lion Alert System userbase, we have noted a decrease in volunteer engagement and still face some challenges with regards to data collection, network accessibility, and the availability of deterrent equipment, which will now form part of our improvement plan going forward”, added Wesley.

The Okavango region of Northern Botswana is central to the largest stronghold of lions

in Southern Africa, and a key region for connectivity between other regional lion populations within the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA). However, villagers living along the northern edge of the Okavango struggle with continued lion predation of their livestock, and in some instances, have killed entire lion prides in retaliation. On African landscapes, lion populations have decreased by a startling 50% over the last 25 years, owing to conflict with humans and habitat loss.

“Our CLAWS partnership continues to demonstrate clear outcomes that we’re hoping to achieve here to not only empower cattle farmers to increase commercial sales of their beef product, but to also provide the tools and training required to improve co-existence between the farmers and the local lion populations. Through our ongoing support of CLAWS’ field and research work, we hope to proactively implement interventions to ensure the lion populations’ viability in the northern Okavango, and in particular, our Vumbura Concession”, Wesley concluded.

## Partnering for thriving communities

■ Debswana, De beers and Diarough support Camphill Trust

**D**EBSWANA’S Corporate Social Investment Program beneficiary, Camphill Community Trust will be hosting a fundraising walk in Otse, on the 25th of May 2024, under the theme, ‘Walk together so no one is left behind’. The Executive Head of Corporate Affairs of Debswana, Ms. Rachel Lungile Mothibatsela, will be the Chief Walker for the fund raiser.

Debswana has funded the renovation of a Tea Garden located at the centre, which will be open to the public once completed. The Tea Garden will be commercially operated to supplement funds for the Community Trust’s initiatives, in line with an overarching commitment toward transforming community-based enterprises into sustainable projects. In our quest to Partner



Mothibatsela

for Thriving Communities, we are collaborating with De Beers Group and Sightholder Diarough Botswana (Pty) Ltd to further support Camphill Centre for their future activities. It is expected that Debswana and De Beers Group will on the day of the walk, introduce Diarough who has made a financial commitment of P500,000 (five hundred thousand Pula) towards refurbishing Camphill facilities (old hostels) to achieve its sustainability ambitions.

“Debswana saw it befitting for the centre to benefit from our socio-economic development programme. Our socio-economic development programme is part of our Environment, Social and

Governance (ESG) programme dubbed Building Forever. It resonates with our purpose to ‘Make Life Brilliant’ and is set up on our values particularly that of “Show You Care” and our building forever intentions that demand of us to create prosperity for all aligned to our country’s Vision 2036 aspirations to create prosperity for all, said Debswana Executive Head of Corporate Affairs.

Andreas Growth, Director at Camphill Community Trust said, “Camphill is excited to partner with Debswana Diamond Company for the sponsored walk as we celebrate 50 years of providing education and training for children and young people with disabilities in Botswana. We are deeply

grateful to Debswana, De Beers Group and Diarough for their support which enables us to provide quality education for children and young people with disabilities who are among the most vulnerable groups in society.”

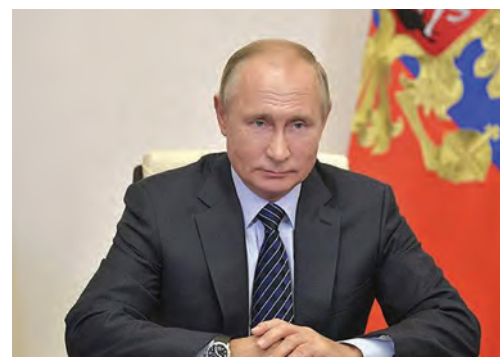
The funds raised at the walk will contribute to the cost of Rankoromane School and Motse Wa Badiri Training with a combined enrolment of 162 learners aged from 5 years to adult. Some of the funds will be used to renovate the kitchen for a restaurant which provides a learning space for vocational training in Hospitality and Catering in a real-world commercial environment. This social enterprise also generates income for the community.

## Putin hails Russia-Africa Summit

VLADIMIR PUTIN\*

**P**LEASE, ACCEPT MY cordial greetings on Africa Day – a holiday symbolising the victory of African countries over colonialism and their striving for freedom, peace and prosperity.

African countries have scored universally recognised successes in the socioeconomic area



Putin

and are playing an increasingly important role in resolving current international issues. The African Union and a number of sub-regional structures are expanding constructive

cooperation, creating mechanisms for collective response to local conflicts and crises and consistently promoting integration processes.

Russia is paying special attention to strengthening friendly relations with African partners. We are united by our commitment to building a fair multipolar world order based on true equality and the international rule of law, and free from any form of discrimination, dictate and sanctions pressure.”

The Second Russia-Africa Summit held in St Petersburg last year certainly created conditions for enhancing productive and mutually beneficial cooperation in most diverse areas. I am confident that consistent implementation of the plans and agreements reached at that important multilateral meeting meets our common interests and contributes to ensuring stability and security in Africa.

\*Russian President Vladimir Putin’s greetings to African heads of state and government on Africa Day



## Inspection of general voters roll ongoing

**A**LL VOTERS, stakeholders and any interested persons are formally informed that the Independent Electoral Commission has decided to substitute the original dates for the inspection of the General Roll with new inspection dates. The original inspection dates were from the 22nd April to the 2nd June, 2024.

The new dates are from the 10th May to the 20th June, 2024. This decision is in line with the Commission’s endeavor to open itself up for further transparency and provide the more than Seven Hundred and SixtyFour Thousand (764,000) validly registered voters in the roll, with more time to effectively inspect the roll and assist in cleaning it up. It is also based on the Commission’s sensitivity to the interest of its stakeholders.

The rolls will remain at the places where the inspection has been going on until the 20th June, 2024, the last day for the inspection.

Lastly, individual voters and other stakeholders are humbly requested to take advantage of this window to inspect the roll thoroughly and give the Commission feedback where necessary. They should also familiarize themselves with all relevant sections of the Electoral Act relating to the inspection of the rolls, processing of objections, formal alterations to the rolls as well as procedure for alteration of the rolls. These may be helpful to a voter in case they wish to raise issues pertaining to the roll.

SECRETARY  
INDEPENDENT  
ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PPRA

### MEDIA RELEASE

## MOTSUMI APPOINTED PPRA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



The Board of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) is delighted to announce the appointment of Ms. Tumelo Motsumi as the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority, effective 1st April 2024.

Ms. Motsumi was the Acting Executive Chairperson of the erstwhile Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB) from 1st November 2021 to 13th April 2022. When the Public Procurement (PP) Act, 2021, came into being, which transitioned the then PPADB into PPRA, she was appointed to lead the new organisation as the Acting Chief Executive Officer, from 14th April 2022 to date. Ms. Motsumi was instrumental in the public procurement transformation during her acting period as the CEO by ensuring that the transition to the new public procurement law is well managed. Her extensive knowledge of public procurement, leadership and commitment have been critical in driving the transformation exercise and will assist drive the strategic vision of the PPRA.

Ms. Motsumi’s notable achievements thus far include the following; Guiding the development of the Public Procurement Act as well as its implementation by among others transforming the then PPADB into a Regulator through the completion of PPRA’s first four-year strategic plan; overseeing the PPRA Organisational Structure and related policies and programs all of which are expected to be completed by the end of the current financial year; reviewing the Capacity Building training modules to align them with the new Act and accrediting the non-credit bearing modules with the Human Resources Development Council; re-accrediting PPRA with the Botswana Qualifications Authority as an Education and Training Provider until 2029, and Completing the first Compliance Assessment of PEs which formed the baseline upon which improvements or otherwise in compliance of PEs to the PP Act will be determined.

The Board found Ms. Motsumi to be the ideal person to take the Authority forward based on her commitment to explore ways and means to continually make improvements to the Public Procurement Act and its implementation through stakeholder engagement particularly in the areas of citizen participation and empowerment; professionalisation of the procurement cadre and putting in place appropriate public procurement structures in Procuring Entities.

Ms. Motsumi is a seasoned Economist and a procurement professional whose career spans over twenty-six (26)

years having started with the then Botswana Technology Centre (BOTEC) in 1997 where she progressed to the level of Senior Economist until 2005 when she joined the Public Enterprises and Evaluation Agency (PEEPA) as a Business Analyst. In 2008, she joined PPADB as a Principal Procurement Specialist and rose to the position of Manager in 2013, and that of Executive Director Services in 2017, and the Acting Executive Chairperson in November 2021.

Over the years, Ms. Motsumi gained experience and skill in project appraisal and transfer of technologies to industry, different forms of privatization such as divestiture and outsourcing as well as adjudication and compliance assessment in procurement.

Ms. Motsumi has a distinct academic and professional background which includes Bachelor of Economics (1997), University of Botswana; Master of Economics (2001), University of Stellenbosch, Republic of South Africa; MCIPS Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (2019); and Senior Management Development Programme (2014), University of Stellenbosch. Other trainings she has undertaken include Project Management; Project Appraisal; Audit and Monitoring of Procurement; Designing High Performance and Sustainable Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Infrastructure, Health, Education, Security and Sports Sector; and Procurement and Contract Management Procedures among others. She is also a BQA certified trainer and assessor in procurement.

Ms Motsumi sits in the Executive Committee of the African Public Procurement Network (APPN) and chairs the Southern Africa Regional sub-committee of the Network. APPN is network of all Regulators of Public Procurement in Africa meant for Capacity Building and sharing of information and experiences amongst member countries.

The Board, Management and Staff of PPRA would like to congratulate Ms Motsumi on her appointment and look forward to her positive contribution in driving the transformation of public procurement and making PPRA a high performing organisation.

### BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

For more information, contact; **Mr. Charles Keikotlhae** PPRA Public Relations and Education Manager at (+267) 73 991 127 / 360 2017 or [ckeikotlhae@ppra.co.bw](mailto:ckeikotlhae@ppra.co.bw).

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Applicants may forward their applications no longer than the **10 June 2024**



# No compensation for Elephant attacks

**SOLOMON TJINYEKA**  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**B**OTSWANA GOVERNMENT does not have a policy that provides for monetary compensation to people injured in horrific attacks by dangerous wild animals such as elephants, lions, hippos, buffaloes, leopards and crocodiles.

Bakae Maphare, an elderly farmer from Shorobe who was severely injured by an elephant two weeks ago while guarding his ploughing field from being raided by elephants, got the rude awakening as he lay on his hospital bed incapacitated. Maun East Member of Parliament, Goretse Kekgonegile said it is unfortunate that elephants continue to injure and kill people frequently in Ngamiland district. He noted that in the case of Bakae Maphare, Botswana Government will not offer monetary compensation in incidents of animal attacks or injury.

Kekgonegile decried that the law currently used is outdated given that injuries from attacks by wild animals are not compensated while death is compensated, notwithstanding numerous pleas by Members of Parliament for change. They have been calling for changes to the compensation policy to include. He added that in this incident government will only pay for medical bills but if he is a bread winner and has lost his capacity then there is need for more social security measures.

Maphare, 67, is the latest victim of elephant attack. He was attacked by an elephant on the 3rd of May 2024 while guarding his ploughing field from being raided by elephants. Narrating his ordeal,



at his hospital bed at Letsholathebe Memorial hospital last week Friday, he revealed that he was chasing a herd of elephants wanted to raid his ploughing field. He fired the shot gun towards an elephant, other ran away but the one returned and charged, attacked him , its tusk pieced his armpit through his shoulder back.

He was lying helpless, fortunately someone came to his rescue, chasing the elephant by screaming, clapping hands, until it ran out.

Maphare has been admitted at Letsholathebe for more than two weeks now but the his condition has not improved as he is groaning in pain, his arm is swollen.

He decried that despite his situation, he has been given pain killers pills, paracetamol. He however, said he will be transferred to Nyangabwe hospital to see a doctor to examine his condition.

Farmers in the Shorobe are facing harsh reality of increased human wildlife conflicts. They complain that the ongoing drought has increased the human wildlife conflict, as elephants targets their produce in their ploughing fields. Majority of farmers did not harvest as elephant raided their ploughing fields.

# 'Dikgosi di Xadile' launched in Maun

**SOLOMON TJINYEKA**  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**K**GOSI TAWANA II HAS launched a 'Dikgosi Tsa Goo Tawana Dixadile Campaign to address social ills faced by young people, especially the girl child by advocating for empowerment and protection of their rights.

The campaign, spearheaded by local NGO, Queen Esther under the Lead Girl project, seeks to tackle issues head-on as an intervention led by dikgosi. By bringing the kgotla directly to the youth, the traditional leaders aim want to foster a supportive environment where open dialogue and mutual understanding can thrive.

Addressing Maun senior secondary students on Thursday, Kgosi Tawana II said the initiative represents a crucial step forward in their commitment to empowering the girl child and youth, addressing some of the most pressing challenges within communities, and integrating traditional values with modern solutions.

Kgosi Tawana II said the campaign aims to bridge the gap between dikgosi and the youth, as a proactive movement towards lasting change and sustainable development. He highlighted that communities are the heartbeat of any nation, and the youth are the lifeblood that will carry our traditions, values, and progress into the future.

However, decried that the youth face significant challenges that can hinder their potential and well-being. "The issues of gender-based violence (GBV), indiscipline, teenage pregnancy, substance and alcohol abuse, and low academic performance are not just statistics; they are real obstacles that our young people encounter every day," Tawana II decried.



**Kgosi Tawana II**

"We will teach young people botho jwa Setswana, boitshwaro jo bo haphegileng, and maitseo a ngwana wa Motswana. Our Setswana culture embodies powerful, tested, and proven transformational values that can transform and groom well-rounded young people. We aim to return to these values to guide our youth," he stressed adding that their campaign's motto

"chenna monyana," embodies their commitment to stand alongside their youth, advocating for change and fostering a nurturing environment for their growth and development. This is not just about addressing problems but about empowering our young people to become well-rounded, resilient, and capable individuals who can lead our communities into

a brighter future," he explained. Kgosi Tawana II emphasized that to achieve this, dikgosi have devised a comprehensive program which includes kgotla meetings every fortnight in different wards to address parents, ensuring regular engagement with parents and mobilizing collective action. He added that each chief will adopt a school in their ward,

address assembly meetings and become part of the Disciplinary Committee to instill traditional values and provide mentorship. We will also conduct house-to-house visits where necessary and organize monthly community outreaches at clinics within our wards. "We must address boitshwaro jwa bana ba rona, the degradation of morals that is the main cause of community ills, by going back to our roots as a people with a rich culture that can harness and groom well-rounded young people. We must also instill the traditional values of Botho, teaching our youth the importance of humanity, respect, and community," he affirmed

Kgosi Tawana also noted that their desire is for this initiative to be adopted by the House of Chiefs as best practice, not only for our district chiefs but for all districts in our country. he noted that by doing so, we set a standard that can transform communities nationwide, ensuring that our youth are supported and guided by the enduring wisdom of our traditional leaders.

The Coordinator of Queen Esther, NGO, Vehae Tjiriange hailed 'the Dikgosi Dixadile Campaign' as a testament to the power of traditional leadership in driving modern solutions. Tjiriange stressed that by harnessing their rich cultural heritage and the wisdom of our chiefs, they are poised to make a substantial difference in the lives of their youth. "As we move forward, we anticipate the significant impact this initiative will have on our community. Our young people in Ngamiland will benefit from the guidance and mentorship rooted in our traditional values, becoming well-rounded individuals capable of leading our communities into a brighter future," she said.

# Unions disagree over pay structure

**BAKANG TIRO**  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**P**UBLIC SECTOR TRADE UNIONS are divided over the implementation of a new proposed fan-shape salary structure in the public service after the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) revived disputed PEMANDU recommendations by engaging AB Consulting for a similar exercise.

Government has engaged the Malaysian Private Consulting Firm, AB Consulting to conduct preliminary assessment on areas of remuneration management system under the fan-shaped salary structure.

Five cooperating trade unions or 5CTU (BOSETU, BONU, BLLAHWU, BTU and BOPEU) and the National Amalgamated Local and Central Government and Parastatal Workers Union (NALCGPWU) differ on it.

The Patriot on Sunday is informed that DPSM is hitting the ground running to ensure that the new

- Fan-shaped to apply reforms similar to PEMANDU proposals
- 5CTU support it, Manual Workers demand pyramid structure
- Fan-shape structure finish timeline was to be April 2023 - Rari



**Rabasimane**



**Rari**

structure is implemented in the next financial year and will continue consultations with the unions.

In an interview, the coordinator of 5CTU, Tobokani Rari said they are all in support of the implementation of a fan-shaped salary structure by DPMS going forward. He said in fact, its implementation is long overdue and very much delayed.

According to Rari, at the salary negotiations held in Lobatse in 2019, the unions agreed that fan-shape salary structure be implemented in April of 2020, but the timeline set could not be met then.

And at the 2022 negotiations, Rari revealed that the finishing timeline was postponed to April of 2023.

"But even to date the construction of the structure has not been completed. In fact, the 5CTU are intending to sue the employer for

a breach of Collective Bargaining Agreement," Rari buttressed.

In addition, Rari said the fan-shaped salary structure will be going to benefit the workers in the sense that workers who are bottlenecked at the top notches and cannot progress because they have exhausted the notches will now have their path opened and would be able to progress and such benefiting financially.

### Manual Workers

Briefing the media last week Wednesday in Gaborone, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Manual Workers Union, Robert Rabasimane berated their 5CTU colleagues for supporting new structure.

He said the AB Consulting scope of work is intended to revive the implementation of the PEMANDU report recommendations but said their position is for DPSM to adopt pyramid structure.

"We are not going to support these new proposed developments in the civil service. In 2019, all the trade

unions agreed that pyramid structure be adopted to increase salaries for civil service employees on the lower scale of A3. And in 2022, we all agreed that to be used for all the salary increments," he said.

Rabasimane said it was for this reason that Manual Workers pulled out from six cooperating trade unions (6CTU) in 2022 to negotiate solo because other unions have defeated the principle that it was agreed on.

He said the Manual Workers Union's view is that an across-the-board approach will disadvantage workers who are at the lower end of the public service salary scales.

### Across Board

For his part, former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Manual Workers Union Motshwarakgole said the pyramid structure is an ideal salary structure to be adopted, adding that other unions will find it not easy to negotiate salary adjustments with the employer across the board approach as it's the case now. He said the pyramid

structure today is also supported by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

"We are of course concerned by the kind of divisions between the public service trade unions due to salary negotiations.

We will continue to engage the 5CTU for us to reach common ground on how to approach DPSM on salary structure and other conditions of service for public service servants," he said.

Currently, 5CTU have reached salary adjustments deadlock with employer as they demand 15% salary adjustment for civil servants in the financial year 2024/25 while DPSM said it can only implement the 5% which had been agreed on 2022 negotiations for the three financial years of 22-23, 23-24 and 24-25 one.

On the other hand, Manual Workers Union is pushing for the DPSM to increase salaries of other scales above A3 by implementing the pyramid structure, noting that failure to do by DPSM will leave the union with no option but to slap DPSM with litigation.

# Homophobia: LGBTQI's nightmare

**CALISTUS BOSALETSWE**  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**M**OGALE MORAKE CAN vividly remember the past traumatic experience she had to endure at junior secondary school where she was made to conform to a gender identity that was assigned to her at birth without her will.

Morake who is a transgender woman quips that she had nightmares as she was made to identify as a male. "At times teachers made us to seat according to our assigned gender. I really struggled since they identified me as male while I identified myself as a girl," said Morake.

She remembers that she was even struggling when it comes to using bathrooms. Morake preferred solitary visit to bathrooms since she was afraid to use the girls bathrooms in their presence. She feared that girls will question her for using their bathrooms hence waiting for everyone to leave the bathrooms

so that she could sneak in without anyone noticing.

She said the ordeal even continued when she was admitted at Naledi Secondary School in 2013. "The whole thing was distressing, and I suspect that it could have affected my studies," said Morake.

Morake posit that access to sexual and reproductive health has been a hell of a ride. She said that access to hormone therapy is often available in government hospitals but comes along with stigma and discrimination attached to the service.

She is worried that providing hormone therapy is usually done at the discretion of medical staff, who often have transphobic views.

Morake is of the view that some doctors and nurses believe that being transgender is a lifestyle choice rather than an intrinsic part of a person's gender identity. She further noted that sometimes they are denied medication where they are now forced to look for such medications in private clinics where they have to pay exorbitant prices.

Morake said that she is not immune to distress that has taken a toll not only her as individuals but the LGBTQI community as a whole.

Research findings A South-African- Northwest University (NWU) study titled, "Mental health challenges among the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Community in Gaborone," which was published last year also list Gender dysphoria (GD) among mental challenges that LGBTQI+ experience in Botswana.

GD is a distress a person experiences due to a mismatch between their gender identity—their personal sense of their own gender—and their sex assigned at birth.

Lobatse Health Institute of Sciences (IHS) Department of Psychiatric, Mental Health Nursing Lecture, David-Sydney Mangwegape who authored a paper titled, "Mental health challenges among the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Community in Gaborone" noted that vulnerable groups such as LGBTQI+ persons are vulnerable to

mental health illness on account of stigma, prejudice and discrimination from the society.

"I do recommend that most mental health problems be addressed from pre-school level through late childhood. I acknowledge the work of Guidance and Counseling teachers but we do need capacitate them more in order that they run school based mental health programs that encompass life skills training and bullying prevention," said Mangwegape, adding that most of the mental health problems experienced in childhood are a result of a traumatic childhood period.

He further noted that capacitating children to deal with emotional problems augurs well for their adulthood mental health hence there are greater chances of reducing suicide cases by prioritizing school mental programs.

Mangwegape also noted in his research that it is evident from the research paper findings that some individuals identifying as LGBTQI+ persons experienced mental health



**LGBTQI's community at a Pride March in Gaborone**

challenges like depression, gender dysphoria, loneliness and isolation.

The study that was aimed at exploring and describing the mental health challenges experienced by some members of the LGBTQI+ community in Gaborone, highlighted that there is high prevalence of depression, anxiety, suicide and substance use among Lesbian, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender and intersex (LGBTI+) community. The researcher also stated

that some members of LGBTQI+ community are vulnerable to depression not on account of being in the minority but because of factors like the discriminatory attitudes of the health care workers and the police. "These circumstances heighten their risk to depression,"state the paper," state the paper. The research paper further stated that a range of emotions were displayed among those experiencing mental health challenges during

the telephonic, interviews and that included sadness, frustration, stress, and worry.

Mangwegape also noted that those who had experienced depression also revealed that they have attempted to commit suicide.

A queer activist organization, Success Capital Director, Dumi Gacha noted that the mental health challenges that LGBTQI persons experience are not that much different from those experienced by many Batswana. "These are shared experiences. These include high level of unemployment, Gender Based Violence (GBV), Intimate violence and also acknowledging there are no avenues to meaningfully participate in the economy," said Gacha.

Gacha posited that mental health challenges are exacerbated by stigma and discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons . She also revealed that there are a myriad factors that expose LGBTQI vulnerability to depression. "Like many Batswana they carry trauma with them,"added Gacha.



# Address psychiatric disorders in children with disabilities



LAGAGO TAMOCHA\*  
**EDUCATING THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LEARNER**



**B**OTSWANA HAS MADE considerable strides in recognizing and addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities, yet challenges persist, particularly in the area of mental health. The country faces significant hurdles in providing adequate mental health care and educational support for children with disabilities. Research indicates that mental health issues among adolescents are prevalent, with a high incidence of psychiatric disorders and associated risk factors impacting their developmental phases.

A 2022 cross sectional study about psychiatric disorders and associated risk factors in Gaborone by Anthony A. Olashore et al which sampled adolescents came to the conclusion that, “34.5% of the secondary school students met the diagnostic criteria of at least one disorder.

This supports the earlier assertion that psychiatric disorders are also present among students in Botswana and indicates that they are highly prevalent in the community, just like in upper-income countries and LMICs.

It further confirms the earlier claims that there is a significant unmet need among the adolescents in Botswana, given that approximately 35% of those diagnosed with psychiatric disorders were neither receiving treatment nor aware of the available psychiatric care services. In addition, the fact that most of the schools visited for

data collection had counselors is an indication that the available services were grossly underutilized. This suggests the need for community awareness about mental disorders, as most can be identified by immediate caregivers rather than the school care services, if they are well educated and empowered.”

**Inclusive Education**

Inclusive education is a crucial strategy in equipping children with disabilities with the necessary skills and education for their future. It emphasizes the need for an education system that accommodates all learners, regardless of their physical or mental abilities.

Despite progress in special education policy, implementation remains inconsistent, and many students with intellectual disabilities experience exclusion rather than inclusion in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions.

**Mental Health in Schools**

To prioritize the mental health of pupils with disabilities, schools in Botswana must adopt a multi-faceted approach:

**Teacher Training and Sensitization:** Educators should be trained to identify and address mental health issues among students with disabilities. This includes understanding the signs of mental distress and knowing how to provide appropriate support or referrals.

**Inclusive Educational Practices:** Schools should implement inclusive teaching strategies that cater to diverse learning needs, ensuring that students with disabilities are fully integrated into the classroom environment. **Mental Health Services in Schools:** Establishing accessible mental health services within schools, such as counseling and psychological support, can help address the mental health needs of pupils with disabilities.

**Parental and Community Involvement:** Engaging parents and the community in the education process helps create a supportive environment for children with disabilities, promoting better mental health outcomes.

**Anti-Bullying Programs:** Implementing strong anti-bullying policies is essential to protect students with disabilities from abuse and discrimination, which significantly impact their mental well-being.

The New Botswana Mental Health Act and The Persons with Disabilities Act: Advancing Mental Health for Persons with Disabilities

Botswana has recently taken significant legislative steps to address the mental health needs of its population, particularly focusing on individuals with disabilities. Two key pieces of legislation, the Mental Health Act of 2023 and The Persons with Disabilities Act, are central to

these efforts.

**The Mental Health Act of 2023**

The Mental Health Act of 2023 marks a crucial update in Botswana’s approach to mental health care. This new legislation replaces the outdated Mental Disorders Act of 1969, which had long been criticized for its inadequacies in addressing contemporary mental health challenges [2]. The 2023 Act aims to provide a more modern framework for the reception, detention, treatment, and protection of mentally disordered persons, ensuring their rights and dignity are respected.

The Persons with Disabilities Act Complementing the Mental Health Act, The Persons with Disabilities Act addresses the broader spectrum of rights and services for individuals with disabilities, including those with mental health conditions. This Act emphasizes inclusivity and equal access to education, healthcare, and employment, promoting a supportive environment for people with

disabilities.

**Intersection of Mental Health and Disability Legislation**

**Comprehensive Care:** The new Mental Health Act ensures that individuals with mental health disorders, including those with disabilities, receive appropriate and dignified care. It mandates regular review and monitoring of treatment plans, aiming to prevent abuse and neglect.

**Inclusive Policies:** The Persons with Disabilities Act advocates for policies that support mental well-being. This includes accessible mental health services and support systems within communities, schools, and workplaces.

**Rights Protection:** Both Acts work together to safeguard the rights of individuals with mental health conditions and disabilities. They promote non-discrimination, equitable treatment, and the right to participate fully in society.

**Awareness and Training:** The legislation calls for increased

awareness and training for healthcare providers, educators, and employers to understand and support the mental health needs of individuals with disabilities.

Addressing the mental health of pupils with disabilities in Botswana requires a comprehensive approach that includes training educators, adopting inclusive practices, providing mental health services, and fostering a supportive community environment. By prioritizing these measures, Botswana can enhance the educational experience and overall well-being of its young learners with disabilities.

The new Botswana Mental Health Act and The Persons with Disabilities Act represent a significant advancement in the protection and support of individuals with mental health conditions and disabilities. A more inclusive and supportive legal framework means Botswana is taking essential steps toward ensuring the mental well-being and rights of all its citizens including students and people with disabilities.



**FROM PAGE 1**

to navigate a majority of the world that excludes us,” added Gasha.

Gasha further advised that there is a need for IEC to ensure that officials are not discriminatory to any LGBTIQ+ person and that their institutional values respect and encourage everyone to register to vote. They also called for the

inclusion of LGBTIQ+ with disabilities since they are unable to participate if there is no sign language at registration points.

Gasha said if a transgender person approaches a registration point, their role should focus on registering and not their appearance, mannerisms and stereotypes that might perpetuate harm. “We recommend

LGBTIQ+ to register and participate because we are Batswana and there is a need to ensure that we participate in all sectors of society as any other Motswana,” added Gasha.

IEC was given a Right of Reply to the story but indicated that they were still awaiting a response from their Legal Division at the time of going to print.

## TENDER NOTICE

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR PROVISION OF EXTERNAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR BOTSWANA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (BDC)**

- 1. The requirement**  
BDC seeks the submission of Expressions of Interest (“EOI”) from well-established and reputable law firms, with preference for 100% citizen-owned law firms, for inclusion on BDC’s panel of legal services providers (“the Legal Panel”).
- 2. Project objective**  
The shortlisted law firms shall be included in the BDC panel for a period of two (2) years. Upon appointment, BDC will detail their contract, rights, duties and obligations of each party, alongside confidentiality and non-disclosure undertakings. Selection and/or entering into a service contract with BDC does not confer any exclusivity rights nor guarantee that a service provider will receive instructions from BDC during the term.
- 3. Interested Bidders are advised to visit <https://www.bdc.bw/tenders> to access the Expression of Interest document with full requirements of the Expression of Interest. Request for clarifications can be sent to [procurement@bdc.bw](mailto:procurement@bdc.bw) between 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**
- 4. The PDF submissions must be e-mailed with subject title 'Expression of Interest for the PROVISION OF EXTERNAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR BOTSWANA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (BDC)' by 1100 HRS, on the 04<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to [procurement@bdc.bw](mailto:procurement@bdc.bw).**
- 5. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Botswana Development Corporation  
Fairscape Precinct, Plot 70667 | Fairgrounds Office Park  
P/Bag 160, Gaborone  
Tel: +267 365 1300 | Fax: +267 390 3114

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE (AMENDED)**

**TENDER NO: BOCRA/PT/001/2024.2025**

**SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF AUTOMATED SPECTRUM MONITORING SYSTEM (ASMS) IN BOTSWANA**

The Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA or the Authority) hereby invites experienced local and international companies to tender for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Automated Spectrum Monitoring System (ASMS) at Mabutswe Hill (Tlokweng), Tatisiding and Maun sites.

The Automated Spectrum Monitoring System will assist BOCRA in its mandate of effective and efficient management of spectrum resources. Initial roll out of the project will cover priority areas being: Gaborone, Francistown and Maun.

Bidders who are domiciled in Botswana must, in order to be considered for the tender be registered with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authorities (PPRA) under the following categories:

**Code 118: Telecommunications services**  
**Subcode 05: Installation and maintenance of Telecommunications equipment and systems.**

International companies are exempted from registration with the PPRA, however, Tax exemption certificate issued by Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) is required.

Preference will be offered to wholly citizen owned, majority citizen owned and minority citizen owned service providers.

For foreign companies, preference shall be given to companies who undertake to enter into business (Joint Venture, Consortium, Association or any type of Partnerships) with or sub-contract portions of the work to 100% citizen owned companies. Foreign-owned companies shall be required to subcontract up to 30% of the contract to citizen-owned companies.

Foreign Bidders domiciled outside Botswana must, in order to be considered for the tender, submit company registration documents issued by relevant authorities.

Youth companies shall purchase the ITT at 50% of the fee as per **Presidential Directive CAB 14 (B)/2015**.

Mandatory site visits shall be conducted at different sites. Only bidders who attend the site visit will be considered for award of the contract. Company representatives will be expected to present their Identification Cards or Passports during registration and no representative will be allowed to represent more than one company.

The schedule for the site visits is as follows in Table 1:

**Table 1: Site Visits Schedule**

	Site Name	Coordinates		Date	Time
		Lat	Long		
1	Mabutswe	-24.699268	25.988629	03 June 2024	08:30 am
2	Tatisiding	-21.248445	27.473084	05 June 2024	08:30 am
3	Maun	-20.017806	23.473806	06 June 2024	08:30 am

Bidders shall incur all costs associated with these site visits, this includes transportation costs, accommodation costs and other related costs.

The Invitation to Tender (ITT) document may be purchased by interested companies at a non-refundable fee of **P 1 254.00 (VAT Inclusive)**. Payment must be made in the form of bank transfer or deposit at the following bank details:

**Bank Name:** First National Bank Botswana Ltd  
**Branch Name:** Mall  
**Branch Code:** 28-28-67  
**Account Name:** Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority  
**Bank Account No:** 62011115088  
**Swift Code:** FIRNBWGX  
**Reference:** BTA0001  
**Payment From:** COMPANY NAME

Tender documents shall be issued upon provision of **Proof of Payment (POP)** to [tenders@bocra.org.bw](mailto:tenders@bocra.org.bw). All funds transfer bank charges shall be borne by the bidder.

Bids and all supporting documents should be submitted not later than **10:00 Hours on 28 June 2024** or such other later date as the Authority may advise in writing, at the **Tender Box** located at the following physical address:

**Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority**  
Plot 50671  
Independence Avenue  
Gaborone

Bids will be opened at **10:05 Hours on the 28 June 2024** at the BOCRA offices, bidders and the public are invited. Tender opening results will be published on BOCRA Website.

Public Procurement Act shall apply to this tender.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Authority is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer.

For any further information regarding the tender, please contact Procurement Office at: [tenders@bocra.org.bw](mailto:tenders@bocra.org.bw)

BOCRA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
PLOT 50671 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE  
PRIVATE BAG 00495, GABORONE, BOTSWANA  
TEL: +267 3957755 FAX: +267 3957976  
[info@bocra.org.bw](mailto:info@bocra.org.bw) | [www.bocra.org.bw](http://www.bocra.org.bw)



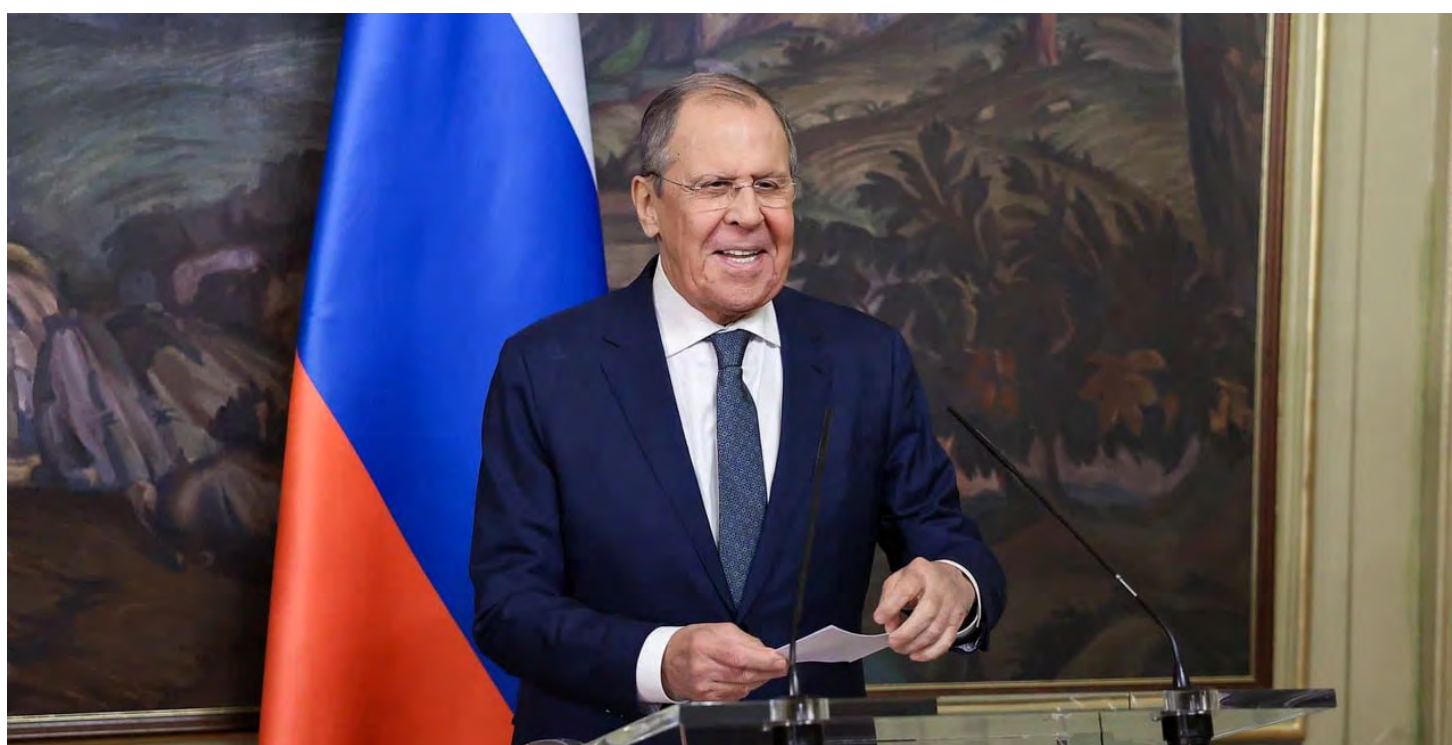
# Russia pledges unwavering support for Africa

SERGEY LAVROV\*

**F**OLLOWING TRADITION, EACH YEAR we gather at the Foreign Ministry's Mansion in late May to mark Africa Day, a holiday which epitomises the unwavering will of the African peoples and their struggle in pursuit of freedom and human dignity.

This year, the holiday coincides with the 20th anniversary of the African Union's Peace and Security Council which is one of the main bodies of this pan-African organisation that plays a significant role in shaping the modern African security architecture and the political and socioeconomic integration of the continent's countries, and ensuring its proper place within the international economic relations system.

We in Russia are pleased to note that Africa continues to gain political weight and to establish itself as a crucial pillar of the emerging multipolar order. Dynamic integration processes, rapidly growing markets, and business activity make it possible for the African states to play an increasingly meaningful role in international affairs and speak as one. The African Union's G20 membership



Lavrov

which became possible with Russia's support, and the African peace initiative on Ukraine which, at the suggestion of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa,

was discussed by a group of African countries with Russian President Vladimir Putin in June and July 2023, serve as compelling proofs of the region's growing

global role.

Russia and Africa have historically been united by close bonds of friendship. During the era of liberation from colonialism, the Soviet Union supported the region in its struggle for independence, supported young African states at multilateral venues, provided economic and technical assistance in creating and expanding national economies, and helped ensure reliable defence capabilities.

Fighting the newly emerged colonial and neo-colonial practices has come to the forefront today. The Western methods have changed, but the thrust of its policy towards African countries has remained unchanged and is to bring them to its heel and to live at the expense of other countries using more sophisticated forms of exploitation as part of the rules-based order.

We remain willing, notwithstanding current circumstances, to support the African countries in their efforts to advance their sovereignty, to address pressing socioeconomic challenges, and to assert Africa's rightful place as an equal partner in the modern world, including in the efforts to reform the UN Security Council. Unlike

former colonial powers, we are building relations with our African friends solely on the basis of equal and honest partnership without politicisation, blackmail, pressure, or interference in their domestic affairs.

According to President Putin, the Russia-Africa Summits have become a "genuine breakthrough." During the second summit held in St Petersburg in July 2023, we confirmed our overlapping approaches to building country-to-country communication based on the principles of international law, in particular, the principles of the UN Charter in their entirety and interconnection. We have agreed upon the mechanisms for practical cooperation across all areas of interest. A new dialogue format - the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum Conference - has been established at the level of foreign ministers in order to regularly exchange insights on the status of the implementation of the summit decisions and to prepare for the next high-level meeting. The first such meeting will be held this autumn.

Relations between parliaments and parties are making strides. We are working to expand our diplomatic presence in Africa. In December 2023, the Russian Embassy in Burkina Faso resumed its activities. We are now preparing to open full-fledged diplomatic missions in Sierra Leone, Niger, and the Republic of South Sudan.

We are pleased to note the increase in Russia-Africa trade which was up by 30 percent to about \$25 billion in 2023. We are committed to expand cooperation in high-tech areas, including peaceful nuclear energy, space exploration, and digital technologies. For us to successfully advance joint projects, we need to create mechanisms that will make our mutually beneficial economic ties self-sufficient and to protect them from the collective West's unlawful encroachments.

Humanitarian cooperation, including healthcare and sanitary-epidemiological well-being of the public, is expanding. In April, the first Russia-Africa International Conference on Combatting Infectious Diseases was held in Uganda and will be held regularly from now on. Our partnership in the vital area of biological

safety is going from strength to strength. Last year, as part of its humanitarian aid effort, Russia provided free grain to Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, the Central African Republic, and Eritrea. We continue to fulfill our obligations concerning agricultural exports, as well as exports of fertiliser, energy, and other essential items to Africa.

We support the efforts to strengthen the human resources capacity building by increasing the number of scholarships, opening new branches of Russian universities and schools, and creating a network of open education centres. Currently, nearly 35,000 African students are studying in Russia, with about 7,000 among them funded from the Russian budget.

It is encouraging to know that contacts among academic, public, and business circles are expanding. Promoting security and stability in Africa is among our unwavering priorities. We are firmly committed to the principle formulated by the Africans themselves: African solutions to African problems. We uphold this principle both as a permanent member of the Security Council and in our contacts with the African Union, subregional organisations, and individual African countries.

I would like to express my gratitude to our African friends for their responsible stance on the Ukraine crisis. Earlier, I mentioned the corresponding initiative of the African countries. You remain committed to fair assessments and approaches despite persistent attempts to embroil African countries into the West's Russophobic campaign.

The potential for Russian-African cooperation across all areas is truly vast. We will continue to work together to bring our relations to the level of a truly strategic partnership.

Happy holiday, once again. I wish peace and prosperity to all African countries and peoples, and good health and success to you and your loved ones.

\*Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement at a reception on the occasion of Africa Day

## Squatters invade NG 32

- Foreigners buy illegal ploughing fields, build unlawful lodges, camps
- Operate illegal tourism activities, NG 32 residents could be pushed out

SOLOMON TJINYEKA

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**T**HE COMMUNITY OF OKAVANGO Kopano Mokoro Community Trust, (OKMCT) have expressed concern over mushrooming illegal ploughing fields in the NG 32 concession on the edge of the Okavango Delta.

The Trust has uncovered that many illegal ploughing fields owned by some community members have been changed into lodges and camps, now operating in the concession without following the right procedures or seeking permission from the trust, which is the custodian of the land.

The revelation was made at the OKMCT Annual General Meeting held in Boro village recently. The task force formed to investigate the matter led by Kgosi Edwin Maleho of Tsutsubega revealed that initially there were only four ploughing fields that already existed within the management plan of the trust, but the number has now mysteriously ballooned inside NG 32

concession.

The task force charged that although some of these ploughing fields already existed with the management plan, they are not permitted to venture into the tourism business because their sole purpose was for ploughing field but these ploughing fields have been turned into lodges and camps. They are now involved in illegal photographic activities within the NG 32 concession, which resulted in conflicts with the trust joint ventures as they trespassed into their zones.

The OKMCT has been mandated by the government to manage and sustainably utilize the resources found in the concession to better the livelihoods of the communities of Qouxao, Boro, Xharaxao, Xaxaba, Ditshiping and Daunara.

The taskforce has reported the suspicious allocation of land to the Botswana police and the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime, DCEC for further investigations.

The task force expressed discontentment about Tawana land board as they said they have failed to provide information concerning the origins of those ploughing fields allocations despite numerous attempts to communicate with their office. The task force engaged the office of District Commissioner to take the matter to the office of President.

The Trust Manager, Seikaneng Moepedi

revealed in a separate interview that the mushrooming of illegal ploughing fields which have now been converted into tourism enterprises are against the law, as the sole purposes of NG 32 is to manage the concession for tourism activities on behalf of the community.

He stressed that as the trust they discourage allocation of ploughing fields in the concession because NG 32 concession is for tourism activities noting that their tour operators have been given exclusive user rights. NG 32 is a unique concession, you can't do public game drives like in other areas without permission from the trust.

Moepedi further said these owners of ploughing fields mostly foreigners are now parading as investors had sown division within the communities, and had resulted in some companies operating without tourism licenses.

Moepedi also revealed that some of these companies have taken the OKMCT to court and lost the case, he noted that they are very desperate and wasted the time at court while they know that they are not following the right procedures and breaching. Moepedi charged that they are experiencing the scramble of NG 32 by foreigners and fears that they will lose their prestigious delta which they have preserved for decades hence calling for the government to intervene and investigate how these farms have been turned into camps and lodges.

## 'We are broke' - BNF

FROM PAGE 1

for candidates to transport their potential voters to the polling stations. We are supposed to fund democracy as candidates and that alone is very expensive as we rely on personal funds to do so," he said, adding that despite the limitations, he is confident that BNF held successful primary elections.

Political analyst, Kitso Morekisi concurs that lack of resources is a big impediment to the success of opposition parties such as BNF, in comparison to the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). Nonetheless, he said the low voter turnout in the BNF primary elections in some instances, could be attributed to lack of membership mobilisation and recruitment drive at early stages. He said most political parties wait for the year of the general elections to recruit new members and even update databases. He emphasized the importance for all parties to interact on a regular basis with their members to understand them and appreciate their needs.

### Primary election protests

BNF is set to conclude primary elections next weekend and some of the constituencies that have held primaries are already experiencing appeals such as Tonota and Shoshong. In Shoshong constituency, the victory by Shoshong North councillor, Moneedi Bagaisamang is challenged by Dr David Olerile and Mthothothata Lesole.

According to sources, both Olerile and Lesole are disputing the results accusing Bagaisamang, who is the constituency Secretary for BNF Shoshong, of having manipulated the voters roll in his favour during elections.

In Tonota, Dr Marape Marape is protesting against Gaelele Sedombo who won the primaries late last month.

Sources indicate that more appeals from other constituencies will be fielded with the BNF National Election Appeals Board, the development that observers say would fuel factionalism within the party.



BNF supporters

Motshogwa confirmed that some members have appealed results from primary elections. He, however, declined to delve into the specifics in terms of revealing the number of the affected constituencies. He said the National Elections Appeals Board is looking at the concerned appeals. "We are not ashamed with the appeals, and we anticipated them. Appeals are exhausting structures that have been put in place and that demonstrates that we are a functional organisation. The A0ppeals Board is currently looking at the merits of the appeals submitted and will soon give a way forward," he said.

He added that BNF had successful primary elections, and post the primaries they will conduct capacity building for both council and parliamentary candidates to prepares them for he general elections. In addition, Motshogwa said it is unfortunate that the BNF central committee is being blamed for some defeats suffered by some members, pointing out that NEC doesn't interfere with the elections process.

According to Motshogwa, the primary elections are overseen by the National Elections Board and are conducted by the constituency elections committee, who are responsible for voters roll verification etc.

### Lobatse drama

Furthermore, Motshogwa said the National Elections Board will conduct the Lobatse primary elections instead of the constituency elections committee after elections were halted last weekend due to chaos. Camps of two candidates Kamal Jacobs and James Mathokgwane clashed over whether elections should proceed or not after Jacobs protested accusing Mathokgwane for planning to manipulate the outcomes.

He said the Lobatse primary elections will also be conducted next weekend, adding that a reason that led to disputes in Lobatse was that one of the candidates accommodated elections officers and that was improper as that contributed to the protest by another candidate as its against BNF primaries procedure.



We're... Hiring!

Join our team of Experts

### EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

The Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) invites applications from suitably qualified individuals for the following post:

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**    **VACANCY CIRCULAR NO: 2024:05:14 (HR)**

**MANAGER, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS & WELFARE (5 YEAR CONTRACT)**

#### JOB PURPOSE

The successful candidate will be responsible for promoting a conducive work environment in the University through effective implementation of policies, procedures, and strategies to ensure equitable treatment of all staff. To facilitate dialogue between employees and employer and facilitate resolution of disputes and grievances.

#### REQUIREMENTS OF THE JOB

- The right candidate must meet the following minimum requirements, among others;
- Possess a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Relations / Human Resources Management or any related discipline from a recognised academic institution.
  - At least eight (8) years post qualification experience in Human Resource Management, two (2) of which should have been at supervisory Level. Experience in employee relations and welfare will be an added advantage
  - Expert knowledge in conducting climate surveys, labour union management, staff welfare, compensation and benefits, HR audits/contracts, disciplinary and grievance procedures, knowledge of local employment Act and relevant Laws.
  - Demonstrated knowledge of the latest development in the international financial management practices and standards.

#### COMPETENCIES

- Union Relationships    ● Building Relationships    ● Application of HR Legislation and Policy
- Benefits & Compensation    ● Disciplinary & Grievance procedure    ● Culture and Climate survey

**Fringe Benefits:** These include motor vehicle purchase advance scheme, an optional 50% medical aid plan, Group Life Assurance Scheme. Loan schemes with various financial services providers at negotiated rates. Gratuity paid at the rate of 30% of basic salary.

**Method of Application:** Applications quoting the vacancy number, the post being applied for and accompanied by detailed CV, true and certified copies of educational/professional certificates, grade transcripts and national identity card, at least 3 recent references of which one should be from the immediate supervisor must be addressed to:

**ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:** Director, Human Resources Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources Private Bag 0027 GABORONE    Email to: recruitment@buan.ac.bw OR Hand deliver applications to Records Office, Block 300, BUAN

**Closing Date: 10th June 2024**

**NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

www.buan.ac.bw

info@buan.ac.bw

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn icons





# Bakalanga demand full human rights

TENDEKANI E MALEBESWA\*

**W**E ARE HERE TODAY BECAUSE when an announcement was made in 2019 that there would be a comprehensive constitutional review we started engaging to crystallise what we wanted to achieve out of this exercise. Our grievances have always been there, but we have always held out hope that something like this would come along. So, we had to grasp this with both hands.

When the Government started to put in place the blocks for a Constitutional Review Commission in 2021 we also began to talk to our communities during the Christmas holidays. For us this was a critically important process which we saw as an opportunity for the creation of a constitutional dispensation that reflects this country as we now understand it in the twenty-first century. It was announced as a comprehensive constitutional review process, and being the first since 1966, we have no idea when the next one will take place.

Just permit me to step back into the arc of history. Following the 1884-1885 Berlin Conference which partitioned Africa among the major colonial powers, General Warren arrived here in early 1885 to put together the first pieces for the establishment of Bechuanaland on behalf of colonial Britain.

As the name Bechuanaland suggests, it was understood that this was the land of the Bechuana, now Batswana. The colonialists were principally interested in conquer or usurp, control and rule, but such rule had to take place in the cheapest way possible. Lord Frederick Lugard had designed the policy of indirect rule in West Africa, and it was adopted for use here, as it was effective, efficient and cheap to administer. The central plank of this policy is that you identify a dominant chief who then controls all the other natives, while only the chief himself reports to the colonial power. The chief was given a warrant to use whatever measures to maintain control.

General Warren therefore identified the dominant southern Tswana chiefs and brought them together, and they were to be his only point of interaction with local populations. Using their policy of indirect rule, the colonialists treated everyone who was non-Tswana as a minor or subject tribe. However, the story was different in the north. When the Bechuanaland Protectorate was proclaimed in 1885 it went only up to the 22nd degrees parallel south, that is, up to the Motloutse River.

Bukalanga started from the Motloutse River, and thus was not part of the Bechuanaland Protectorate when it was proclaimed in 1885. Instead, Bukalanga was under the control of King Lobengula of Matebeleland.

However, following the defeat of Lobengula by the combined forces of the British colonial Government—the British South Africa Company (BSAC) and Chief Khama in 1893 (using the Pioneer Column), Bukalanga came under the control of the BSAC. During the visit of the three (3) chiefs to London in 1895, the British colonial government annexed that part of Bukalanga outside Rhodesia (or southern Rhodesia) from the BSAC and gave it to Chief Khama as a reward for his assistance in defeating Lobengula. This also resulted in the creation of the Tati District, which is now known as the North East District. Prior to this annexation, Bukalanga had never been under the rule or control of any Tswana chief. The irony for Bukalanga is that it is during this trip which they are supposed to celebrate as giving protection to the Bechuanaland Protectorate, that they were handed over to Chief Khama, which started their subjugation until today.

Through the March 1899 Proclamation establishing Native Reserves, Bukalanga was officially and legally incorporated into the Bechuanaland Protectorate, principally as part of the Bamangwato Tribal Territory. So, Bukalanga legally came into the Protectorate after fourteen (14) years of colonial rule, that is, in 1899, through annexation by proclamation.

This state of affairs was confirmed and ratified by the 1965 Independence Constitution, and that is what pertains today. These are the same 1899 Proclamation and the 1965 Marlborough House Constitution that Kgosi Kgafela always riles against. Similarly, we are unhappy about both of them, but for different reasons, hence we arrive at different suggested solutions. Bukalanga was by law, the 1899 Proclamation, forced to become a part of the Bechuanaland Protectorate. This continued into the creation of this Republic. Bakalanga were never consulted. Everything was simply imposed on them.

Simply put, the 1965 Constitution codified a caste system in Botswana, where you have eight (8) Tswana tribes



being the only ones recognised and having permanent seats in the Ntlo ya Dikgosi, while the second or third tier citizens go in and out through a revolving door, just like what happens with the five (5) permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

This caste system in Botswana is enabled mainly by the Tribal Territories Act, the Bogosi Act and sections 77, 78 and 79 of the Constitution.

As Bukalanga, we have accepted that such a caste system is government policy, as it is entrenched in a Constitution that forms the foundation of this country, as well as in other laws, but particularly the Tribal Territories Act. Thus, the Constitution itself, which is supposed to protect our fundamental rights, is the one that categorises us as second class citizens. These laws are enforced by the State, with formidable coercive powers and other resources at its disposal. And at the epicentre of our Constitution sits an undemocratic institution, the Ntlo ya Dikgosi, whose oxygen is supplied by an equally iniquitous and anachronistic piece of legislation known as the Tribal Territories Act.

In a speech in 2018, a former President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said: “Our founding fathers pulled together India’s remarkable diversity to build national unity, which has brought us so far. The Constitution represented a second liberation, this time from the stranglehold of traditional inequity in gender, caste, community, along with other fetters that had chained us for too long. The enduring democratic institutions they established have given us the gift of continuity on the path of progress. India today is a rising power, a country fast emerging as a global leader in science, technology, innovation and start-ups, and whose economic success is the envy of the world.”

From within the spacious provisions of our Constitution, India has grown into a beautiful, vibrant, and sometimes noisy democracy. For us, the democracy is not a gift, but the fundamental right of every citizen; for those in power democracy is a sacred trust. Those who violate this trust commit sacrilege against the nation.”

As a sovereign Republic with no pretensions to monarchical rule we need to break free from the shackles of colonial instruments. As Bukalanga we saw the Constitutional Review Exercise as offering us as a country a window for a fresh start as a true, united Republic of equal citizens, drawing from the lessons of the past fifty plus odd years.

In anticipation of this watershed moment we continued, in early 2022, to consult our Chiefs and communities, both in the North East District and on the west of the Shashe River. We met with our Chiefs in the North East District in early April 2022 in Masunga, and in May 2022 we met some of our Chiefs on that part of Bukalanga on the west of the Shashe River in Sebina. We met with our communities in Nkange, Nshakazhogwe, Masunga and Mulambakwena. There were also engagements through various other platforms. In the end it was agreed that we should submit only the following two (2) points to the Constitutional Review Commission:

the word “language” should be inserted into the Constitution, particularly at sections 3 and 15, to ensure that no-one can be discriminated against on the basis of their language. This is to provide a justiciable right, so that if you are discriminated against on the basis of your language you can go to court. A survey of constitutions of countries in the region with multi-ethnic populations, as well as international conventions, invariably contain “language” as a ground for non-discrimination. We looked at the constitutions of Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia; as well as the African (Banjul) Charter on Human and Peoples Rights of 1986, the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and, lastly, the American Convention on Human Rights. This right should be distinguished from the right to be taught in your mother tongue. You can be taught or instructed in your mother tongue in a classroom, and once you step outside you are discriminated against on the basis of your language. Thus, this amendment is to ensure that you can assert your right to speak your language anywhere freely;

the second point is that Bukalanga should be declared Bukalanga Tribal Territory, established under the Tribal Territories Act and made up of the North East District and those parts of Bukalanga that were annexed into the Bamangwato Tribal Territory in 1895. Basically, this is a recreation of Bukalanga from the Motloutse River up to Pandamatenga, and incorporating the North East District just as it was before 1895. As indicated above, this is not a position that was taken lightly. It involved very serious discussions.

However, given that the current eight (8) tribal territories are here to stay and continue to be strengthened since Botswana was founded upon bogosi, Bakalanga now feel that they should also rightly demand what is rightfully theirs. Bakalanga have observed, mostly in silence, as superficial changes have been made to sections 77, 78 and 79 of the Constitution. There has never been any attempt whatsoever to deal with the Tribal Territories Act. Yet it is the elephant in the room. When amendments were made to the Bogosi Act to sweet-talk and sugar-coat Sub-Chiefs by calling them Dikgosi (a number of whom are Bakalanga), the Dikgosi of the eight (8) Tswana tribes started referring to themselves unofficially as dikgosisigolo - just to make sure that it sinks in that there is difference and separateness, and the caste and rank systems are maintained. During the tour of the Constitutional Review Commission some of the chiefs from the big eight (8) suggested that the dikgosi should be made a fourth arm of Government. And this can only benefit them because everyone else is a minor role player. Amongst others, the Bakalanga chiefs in the Bamangwato Tribal Territory cannot wear a skin of any type (whether nkwe or lengau or any animal). This is because bamo lefatsheng la kgosi engwe. Instead, the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development appoints these chiefs as moemela kgosi, or, if they are fortunate, moemela kgosi yoo

mogolwane.

Already in terms of their appointment they are not chiefs, but mere representatives. They have no independence and security of tenure, as any slight mis-step may result in their being removed by those competent authorities in a faraway village. These faraway competent authorities, for their own selfish reasons, may refuse to have a true, legitimate Chief to be appointed, and when this happens, nothing can be done. That is the end of story. And we are talking about Bakalanga Chiefs from lineages of rich pedigree and heritage. When we met the Chiefs in the North East District in Masunga, Kgosi Moipolai of Matsiloje, where they are Barolong, told us a story of a call he received just before his investiture from the Barolong Kgosi in Goodhope. The Barolong Kgosi in Goodhope asked Kgosi Moipolai, “ga ona go apara ga kere?” Since these restrictions about gore lefatsheng ke la ga mang do not exist in the North East District, Kgosi Moipolai was draped with a leopard skin. But the message was very clear. Similar stories are there in the southern part of the country as well. As Bukalanga we have had a knee on our neck since 1895. It is about time it is removed.

Given all these centuries’ indignities, which are many, Bakalanga are now demanding their own Tribal Territory where they can freely follow their own traditions and customs. A Tribal Territory should not be conflated with the recent establishment of district councils. These are entirely different things. Tribal territories are about land mass and how you control it through your Chiefs, your personal attachment to the land and your personal relationship with the soil and your ancestors, some of whom died defending it, your history and the blood that was spilt defending it over centuries. It gives someone identity, respect, dignity and a sense of belonging, where you can identify with your own true chief, customs and traditions. Tribal territories are about belonging, power, stature, prestige and influence.

The above points, particularly the one on the Bukalanga Tribal Territory, were submitted very clearly when the Constitutional Review Commission addressed kgotla meetings in Bukalanga, including at Nata, Maitengwe, Tutume, Sebina, Masunga, Ramokgwebana, Tshesebe, and Mathangwane.

However, the report of the Constitutional Review Commission did not mention these points. Our written submission to the Commission was hand-delivered to the Commission offices at the University of Botswana campus opposite the Botswana Civil Service College. The submission could not be sent by post or emailed as it had big attachments. These attachments were A3 size attachments, including a South African map of 1877, a War Map of the Transvaal of 1881, and a South African map of July 1885. These maps showed the settlement of Bakalanga around the Motloutse River up to Palapye.

In later communication with the head of the Commission’s Secretariat she confirmed that our submission had been received, and that it was thorough. We later discovered that there was a chance to make oral submissions, but we could not get a slot. We comforted ourselves with the fact that our

submission had been received, and that it was thorough. But this also showed that the Commission was in a rush.

When the report of the Commission was released it did not contain anything that we had submitted on. Worst of all, we were not even acknowledged amongst those who had made submissions.

In 2023 we started trying to engage the relevant authorities but they said that as the Commission’s report did not include our matters there was nothing they could do. Since there was nothing on our submissions in the report, including what our communities had submitted during kgotla meetings, it meant that the draft White Paper could not contain what we had submitted, and this also infected the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 4 of 2024). However, listening to BOCONGO on Friday, we fared a little bit better than them, as we did get a response from one of the Honourable Ministers. But it is just cold comfort.

But we owe our gratitude to His Honour the Vice-President, who advised us to approach the Speaker of the National Assembly. Honourable Speaker, we thank you and your team. We want to thank profusely the Deputy Speaker and Member of Parliament for Tonota, Honourable Pono Moathodi, and Member of Parliament for Nkange, Honourable Dr Nevah Tshabang, who made time to meet with us and patiently listen to us. We thank you Rragwe Nkamo and Niswimbo.

The report of the Constitutional Review Commission itself in our view dealt with generalities, and fancy name changes, just like the suggested amendments to sections 77, 78 and 79 of the Constitution, which focus on head-counts. We want deliberate, intentional and structural change.

During my time I had the privilege of serving as secretary to three (3) Presidential Commissions of Inquiry, as well as being secretary to the Joint Committee of Technical Experts on the Boundary Dispute between Botswana and Namibia Concerning the Kasikili/Sedudu Island. There was always meticulous attention to detail to ensure that everything was properly captured, and all those who had participated were acknowledged, and importantly, their names were properly written and spelt. This is because such events are of immense historical significance and posterity. But this Constitutional Review Commission was unique.

One of the Commissions on which I served made the recommendation that any Motswana should be able to get a piece of land anywhere in the country. The anticipation was that we would see a loosening of tribal identity. However, as we have already pointed out, thirty (30) years later the instruments of tribal identity are being strengthened. Unless there is a serious effort to dismantle the Tribal Territories Act tribal neutrality can never be achieved. Thus, since there is no intention of doing away with the Tribal Territories Act, we as Bakalanga are now demanding that we should get back our land, and a Bukalanga Tribal Territory be established. As the English saying goes, “you skirt around a problem and damn the consequences”.

Slavery in the United States of America

is considered to have started in 1619. President Abraham Lincoln abolished it in 1862. He did not say that this was inconvenient history that he did not have to deal with. President Lincoln’s abhorrence of slavery was because he saw it as an affront to humanity, dignity and fundamental human values. In America slavery and discrimination were based on skin colour. In Botswana discrimination is based on language – which makes you subject to someone. In other words, sub-human, and the other person superior.

Colonialism in South Africa started in 1652 as a vicious, violent and oppressive system. Natives did not raise their hands in surrender. They confronted it, and eventually they prevailed. With this Constitutional Review Exercise, the Republic of Botswana needs to rise above cosmetic changes and cross its own Rubicon, and free itself of a Constitution that celebrates colonial oppression and subjugation, and glorifies colonial injustices and tribal superiority.

Even though our mandate is very narrow, having followed the discussions of the Governance Committee on Friday, we can just stray a little. Our principals will forgive us. We would like to offer our views on Specially Elected Members of Parliament. Our understanding is that the special election of Members of Parliament was allowed at independence due to a shortage of skills, and this was to augment this as the first cohort of Members of Parliament lacked in certain respects. This mechanism could therefore allow skills from groups such as white people to be brought in, as on their own it would have been difficult to win constituencies. But like everything else that involves human beings, that has evolved. If now the noble aim is to bring in women, the youth and those with disabilities, our view is that, in order to satisfy all interested parties, Specially Elected Members of Parliament should be chosen using a formula that allows each party to nominate such Members on the basis of their percentage share of their popular vote. This would then work on a graduated basis, and the concerned groups would be able to enter Parliament under each party relative to its popular vote. This is as far as we can stray from our mandate.

In conclusion, we are before this august Assembly today to ask that as you debate the Constitution Amendment Bill, kindly note that the word “language” should be inserted into sections 3 and 15 of the Constitution, and any other consequential changes be made; a Bukalanga Tribal Territory should be established using the pre-1895 Bukalanga boundaries, from the Motloutse River up to Pandamatenga, and including the North East District. Bakalanga themselves will decide who their chief will be. This way honour, dignity, pride and respect (including self-respect and identity) can be restored to them; we therefore cannot support the suggested amendments to sections 77, 78 and 79 of the Constitution contained in the Constitution Amendment Bill, as they are very superficial and cosmetic; we cannot continue to allow instruments that were put in place by British colonialists for their own self-interests in the 19th century, yet built on a false edifice, to continue controlling our lives in the 21st century.

We would like to believe that some of you did not know the history we have narrated above. Indeed, that would be perfectly understandable if you thought it was fiction. This is because this history is not part of our school curriculum. It is not taught in our schools. But it is our true history: the history of the Mambo, Monomotapa, the Butua State, Mwali, Njelele, the Arabs, the Portuguese, the Domboshaba Ruins, the Khami Ruins, the Great Zimbabwe Ruins, Mapungubwe, Danangubwe, Zwangendaba, Nyamazana the Antelope, to mention just a few.

The founding President of this Republic said in 1970: “We were taught, sometimes in a very positive way, to despise ourselves and our ways of life. We were made to believe that we had no past to speak of, no history to boast of. The past, so far as we were concerned, was just a blank and nothing more... It should now be our intention to try and retrieve what we can of our past. We should write our own history books, to prove that we did have a past, and that it was a past that was just as worth writing and learning about as any other. We must do this for the simple reason that a nation without a past is a lost nation, and a people without a past are a people without a soul.”

As Bakalanga we demand our full constitutional and fundamental human rights.

\*Presentation by Bakalanga for a fair constitutional dispensation to the general assembly of the Parliament of Botswana on MONDAY, 20th MAY 2024, PAVILION, FAIRGROUNDS, GABORONE



# Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



**ADAM PHETLHE**  
ON SUNDAY!

IT IS EVIDENT THE BOTSWANA Democratic Party (BDP) will raise the simple majority required to amend some clauses of the Constitution it seeks to amend through the Constitutional (Amendment) Bill No 24 of 2024 currently being debated in the National Assembly. But that could be as far as the majority party could claim some success to amend the Constitution because there could be some twist in the tale later on whose devastating consequences could render the Bill dead in the water. The Bill has not received expected embracement from some sections of the population including inter alia the academia and civil society organisations. Constitutional law scholars notably Professor Bojosi Othlogile and Justice Key Dingake have poured cold water on the Bill with the former describing it as 'Promises broken, hopes dashed' and further that it is riddled with 'flaws and defects' while the latter describes it as a 'Dream Deferred'. Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO), the umbrella body of civil society organisations and Bakalanga For A Fair Constitutional Dispensation have added their strong voices against the Bill. The latter says in its presentation to the National Assembly

## Constitution (Amendment) Bill faces 2/3 Majority, Referendum tests



Justice Dingake

that 'With this Constitutional Review Exercise, the Republic of Botswana needs to rise above cosmetic changes and pass its Rubicon...' Apart from the predictable and self-praising of the Bill by the BDP MPs, none of them and particularly those schooled in law have made a compelling case to rebut what Prof Othlogile and Justice Dingake have put on the table. As always, it is fair to suggest the MPs are under strict orders from their political leadership to praise the Bill with all they can muster. And the reason should be simple: they do not want to rock the boat by offending the Emperor lest their political fortunes are permanently and brutally scuppered. The road to achieving the Bill in its completeness is long and winding with many twists and turns expected on the way.

The first test the Bill will have to pass

is for it to obtain a 2/3 majority in the National Assembly at some stage. I want to believe there are a few BDP MPs who may have been swayed by the free lessons dished out by Prof Othlogile and Justice Dingake on Constitution making but cannot simply muster the courage and conviction to oppose the Bill lest they scupper their political careers as already alluded to and importantly, offend the Emperor. The debate from BDP MPs conclusively indicate they support the Bill and, will erect a solid ring around it to pass whether for better or worse. It is almost a given the vote to obtain the 2/3 majority will be conducted openly in order to intimidate if not coerce the faint-hearted.

While voting has been conducted in the National Assembly through a secret ballot the latest being the election of Hon



Prof Othlogile

Boitumelo Gofhamodimo as a Specially Elected MP early this year, the jury is still out whether the Speaker will allow secret ballot on the Bill. I believe that a secret ballot will be used to determine the 2/3 majority vote given the nature, sensitivity, complex and uniqueness of the Bill. It is not in doubt that the BDP head-honchos will try to arm-twist the Speaker to use an open vote given the importance of the 2/3 majority to it.

To the BDP, the stakes couldn't be higher. It is a matter of life and death. But time will tell whether or not an open vote or the secret ballot will be used. That said and crucially, is that Hon Unity Dow was emphatic that the 2/3 majority will be unachievable. But the vote in the National Assembly could come with a political risk and cost to individual BDP MP candidates at the general election if such is conducted

before it. In the end however, it will not matter because such vote is a prerequisite for the Bill to advance to the next stage.

The second test is a National Referendum. Botswana who will be eligible to vote during the Referendum will basically be asked to vote YES or No on the question(s) that will be put on the referendum ballot paper with respect to the Constitutional (Amendment) Bill. Prior to the voting dates reserved for the referendum, political parties will campaign for or against the said questions. It is expected civil society organisations who are opposed to the Bill and advocate for its withdrawal will play a prominent role in influencing voters to reject it. It will be seen how they do it.

Some of the legal scholars who have posited an opinion on the Bill argue very strongly that it could suffer premature death

because for it to be concluded as expected, it must run its full course. But considering the period between now and the dissolution of parliament in order to prepare for the general election, there is little time left for a referendum to be conducted. The sum total of the argument is that it will be extremely difficult if not impossible to hold a general election and a referendum in one year. As a consequence legal scholars further posit, the Bill is highly unlikely to run its full course resulting in its premature death. Public funds expended on it would go to waste. In the circumstances, the 2/3 majority vote is possible while the referendum is not.

Now that the train has left the station at full throttle, it would appear the next station could be out of sight. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill has been heavily criticised by scholars who are themselves authority in Constitution making. I still challenge anyone to dismiss them contemptuously or otherwise. When all is said and done, this Bill will forever remain in the annals of history of Botswana's Constitution making as one of the poorest and shabbily constructed in any shape or form. No other democratic country worth its salt could possibly pass this sham into law. This sham should be rejected with the contempt it deserves because it is riddled with incurable 'flaws and defects' and that it remains a 'dream deferred'. The 'flaws and defects' far outweigh the little good contained in the Bill. I posit without hesitation that Botswana deserves a better Constitution so that the global community takes us seriously. With this sham, we have stooped to the lowest and, we are a laughing stock of monumental proportions. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

[adamphetlhe08@gmail.com](mailto:adamphetlhe08@gmail.com)

## Botswana embracing modern educational trends



**IGNATIUS NJOBVU**  
HEART OF THE MATTER

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE. IN ORDER TO remain relevant to any course, one ought to embrace this fact and navigate oneself to adapting to those changes. One fact that is very consistent is that growth and development are aftermath of change. And so we have very little choice if any, but to always embrace and manage change in all spheres of our lives.

Botswana education is no different. Since she obtained independence in 1966, Botswana



has undergone several changes in its education system. Two main policies thus far (being the education for Kagisano-1977 and the Kedikilwe commission-1994) have directed the transformations in our system. Both the policies were anchored on addressing the challenges for that moment. However it is my humble view that the 1994 commission was extremely impressive and very futuristic that we are yet to realise the fruition of it in its fullness. Education with production was the principle to the idea. Of course, we have witnessed tremendous development in the sector in the areas of secondary school practical subjects, Brigades, Technical colleges and other centres offering hands-on education. These are achievements that we all need to celebrate as a nation.

That being said, we need to ask: In order to address and sustain the national vision of transcending Botswana to a high-income country with an economy that is reliant on the knowledge of its human resources to a larger extent, how relevant is the current education system? A YES or NO answer at this point would suffice. I guess the YES in this case would be pointing out the achievements that have been met thus far. The NO would probably be assessing the current world of work and the tools for working and compare that to how much the system is equipping and readying those that go through it. In my view, I might just slightly fall for the YES. Why then am I persuaded to incline myself to that position? The following are some of the factors that draw me to share a YES:

**A REVIEWED SYLLABUS**  
Consistent with other international standards, our high school syllabus has been reviewed in line with our national vision. The syllabus gets recognition of other international rating bodies, hence a qualification that gets to be recognized by the same. Remember the world is now a one big village with a very big market. Therefore one would always look forward to possessing an academic qualification that is recognized everywhere or at least in areas or places that matter. Besides the fact that the syllabus is upgraded, it comes with a pedagogy that doesn't just look to the answers by the pupils, but rather makes

emphasis to learning the processes that gets one to the answer.

The Outcome Based Education pedagogy makes emphasis to just that. It requires that a student demonstrates skills for the content that they have learnt. By that, the pedagogy kind of forces both teachers and learners to have students at the centre of their own learning. As they say, 'the one that does the work, does the learning'. Rote learning gets to be avoided in the process, rather students construct meaning to the learnt knowledge and apply it to create new content. It is during that time that they learn and develop soft skills that are equally important in this day and age. The world of today requires for one to be a good communicator, with good working relation skills. One ought to be able to collaborate with others and have basic ICT skills. These soft skills are what the new syllabus requires from the learners.

### DIGITALIZATION

The Government has 'digitalization' as one of its main priorities. In education, the Government is in the process of cultivating the learning environment that would support digitalization to take place. Learners and teachers are being provided with digital gadgets. Schools and other populated centres are connected with WiFi. In-service on online teaching and learning is currently on-going for facilitators. Both the classroom and administration of education are to assume this gigantic step that would improve productivity and efficiency.

Learning would be revolutionized. Collaborative learning which is pinnacle in modern day learning would improve. These are monumental positive steps that are to enhance achievement of a high income country driven by knowledge. The only challenges that I am observing in this process of change, is the insufficient buy-in by those that must be carrying out the change. Most reveal that things are coming in so fast that they are failing to cope. This is a distractor and needs management, lest we fail to take off. Otherwise we are on the right path to achieving a high-income status through a modernized education system.

## A nation united by death but divided by its path to destiny

IT WAS SO HUMBLING AND FULFILLING albeit under tragic circumstances to witness Botswana, notwithstanding their religious and political beliefs, wholly united by the recent tragic deaths of their 45 compatriots who perished in the Limpopo bush accident. Their sympathies in whatever form or shape to the perished members of the ZCC church and their families some of whom were not personally known to some of the people who extended such sympathies, were so moving to deserve dropping a few or many tears.

In equal measure, Botswana expressed their deepest appreciation of the MEC of health in the Limpopo provincial government Dr Phophi Ramathuba for having been the front and centre of the bus accident situation from start to finish and her personal attachment to the 8-year-old sole survivor whom she met after the mass funeral. These were Botswana in their element and unison where the spirit of Botho was abundantly displayed. This must accordingly, be applauded without reservation.

Yet, beneath the belly of unity displayed for the bus accident victims, same is not the case with regards to determining the path to our destiny through the Constitution (Amendment) Bill whose end result essentially, should be to chart and define Botswana's political democracy and socio-economic trajectory going forward, amongst others. Botswana are hopelessly and evidently divided by their partisan political beliefs and persuasions not to collectively determine and attain this destiny. Just like the national flag does not belong to any political party, so is the Constitution. For some strange reason, some believe Constitution making is a partisan enterprise meant to achieve narrow political expediency and legacy. How sad!

What am I saying? We are Botswana first before we become members of different political parties. It is in our interest to craft a Republican Constitution wherein we can run to for refuge when all else fails in our political party's Constitution. The Republican Constitution is our destiny to achieve political and socio-economic stability and well-being. The Constitution

(Amendment) Bill scheduled to be considered by the National Assembly from Monday next week falls far too short to craft our destiny in almost all respects. Constitutional law scholars from here and elsewhere are in agreement it is a dismal flop not worth the paper it is written on.

Much as we are still united by the demise of our compatriots in that bus accident, let the Constitution making process unite us as well. Justice Oagile Bethuel Key Dingake said in a document titled 'Towards a People's Constitution for Botswana that A Constitution developed through a wide consultation with the people that is intended to serve is more likely to be widely accepted and respected document than the one crafted behind the scenes and foisted onto the people'. If we cannot be united by our Constitution, it is safe to suggest nothing else will. But we don't require national tragedy of whatever sort to unite us for obvious reasons. Constitution making is too good to be left at the whims of politicians in power and 'rented' Commissioners. Like some would say, let us wake up and smell the coffee. Judge for Yourself!

## Constitution (amendment) bill fraudulent – LOO\*

UMBRELLA FOR DEMOCRATIC Change therefore, joins the church, civil society led by BOCONGO representing over 400 institutions, some Dikgosi and tribal groups, including Bakalanga for a Fair Constitutional Dispensation, students, media, other political parties, ruling party members who are fearful to publicly express their views and all progressive forces and vehemently opposes the current process of Constitutional Review.

UDC opposes this Bill. We will at the end of the Second Reading move in accordance with Standing Order 75 and propose that the Bill be

Committed to a Special Select Committee on the Review of the Constitution with all parties represented therein to field submissions from Botswana about the Bill and advice Parliament on the way forward. We advise Botswana that in the words of Che Guevara "Liberators do not exist. The people liberate themselves."

This Bill is a fraudulent document. It is a draconian document. It encapsulates narrow views of the executive and not the people. It is an emotive piece of legislative proposal aimed to at among others Ian Khama and Unity Dow. The government



Keorapetse

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

is not pre-red to listen to anyone. They just want to tick the box to go to the 2024 polls and say "promise delivered". Civic organizations should campaign for a NO VOTE if the Bill

is subjected to a referendum and Botswana must Vote NO.  
- **Leader of Opposition, Dithapelo Keorapetse\***



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We invite readers to write Letters to the Editor on various issues, be they social, political, economic or entertainment related. Although we support and encourage healthy debates and sharing of alternative views, we will not publish any letter that is slanderous or libelous.

Please write to us:  
Plot 28562, Unit F3, Fairgrounds Mall,  
Tel: +267 318 7951 / 40. Fax: +267 318 7952  
Postal: P.O. Box 404583, Gaborone, Botswana or  
email to [dibeela@thepatriot.co.bw](mailto:dibeela@thepatriot.co.bw) /  
[ditiro@thepatriot.co.bw](mailto:ditiro@thepatriot.co.bw)



# 'The African continent is a new global pole of power'

How are Russian companies operating in Africa in the new geopolitical environment? To what extent is Russia willing to cooperate with African countries in such promising areas as digital technologies and peaceful nuclear energy? What has changed in the work of a diplomat over half a century? We spoke to **MIKHAIL BOGDANOV\***, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for the Middle East and Africa, Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia.

—Mikhail Leonidovich, in connection with the intensification of our country's foreign policy course towards Africa, how quickly will we be able to achieve the set pace, and what will it depend on?

IN FACT, THE PACE HAS already picked up and, in my opinion, it is quite impressive: in the last five years, two full-scale summits and as many parliamentary conferences have been held in the Russian-African space, the Action Plan of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum for 2023-2026 has been adopted, the first Russian-African conference of foreign ministers is being prepared, a number of bilateral and multilateral documents on high-level cooperation have been signed, trade turnover is growing, and the number of African students studying in our country is increasing.

The extent to which we will be able to maintain – and preferably increase – this momentum will depend on many factors, but above all on the political will of the parties, the creativity and tenacity of the business community, and the enthusiasm of the public. And – last but not least – on external factors, which are not always favourable: it is enough to recall the coronavirus pandemic, which recently seriously slowed down the dynamic development of Russian-African relations. Nevertheless, we at the Russian Foreign Ministry are optimistic, and we see the same spirit in our partners.

—In your opinion, what are the main results of last year's Russia-Africa Summit for the participating countries in the political, economic and humanitarian spheres?

– The Second Russia-Africa Summit, held in St. Petersburg on 27-29 July last year, demonstrated the participants' firm commitment to further strengthening cooperation, making it strategic and focusing on effective solutions to the priority tasks of our partnership. We confirmed the fundamental convergence of our approaches to building a fairer world order based on equality and the



Mikhail Bogdanov

principles of international law.

At the same time, Russia's priority is to support the strengthening of the sovereignty of African states and to ensure the national security of the continent's states. Progress in these areas, taking into account the cultural and historical peculiarities of African countries, as opposed to the Western policy of neo-colonialism, became a transversal idea of the St. Petersburg Summit, a doctrinal consolidation of our common attitude towards the continent as an emerging centre of a multipolar world.

Within the framework of the Summit and in accordance with its results, agreements were reached on the whole spectrum of Russian-African cooperation and the main vectors of future joint work in the political, trade, economic, investment and humanitarian spheres were defined. They were summarised in the aforementioned Action Plan of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum for 2023-2026, and the conference of foreign ministers scheduled for this autumn will

assess the progress made, make any necessary adjustments and clarify the way forward.

—Who are our main competitors in Africa? And what can we offer to the continent that others cannot?

– World interest in Africa is strong and growing, as a "continent of the future" with truly inexhaustible natural and human resources and an increasingly large and, in many respects, highly profitable market. Competition among external actors for a place under the African sun is therefore fierce, and increasingly involves representatives of the "global East and South", in addition to the traditional contenders represented by the states of the "collective West": China, India, Turkey, the countries of the Persian Gulf, South-East Asia and Latin America. As you can see, the list is long and growing.

Russia is not afraid of fair competition and is ready for it, offering Africa first and foremost the role of a serious guarantor of stability and security, as well as its traditional and newly developed

competences, some of which are unique. Judging by the reaction of our African partners, there is a growing demand for our country's help in the Sahara-Sahel region and throughout the continent.

What we categorically reject is the West's attempts to tell Africans with whom they can and cannot do business. Fortunately, Africans themselves are increasingly rejecting such neo-colonial attempts. In developing our cooperation with African countries, we start from the principle that the African continent is not an arena of confrontation between major international players, but a new, growing, diverse, distinctive and global pole of power. Russia is ready to actively help strengthen the existing potential of African countries without imposing political conditions or offering unsolicited advice – this is our competitive advantage.

– For more than two years now, the whole world has been living in a new geopolitical reality that has changed dramatically since the beginning of the special military operation.

How has this affected the work of Russian companies in Africa, many of which have been sanctioned?

– Today's realities require a change in our relations. The unprecedented political and economic anti-Russian sanctions imposed by the "collective West" require a significant reconfiguration of many parameters and mechanisms of cooperation with African countries. Work is underway at all levels to create new instruments. First and foremost, this concerns trade and economic relations. We are talking about the establishment of transport chains, systems for foreign trade payments and ensuring food, energy, sanitary and epidemiological security in Africa.

Even in these difficult conditions, work is continuing vigorously in specific areas, including the construction and modernisation of infrastructure and industrial facilities, the exploration, extraction and transport of minerals, the promotion of Russian developments in medicine and digital services, and the

expansion of the supply of Russian products. Not only are our exports growing, but so are imports from African countries. The federal executive authorities, in cooperation with our embassies, are actively supporting Russian business in its work on the African track, including the search for promising areas for effective access to the continent's markets.

At the same time, major Russian economic players have been operating successfully in Africa for a long time, and the current world situation only favours further growth of their interest in this continent. We also see a reciprocal interest on the part of African partners, especially in direct investment from Russia based on domestic technologies applicable to African conditions.

—How ready is Russia today to cooperate with African countries in new promising areas such as digital technologies, peaceful nuclear and space exploration, and how much does Africa need it?

– Moscow consistently favours the development of the full range of economic relations with Africa, both with individual states and regional groupings and, in the near future, with the emerging African Continental Free Trade Area. At the same time, there are no sectoral or thematic restrictions on the Russian side's cooperation with these countries – on the contrary, Russia is focused on strengthening the technological sovereignty of African countries along the entire chain of competencies – expertise, adaptation and transfer of technologies, establishment of enterprises and training of specialists. Recently, the focus of our economic cooperation has gradually shifted to high technologies. Examples include the creation of a national satellite communications and broadcasting system in Angola and the construction of a space tracking station in South Africa. We are discussing cooperation projects with a number of African states in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and in space exploration and

the application of its results. We see great interest on the part of Africans in these areas and we are endeavouring to meet it as far as possible.

The same applies to information and communication technologies. Russian ICT companies offer package solutions in the areas of digitisation, development of telecommunications networks, creation and implementation of mobile operating systems, radio control and cyber security. At the same time, some of our partners' developments are of interest to us, as demonstrated by the week-long Russian-African seminar held at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow at the end of last year.

—After the collapse of the Soviet Union, a number of our embassies on the African continent were closed. We are now actively working to reopen them. In which countries have diplomatic missions already been opened or are they planned to be opened in the near future?

– Following the results of the Second Russia-Africa Summit, the leadership of our country set itself the task of expanding Russia's diplomatic presence on the African continent – not only in those countries where it was reduced in the 1990s. Just before the New Year, our embassy was opened in Burkina Faso, and another Russian diplomatic mission will soon be opened in Equatorial Guinea. Several more "points" are in the pipeline – we will let you know exactly where they will open as soon as we are ready.

—This year marks the 50th anniversary of your diplomatic career. What has changed in the work of a diplomat over these years?

– Half a century is a long time in human terms, and in some ways almost everything has changed. Suffice it to say that when I joined the Foreign Office, a diplomat's main "working tools" were a ballpoint or ink pen (or a typewriter for the more skilful) and a landline telephone. Nowadays, people in our profession cannot imagine life without a computer, a mobile phone with a wide range

of functions and an Internet connection that is as stable and fast as possible.

The relationship between the various components of a diplomat's work has also changed. Our profession has become much more open and public, which of course has its advantages and disadvantages. The importance of universalism has grown: not in the sense that a diplomat should know and be able to do a little bit of everything, but in the sense of deeper and more thorough economic, legal and media qualifications. What has not diminished is the ability to establish and maintain personal contacts, as well as knowledge of foreign languages and their use in work. What has remained constant is a high level of professionalism within the framework of functional and country specialisation, a broad and in-depth knowledge of international issues, general erudition, and an interest in the history and culture of the countries and regions in which the diplomat is based or active.

—To end our conversation, our traditional question. What is Africa like? What attracts and fascinates you? What is it like for you?

– Africa is huge, literally immense, very diverse and at the same time has common features for different regions and peoples. Many things attract and fascinate me: the power and beauty of nature, the richness of flora and fauna, the abundance of monuments of ancient civilisations, but above all – the inexhaustible vitality of the people who inhabit the continent, their worldly wisdom, common sense and ability to overcome difficulties and hardships, to find joy and pleasure in the ordinary. In fact, this is what attracted me to the continent and has never let me go. I am always ready to fly to Africa, to receive guests from Africa and to meet Africans.

\*Special Presidential Representative for the Middle East and Africa and Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Mikhail Bogdanov's interview with New Eastern Outlook magazine (May 13, 2024).

## Learning should be student driven

IGNATIUS NJOBVU

LET ME START THIS opinion by laying my submission in the context of a subject like the English Language. The four main skills that we look forward to inculcating to our learners when we teach the English Language are the writing, reading, speaking and listening skills. Whatever content that we teach is to ultimately cultivate those skills from the learners. Even the different paper

components of the subject are all meant to certain that those skills are practiced in one way or the other. The assessment thereof, should be that a learner must demonstrate that they have indeed acquired those skills, or at least the assessment tools must inform us the degree to which acquisition of those skills have been made. We therefore assume that the grades that are attached as performance grades, should communicate the degree of knowledge and

skills acquired. That is why it is very important to be diligent and precise when defining those grade descriptors for every letter/grade. A grade 'A' for example must describe a set of skills demonstrable by a learner falling in that category. A grade 'D' on the other hand must also be a set of skills demonstrable by a learner falling into that category. Obviously those set of skills must be different or demonstrated at different levels with that one obtaining an 'A'

going an extra mile. This is the assumption of the whole ideal. But and a very big BUT, are these grades communication those skills as per the grade descriptors? An 'A' student in the English Language, does he or she demonstrate listening, reading, writing and speaking skills better than a 'C' student?

I am not an assessment expert hence I won't even bother giving a definite answer. But my attempt to shedding light on the matter will be by pointing out what I assume are the influencing factors to our assessments. To a larger degree, we are inclined to a norm-referenced type of assessment. I am aware that those performance grading are somewhat a criteria set, but the larger society out there are concerned more about the rankings. So much that getting a top grade is a sign of good teaching and learning strategies. Careers and professional progressions are highly influenced by the number of top grades that one produces. Hence, we are mostly in competition for top grades so much that anything that can help us achieve that is perfectly welcomed. Knowing that ours is mostly summative assessments (every year end) we device ways and means of perfectly scooping



those top grades. Instead of being guided by the teaching syllabus, we prefer to be guided by the assessment syllabus. It has even become almost impossible to facilitate learning using the teaching syllabus in the absence of the assessment syllabus. The content in the teaching syllabus that rarely gets to be assessed, is referred to as 'a waste of time.'

Some have resorted to using only past exam papers knowing fully well that cramming the kind of questions in those past exam papers and how to answer them is good enough strategy to carry one through an exam. Do these approaches bring out the rightful skills that we wish our students could develop?

Can't we then review the

manner in which we assess our curriculum? To allow us not to focus on the answers but learning the processes that lead us to getting the answers, is it not time we emphasised learning of the process rather than giving the answer?

Shouldn't learners be demonstrating skills more than waiting for the summative

examinations? I am not saying that we should do away with the summative examinations, but I am merely suggesting that it is not time we apportioned a good share of the final grade to continuous assessment (CA)? The CA should include not just theoretical academic progress (tests), but must include testing behavioural skills, communication and ICT skills, collaborating skills, creativity and general problem solving skills. The best model to facilitate this is through school-based assessment. That way, learners are to have the opportunity to demonstrate good behaviour, creativity and problem solving, and of course develop those other soft skills that are the principles behind learning a certain subject.

And by having learners demonstrate knowledge and skills as one of the means for evaluation, it propels that learning be driven by learners themselves. Learners will understand the importance of researching, working and discussing with others, presenting to others and adhering to rules and regulations of the societies that they live in.

Therefore I would like to conclude by stating that school based assessment would somehow enforce learner-centred pedagogies. Learner-centred pedagogies will in turn bring out those skills that are designed to be acquired in studying a subject.

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE HELD AT BROADHURST		H/W MOKONE
In the matter between:		CCMBR-001222-23
DETA INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD T/A DETA MONEY LINK and MPHO MATLAKALA	PLAINTIFF	
	DEFENDANT	
NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION		
BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgement of the above honourable court, the following property of the above mentioned defendant will be sold by public auction by the Deputy sheriff ARMSTRONG T ZIBOCHWA to the highest bidder as follows.		
Date of sale:	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	
Venue:	in front of Broadhurst Magistrate court	
Time:	10:30 am	
Property to be sold:	1x dining table, 2x double beds, 6x sofas, (brown) 1x microwave 1x Samsung single door fridge (white) 1x Samsung 58" smart tv	
Terms of sale:	cash or EFT	
Dated, this 20 <sup>th</sup> day of May 2024		
Deputy Sheriff Armstrong T Zibochwa P.O. BOX 2653 GABORONE CELL 72302770/(75984236)		



# Business

## BBS Bank deposits hit P4.2 billion

▪ 2023 deposits 55% higher than P2.7 billion recorded in 2022 ▪ Attribute growth to customers support during transformation

**BAKANG TIRO**

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**T**HE BBS BANK HAS REALISED a strong growth from its customer deposits segment which at the end of 31st December 2023 stood at P4.2 billion, 55% above P2.7 billion that was achieved at 31st December 2022.

The bank's Head of Finance Hilda Mhaladi noted in the 2023 Annual Report that the growth in customer deposits was due to the support that the bank received from customers upon becoming a commercial bank.

She said the initiative to increase deposits was broadened in 2023 to meet the funding requirements for the unsecured personal loan, adding that the net growth by year end amounted to P1.5 billion.

Mhaladi also said the operating income closed the year at P172.2 million reflecting 33 percent growth compared to P120 million recorded in 2022.

Although the unsecured personal loans book did not achieve full potential contribution in 2023 due to the growth of the book occurring towards the end of the year, it contributed P31.0 million to interest income for the year.

"We expect the unsecured personal loan book to contribute even more to interest income in 2024. For the most part of the year,



BBS Managing Director Pedzani Tafa

▪ Pilediwa Strategy boosts BBS' strong overall performance

the Group encountered persistently high funding costs, particularly related to corporate term deposits," underscored Mhaladi.

This rise in funding costs, she said, placed a strain on the overall financial performance of the Group and Company.

Towards the end of the year, Mhaladi said, the yields on corporate deposits started to decline owing to the improving market liquidity.

"The net fee and commission income for the year ended 31 December 2023, stood at P43.9 million, surpassing the December 2022 figure of P20.0 million by 112%.

BBS Insurance Agency Limited contributed P24.3 million in fee and commission income," she added.

### GROWTH ANCHORS

For her part, BBS Managing Director Pedzani Tafa said as part of protecting the bank, it was critical that they review their risk management framework to ensure that it is fit for purpose to withstand the rigors of commercial banking.

To that end, Tafa said BBS developed an integrated risk management framework plus policies which will ensure that they operate as a robust bank with the necessary checks and balances.

Tafa said during the year under review, the bank introduced a number of initiatives such as launching the corporate Pilediwa

Strategy; introduced our brand which has been received positively by the market and revamping Nomad Digital Banking platform which enables customers to bank from anywhere in the world, at any time.

Mhaladi said the Pilediwa strategy implemented during the year placed a strong emphasis on creating banking capabilities and introducing innovative banking products and services. The impact of this transformation, along with various market challenges faced during the year, is reflected in the financial performance results for 2023, Mhaladi explained.

### OPERATING EXPENSES

Mhaladi said the total operating expenses, excluding expected credit losses and other impairments, were P191.0 million, representing an increase of 23% from the restated amount of P154.8 million for the year ended 31 December 2022.

According to her, this rise was primarily driven by transformation expenses incurred during the year.

"Operating expenses included total staff costs amounting to P100.2 million, which has increased by 22% from P82.6 million for the year ended 31 December 2022. The Group incurred staff rationalisation costs totalling P15.5 million, which were deemed essential for the transformation process," Mhaladi declared.

### Diamonds crash:

## Tough economic times ahead!

Botswana could be facing one of its most testing economic times as the government's major source of revenue, the diamond industry is under pressure due to the weakened global demand for the natural diamonds. **STAFF WRITER BAKANG TIRO** dissects the industry that is increasingly sinking on the sick bed.

**N**ATURAL DIAMONDS HAVEN'T fared well in terms of sales at a better part of the first quarter of this year, as some of the leading world diamonds marketing entities were forced to cancel diamonds sales.

Slower appetite for rough diamonds demand by the customers across the world has been attributed to several factors such as the rise in demand of synthetic diamonds (lab grown) especially for the wedding purposes in key markets such as USA and due to negative effects of the Russian aggression on Ukraine.

### IMPACT ON ECONOMY

Independent economist Lame Bothata has observed that the slower demand for

natural diamonds in the global market at this point would solely also have negative impact on the performance of the local economy. Bothata said the diamond industry is expected to go on a rough patch for the better of this year due to the geopolitical dynamics, particularly that the big market being United States of America will be going to elections.

"When the big markets catch cold, Botswana as the largest producer sneezes. The local economy has been projected by the World Bank to grow by 4.1 percent this year and that would depend on how the diamonds industry is performing, which is the largest contributor to government revenues," he added. He also said the developments

surrounding the talk of De Beers being sold – if BHP can takeover Anglo American – is shaking up the global diamond industry and that is likely to disrupt rough diamonds demand.

However, reports suggest that Anglo American has rejected a third takeover proposal from rival BHP Group on Wednesday, as the companies agreed to extend the talks deadline by one week.

The British miner confirmed the third proposal from BHP offered about £29.34 (\$37.33) per Anglo American share, based on undisturbed share prices as of the market close on April 23.

According to Reuters, the offer valued the company at £38.6 billion and the bid also once again included demands

for Anglo to unbundle its platinum and iron ore assets in South Africa market, a process Anglo American has previously deemed too risky and complex.

Bothata said local non-mining sector is likely to outperform the mining sector in terms of growth due to expected high government spending in sectors such as construction. Minister of Finance Peggy Serame while delivering 2024/25 financial year budget in February posited that the non-mining sector is estimated to grow on average by 5.7 percent, and this has the potential to generate new jobs across both the formal and informal sectors during this period.

**DEBSWANA PRODUCTION SLUMPS**

Delving into the local perspective, the central bank - Bank of Botswana (BoB) – painted a gloomy picture on its April 2024 Monetary Policy Report by noting that Diamond production significantly decreased in the first quarter of 2024.

Debswana Diamond Company produced 5 million carats of diamonds in the first quarter of 2024, 27.7 percent lower than the 6.9 million carats produced in the corresponding period in 2023.

According to BoB, the lower production in the first quarter of 2024 was in response to the deteriorating global economic conditions, and geopolitical events, including the conflict in Ukraine. Meanwhile, BoB said Debswana's production target for 2024 has been revised downwards to 20.7 million carats from 23.7 million carats in 2023 and initial target for 2024 at the beginning of the year. Similarly, BoB further explained that the production guidance for the larger De Beers Group has also been revised down to 26–29 million carats from 29–32 million carats, subject to trading conditions.

Nonetheless, despite a slump in Debswana production level, the positive as highlighted by BoB report is that the production at Lucara Diamond Corporation (Karowe Mine) increased by 13.3 percent to 98 177 carats in the

fourth quarter of 2023, from 86 655 carats produced in the corresponding period in 2022. BoB noted that this increase was mainly attributable to the increased number of special stones (greater than 100 carats in weight).

### DE BEERS SALES WEAKENS

This week on Thursday, De Beers Group reported that the provisional value of rough diamond sales for the fourth cycle of 2024, which is valued at \$380 million (P5.17 billion) lower than the \$446 million sales value during the third cycle of 2024. The fourth cycle of 2023 was valued at \$479 million in terms of the sales. Commenting on the current sales value, De Beers Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Al Cook said as expected, De Beers' rough diamond sales in the fourth cycle of the year has trended lower, in line with the seasonally slower second quarter and a quieter period of trading in India during the elections.

Cook also said the focus of the global diamond industry now turns towards the JCK jewelry show in Las Vegas at the end of May.

"The demand trends in the US are expected to be driven by short-term macroeconomic issues but supported in coming years by a recovery in engagements as the after-effects of pandemic lockdowns fade," said Cook.

The global mining giant De Beers hosts Global Sightholder Sales 10 times a year that are known as 'Sights' because, during the sales period, customers can inspect the rough diamonds offered to them before deciding what to buy.

There are two types of customers in Global Sightholder Sales, the Sightholders and Accredited Buyers.

According to De Beers, the Sightholders benefit from a term contract covering the sale of diamonds over an agreed period, whereas Accredited Buyers have a more ad hoc arrangement.

### RAPAPORT INSIGHTS

The Las Vegas headquartered Rapaport Group, the global diamonds experts earlier last month, revealed that De Beers reduced prices for smaller rough diamonds at this week's sight, though manufacturers say the adjustments aren't enough to ease their profitability challenges.

According to Rapaport, De Beers cut the price of 3-grainers (0.75-carat) and smaller goods by 4% to 6%, and in 4- to 6-grainers (1 to 1.5 carats), the price decline was around 4%, as it was estimated by the market insiders.

Rapaport said the prices of 5- to 10-carat rough increased slightly, though this partly reflected modifications to the assortments.



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## TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NO. GA 3/1/5-I 002/2024-2025

PROVISION OF BOARD EVALUATION SERVICES

A non-refundable fee of **P1000.00** for purchasing the tender and **P500.00** for Youth Owned Companies. Payments should be made via EFT to Gambling Authority bank account.

If you are interested in purchasing the tender document, email your company name, contact person's name and telephone number to [tenders@gamblingauthority.co.bw](mailto:tenders@gamblingauthority.co.bw)

Closing date: **17 June 2024 at 1200HRS**



West Wing, Fairground Office Park, Gaborone

(+267) 3957672



# Signet, De Beers highlight unique attributes of natural diamonds

As increasingly diverse couples lead the U.S. engagement recovery, Signet and De Beers are re-introducing natural diamonds to Zillennials, the newest generation of diamond engagement ring consumers in the U.S.

**S**IGNET JEWELERS, THE WORLD'S largest retailer of diamond jewelry, whose iconic retail brands include KAY Jewelers, Zales, Jared, Diamonds Direct and Blue Nile, and De Beers Group, the world's leading diamond company, today announced a collaboration to share the unique attributes of natural diamonds with a new generation of U.S. couples, ahead of an expected 25% increase in engagements over the next three years.

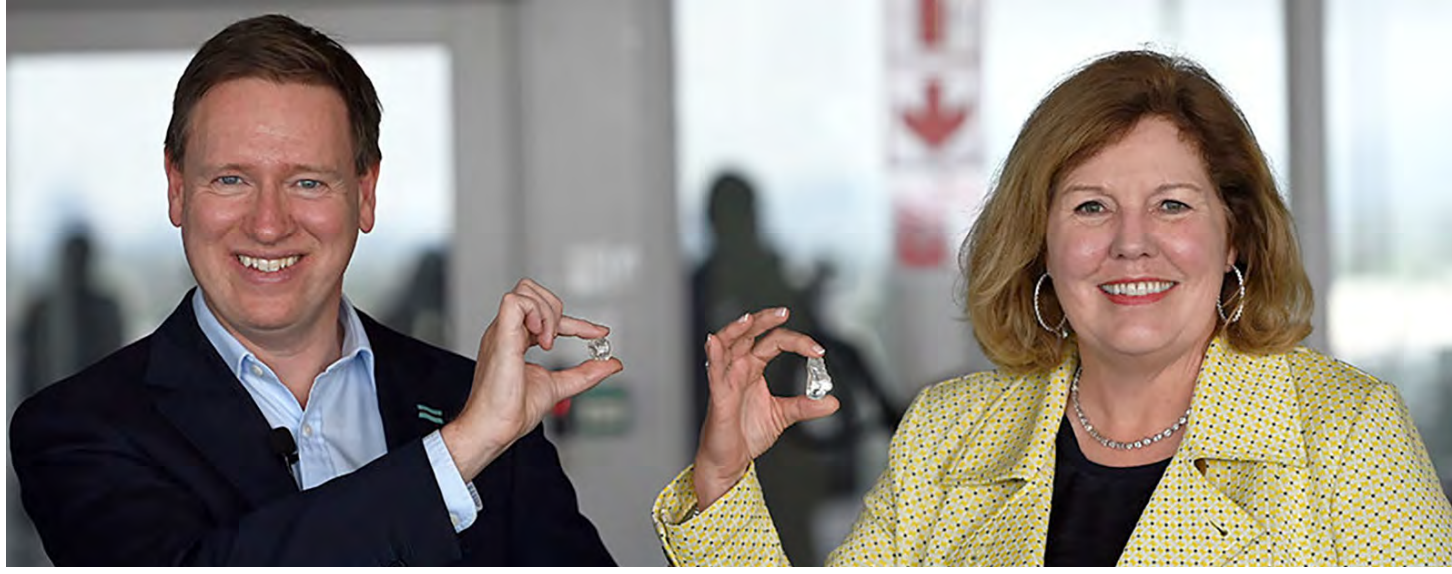
Based on Signet's proprietary data, utilizing Signet's trusted brands, digital capabilities and extensive store network and De Beers Group's expertise in creating iconic campaigns, the collaboration will showcase the inherent rarity and timelessness of natural diamonds. A new campaign will fully roll out in the third quarter and feature online content, in-store experiences and targeted marketing messages.

Signet's proprietary research indicates that there will be an upswing in proposals and engagements amongst U.S. Zillennials over the next 36 months, following a recent lull due to a lack of couples forming during

the pandemic. The engagement uptick is expected to be driven by couples from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and the LGBTQIA+ community.

To support consumer marketing activities, training will be provided to Signet's 20,000 sales associates to help educate their customers on natural diamonds' unique attributes, including their enduring emotional and financial value and the enormous socioeconomic benefits natural diamonds help deliver for the people and places where they are discovered. Natural diamond visual merchandising will also be revamped and refreshed within Signet's banners to appeal to pre-engagement consumers.

"Natural diamonds are the perfect symbols to celebrate life's most meaningful moments – they are as unique, timeless, rare and precious as the emotions they represent," said De Beers Group CEO Al Cook. "We now have the opportunity to connect a diverse new generation to the extraordinary attributes of natural diamonds. I am so proud of the good that



Al Cook, CEO of De Beers Group and Gina Drosos, CEO of Signet Jewelers

diamonds do for the people and places they come from. To maximise the reach and impact of our activities, we know that new approaches and strategic collaborations will be vital. This is why we are so pleased to be working with a leading retailer like Signet

to share the story of natural diamonds with consumers. Signet is a true authority for pre-engagement couples as they decide which diamond to choose, and I am particularly pleased that we will be working together to equip Signet's sales associates to share the

unique attributes of natural diamonds." "When choosing a piece of jewelry, it's vital to have complete confidence and trust in who you buy it from and how it was sourced," said Signet Jewelers CEO Virginia C. Drosos. "Our industry-leading position

in responsible sourcing is an asset we want to communicate to the next generation of diamond buyers. We are proud to stand by the "Signet Promise"

our commitment to upholding the integrity of the global diamond supply chain through responsible sourcing."

"Our selection of diamonds is unrivalled, and our jewellery experts know the ins and outs of the diamond purchasing journey and value proposition," said Drosos. "Our team members overwhelmingly choose natural for their own purchases – more than 4 out of 5 times, in fact – which speaks volumes. We are looking forward to investing in new trainings and initiatives to equip our field team to share the natural diamond story with our customers."

As a leading natural diamond supplier, all De Beers diamonds are sourced in accordance with the company's Best Practice Principles and its Building Forever sustainability framework, ensuring that every diamond discovered by De Beers is responsibly sourced and has helped create a positive impact for the people and place it came from.

## Know Your Corporate Leader

**Full Name:** Chiseki Chiseki  
**Position:** Chief Executive Officer  
**Institution:** Emergency Assist 991  
**Date Started:** 1st April 2023  
**Nature of business:** Emergency Medical Services



## Bomaid embrace the rhythm of life

**B**OMAID HAS UNVEILED, 'EMBRACING the Rhythm of Life', an initiative to empower customers with comprehensive information to unpack and simplify Bomaid's 16 health plans, making it easier for them to navigate and choose the right options for their needs.

The campaign is a direct response to feedback from customers and aims to enhance their overall experience with Bomaid. In today's fast-paced world, Bomaid understands that flexibility and ease are paramount. "When life moves, move with it" captures the essence of the campaign, reflecting Bomaid's commitment to staying in tune with the evolving needs of its customers. The campaign, aims to enhance transparency, improve communication, and reinforce its dedication to customer-centric values. It is also a direct response to valuable feedback from our customers, addressing their pain points and enhancing their overall experience with Bomaid.

"The primary purpose of Embracing the Rhythm of Life is to simplify our health plans.

We believe that healthcare should not be a burden but a seamless experience that adapts to the rhythm of our customers'



Tshepo Maphanyane, Bomaid Corporate Communications Manager

lives," shared Tshepo Maphanyane, Bomaid Corporate Communications Manager.

Embracing the Rhythm of Life symbolises Bomaid's philosophy of moving in harmony with its customers.

Life is dynamic, and these health plans should reflect that dynamism.

By embracing this rhythm, Bomaid not only simplifying healthcare choices but also reinforcing commitment to delivering

exceptional customer experiences.

Through this campaign, Bomaid aims to provide a superior customer experience by offering the flexibility for customers, ensuring easy access to a wide range of services, strengthening internal alignment and knowledge among our staff to better serve our customers, and enhancing transparency in all our communications and interactions.



BANK OF BOTSWANA

24 May 2024

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The BANK OF BOTSWANA wishes to invite prospective local bidders for the following services:

TENDER NO.	CONTRACT TITLE	CLOSING DATE
BOB/2024/02/06	Supply of Renewal Licences for Qualys Patch Management	5 June 2024
BOB/2024/02/05	Provision of Server and Workstation Hardening Solution	5 June 2024

- The Procurement Method is, Open Domestic Bidding.
- The Evaluation method is, Least Cost Selection.
- Tenderers must, in order to be considered for award of this contract, be registered with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) under Code: 120 ICT Technical Support Services, Sub code(s): 06 ICT Security Management and maintenance services or related.
- Interested companies may purchase the tender documents for a non-refundable fee of P350.00 (Three Hundred and Fifty Pula, VAT inclusive). The payment can be done by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or cash at the Bank's Banking Hall in Gaborone, or at Francistown Branch Banking Hall, from 22 May 2024 to 5 June 2024, Monday to Friday at 0900 to 1400 hours in Gaborone and from 0900 to 1245 hours in Francistown Branch during weekdays. The 50% price discount for purchase of the tender document will be applied to companies owned by youth, women and people living with disability who should provide proof of the same to qualify.
- Companies are advised to email proof of payment to keekeek@bob.bw who shall send the complete tender documents by electronically.

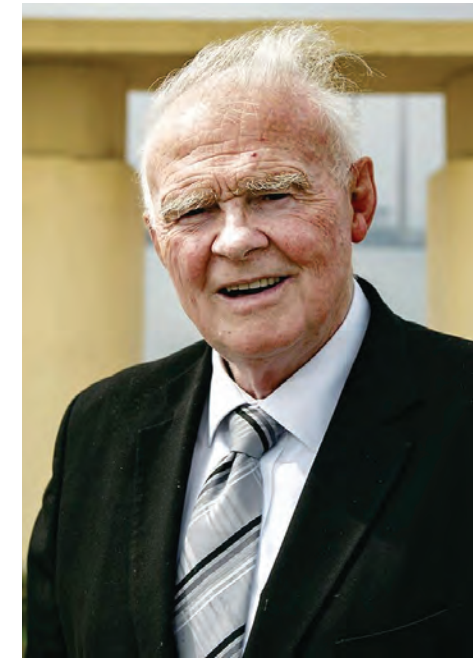
#### Bank Details for EFT payments

Bank : Bank of Botswana  
 Account Name : Accpac Sundry Receipts  
 Account Number : 0000110900001  
 Branch Code : 910167  
 Branch Name : Gaborone  
 SWIFT Code : BBOTBWGX  
 Please include reference (Company Name)

- The tender will be closed on 6 June 2024, at 1000 hours. The tender submissions will be opened 7 June 2024, at 1015 hours, or later as the Bank of Botswana may advise.

## BOD given four prospecting licenses for Kalahari

**B**OTSWANA DIAMONDS PLC IS pleased to announce that it has been granted four Prospecting Licenses in the Kalahari of Botswana. These Prospecting Licences cover a total area of 2,331.81 square kilometres and have reference numbers PL0213, 0214, 0218 and 0219 of 2024 which adds to the Company's existing acreage in the Kalahari. These Prospecting Licences are in the same general area as Gem Diamonds Ltd's Ghaghoo diamond mine as well as the Company's KX36 advanced project in addition to its recently announced drillable targets. The KX36 project is a 3.5 hectares kimberlite pipe in the Kalahari. The pipe has resources of 17.9 million tonnes ("Mt") at 35 carats per hundred tonnes ("cph") (indicated) and 6.7Mt at 36 cph (inferred) at \$65 per carat ("ct"). The modelled grade range is 57-76 cph at an estimated diamond value of up to \$107/ct. In the



Teeling

same general area is the Company's first drillable anomaly which is c.12 hectares in size and the second contiguous anomaly is c.6 hectares in size. The Company has started planning the drill phase of these two significant anomalies and an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") has commenced, as a prelude to drilling. It is anticipated that five holes will be drilled on the two anomalies. John Teeling, Chairman, commented: "I am pleased that we have been awarded these Prospecting Licences in the Kalahari of Botswana, which we believe will be the next major diamond producing area in the country.

Exploration is a long game, particularly diamond exploration, and we believe the industry is going through a structural change which will see the natural product, particularly from Botswana find its premium niche in world markets." [bse.co.bw]

## Ziga joins Sefalana Board

**S**EFALANA IS VERY PLEASED TO announce the appointment of Mr. Siphon Ziga to the Board of Directors as a Non-Executive Director with effect from 1 June 2024. Mr. Siphon Ziga is a senior attorney in Botswana, with nearly 28 years of professional legal experience, with a focus on business law. Mr. Ziga has extensive experience in corporate commercial law, securities, and financial services regulations, and project finance. He has provided legal counsel to various BSE-listed and unlisted

entities, and provided insight on issues surrounding corporate governance, BSE compliance, due diligence, acquisitions and the Botswana legal and regulatory environment. He has been recognized by Chambers Global – the World's Leading Lawyers for General Business law - as a leading business lawyer consistently since 2007. The Board of Sefalana is delighted to welcome Mr. Ziga to the Group, and looks forward to his contribution towards its continued growth strategy. [bse.co.bw]



Ziga

## Chobe sees PBT jump 54%

**T**HE CHOBE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS would like to announce that the Group's Profit Before Tax for the year ended 29 February 2024 is likely to be between 44 – 54 percent (approximately BWP 60 to 73 million) higher than that reported for the comparative period ended 28 February 2023 which amounted to a profit of BWP 135.6 million. The Group



Jonathan Gibson, Chobe Holdings Ltd. Group CEO & Deputy Chairman

will be publishing its audited consolidated summarised financial results for the year ended 29 February 2024 on or before 31 May 2024. This will include commentary on the drivers for the improved performance. Accordingly, Shareholders and investors are advised to exercise caution when dealing in the Company's securities until the results are formally published. [bse.co.bw]



# Business Botswana call for SMEs capacitation



Minister of Agriculture Fidelis Molao



Business Botswana President, Neo Nwako



Minister Molao and other delegates touring stalls

AMANDA DAVID  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**B**USINESS BOTSWANA PRESIDENT, NEO Nwako has told stakeholders that they prioritise fostering a conducive working environment for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to thrive, hence they continue to host the Northern Trade Fair annually without fail to create opportunities.

Speaking at the official opening of the 28th dose of the Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair in Francistown on Thursday, Nwako reiterated that Business Botswana's vision is to build a diverse, vibrant, and robust private sector, adding

that the expo provides prospects for dynamic engagements, and interactions amongst businesses particularly SMEs to connect, network, collaborate on business enhancements, and seize unparalleled opportunities in today's globalized economy.

He implored the private sector to follow in government's footsteps to review incentives that will improve access to capital for SMEs as well as build structures that support their growth bearing in mind that small, and medium enterprises contribute significantly to Botswana's economic growth.

"Of the 2 500 businesses we represent, 85% are SMEs, and therefore their growth and capacitation remains a key priority. This is a testament to our deliberate efforts

through the various programs we have, including the Support to the Economic Diversification Project. Funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the project is aimed at fostering economic diversification," he added.

Nwako further highlighted that since its launch Business Botswana in partnership with the Botswana Horticulture Council (BoHoCo), and The Hospitality and Tourism Association of Botswana (HATAB) has conducted countrywide capacitation programmes for over 300 businesses in the horticulture, business development, and tourism sectors.

"I would like to further attest that Business Botswana will enhance its capacity-building

programmes to be internationally aligned to equip enterprises with the necessary skills to thrive in an ever-evolving business and technological landscape and leverage innovation for profitability," he echoed.

Officiating at the exhibition, Minister of Agriculture Fidelis Molao also emphasized the importance for Business Botswana to continue to engage with government offices to ensure an enabling environment is created for sustainable innovation, as well as to enact policies that foster collaboration between the public and private sector for the greater good. Speaking to this year's theme, Sustainable Innovation: building a greener tomorrow Minister Molao challenged and encouraged Batswana to play an active role

in green economy and further stressed that there are various investment opportunities available in the agriculture sector for Batswana to explore such as value addition in processing and packaging through the use of the various support programmes such as the recently launched Temo Letlotlo.

"Let us remember that the journey towards sustainability is not a sprint but a marathon; a journey that requires perseverance, determination, and collective action," he said. Botswana Housing Corporation's Regional Director North Goitseone Sebege noted that in relation to this year's theme, the corporation has made great strides to ensure that green technology initiatives are incorporated in the business

with the use of eco-friendly and locally sourced building materials such as the Kalahari sand brick amongst others.

"We have also made a deliberate decision to further research on other sustainable alternatives to traditional construction materials as a way to support initiatives geared towards building a greener future for all Batswana," she added.

Sebege further reinforced BHC's commitment to sustainability drives which include carrying out environmental impact assessments before construction of projects as well as striving to minimize negative impact to the environment by structuring layouts to preserve some indigenous trees or vegetation on sites.

## Debswana Textile Accelerator Programme pays SMMEs P20.4 million



Dignitaries at first annual 2024 Corporate Social Responsibility Conference and Corporate Awards on Thursday morning in Gaborone

**D**EBSWANA DIAMOND COMPANY took part in the first annual 2024 Corporate Social Responsibility Conference and Corporate Awards on Thursday morning in Gaborone. The conference was held under the theme, "Transforming business strategies by integrating CSR objectives into the core operation, through innovation, and forging impactful partnerships for sustainable growth".

Organised by CSI-Concepts, the inaugural awards were officially opened by the

Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development, Nnaniki Makwinja. The aim of the conference is to showcase sustainable growth models and highlight the principles and best practice used by corporates, CSR & Sustainability professionals to innovate their existing efforts. The conference focused on how companies have reinvented their business strategies by incorporating CSR initiatives into their core business.

Debswana as leader in Environmental, Social and Governance space, has a robust Corporate Social Investment

Programme that seeks to leave a lasting positive legacy beyond diamond mining. Debswana's primary support for community development in Botswana comes through the revenues its operations generate for the Government, along with jobs created and sustained, as well as resultant increases in living standards and make life brilliant for communities.

Debswana participated in a panel discussion alongside De Beers Group and FNBB Foundation titled "Learning from other organizations: Based on the Current

Trends in today's dynamic landscape." Debswana presented a case study on its successful Textile Accelerator Programme which was launched in 2022 to assist the country to diversify its economy and further unlock opportunities in the textile sector. The objective of the project is to create employment and build capacity amongst the local SMMEs to be able to participate in various private and public sector supply chains. The project empowered 34 SMMEs to increase productive capacity for the enterprises which predominantly based in our areas of influence to supply Debswana mines with a view to further reduce the import bill.

Speaking during the panel discussion, Corporate Affairs Manager - Socio Economic Development Manager at Debswana, Patrick Phuti Mokwele said the project is a benchmark high impact initiative which is diverse and has adopted global sustainable growth models. "The Textile Accelerator Programme has to date created 751 jobs against a target of 1,000 jobs by end of 2024. The participating SMMEs have also benefited P20.4 million in sales revenue from Debswana. The project is inclusive and cuts across most of our Building Forever - ESG Strategy pillars," he said.

Mokwele explained that the project is dominated by women, including differently abled promoters and the youth. He added that the project is a partnership between Debswana, Tokafala, Local Enterprise Authority and Botswana Bureau of Standards. "Collaboration is an integral part of our socio-economic development programme, which is aligned to global practises and Sustainable Development Goal number 17 on the importance of Partnerships," he concluded. The project covers SMMEs based in Jwaneng, Letlhakane, Molepolole, Kanye, Gaborone, Francistown, Maun, Tutume, Palapye and Selebi-Phikwe.

## Where does De Beers go from here?

ROB BATES

**H**AVING EXPERIENCED VARIOUS acquisitions and restructurings at places where I've worked, I have considerable sympathy for De Beers' 20,000 employees as they digest the news that majority owner Anglo American plans to sell off their company. While big corporate changes sometimes work out for the best, they are rarely pleasant for those who live through them.

Prior to 2023, De Beers was enjoying a pretty strong run, but lately it's experienced considerable turmoil, as sales have fallen and it looks to cut \$100 million from its bottom line. A number of veterans have already left the company. I've heard the mood described as "anxious." Whatever happens, the "money is no object" ethos that seemed to characterize most De Beers events and parties is probably a thing of the past.

Given Anglo's long history with De Beers, many people in the industry were surprised by the announcement. But they probably shouldn't have been, as sentimental ties mean little these days. Anglo—which owns 85% of De Beers—is clearly under pressure, with Australia's BHP already making a takeover offer and other miners suggesting they may bid too. (BHP doesn't seem that enthusiastic about the diamond business; it ditched its holdings in the sector back in 2012.) So Anglo has made a defensive move, announcing plans to divest its holdings in three troubled commodities—diamonds, platinum, and coal.

I can't speak about coal, but it's certainly possible that its platinum and diamond sales could recover. Platinum's woes have little to do with jewelry, but rather have mostly been caused by the popularity of electrical vehicles, as Anglo executive Benn Oeyen explained to National Jeweler last week. Now that EV sales have apparently peaked, Oeyen believes platinum will be well positioned for the next iteration of automobiles—hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. He may be right, but at the moment the metal's price is down and Anglo's platinum operations are unprofitable, and that's all Anglo cares about. So it's cutting platinum loose.

Diamond sales could also stage a comeback. It wasn't so long ago (the early to mid-2010s) that De Beers was Anglo's golden child, possibly saving Anglo when it was experiencing a cyclical downturn. (The diamond industry has its own unique cycles—its "own weather." I've heard it called.) And though it's hard to make any long-term predictions about the diamond industry, especially with regard to lab-grown, the business has been through numerous crises (see here and here), and has always gotten out of them.

The problem is Anglo's sale announcement has shaken trade confidence. Anglo may not want to sell De Beers at the bottom of the market, but damaged industry morale could make a recovery harder.

Still, an ownership change could ultimately benefit De Beers. "This uncoupling of the two companies gives us the ability to deploy and achieve our strategy in a way that we've never had before," De Beers CEO Al Cook tells JCK. "I'm excited and I'm confident."

Some company vets agree that De Beers may fare better spun off from Anglo.

"De Beers is not a proper mining company," says one, speaking anonymously. "It will be better for De Beers to be outside Anglo because Anglo doesn't know how to manage it properly. [Anglo CEO] Duncan Wanblad does not understand it and the diamond world. And what you don't understand, you sell."

But who will buy? There have been

disconcerting reports that Gulf State sovereign-wealth funds may be interested, possibly because they see owning De Beers as a way to expand their influence in Africa. (I've heard China mentioned, for the same reason.) Other possible buyers, like a big luxury group, seem impractical. Just like miners aren't experts on luxury, it's safe to say luxury companies don't know much about mining.

Other buyer speculation sounds like industry wish fulfillment. I've heard the Oppenheims' name bandied about, but would-be savior Nicky is 78. An IPO—the so-called "default option"—holds promise, but that presumes the market has an appetite for a De Beers public offering which may not be there. In retrospect, De Beers should have been cashed off years ago.

"De Beers needs a long-term orientation and financial resources to see it through the market downturns," another longtime De Beers employee tells JCK. "It also needs a consumer-centric luxury goods vision to create demand."

True enough. Let's look at Pandora, which has had probably the biggest comeback I've ever seen in this industry. In the midst of a downturn in 2019, its CEO said all rebounds "start with understanding where we went wrong with the consumer." And that's where De Beers needs to begin too. It also needs to understand where it went wrong with U.S. retailers, who have played a large part in the rise of lab-grown.

For the past few years, the synthetic sector has arguably made a lot more noise than the natural diamond industry. But now with lab-grown prices down and venture capital funds tightening, created-diamond brands aren't getting the attention they once did, and their sales are slowing.

De Beers does have a path to recovery, but it's a difficult one that requires a true commitment to marketing from both the current and eventual owners. Of course, that won't be cheap, especially with Alrosa no longer able to fund the Natural Diamond Council because of Russian sanctions. That's one reason De Beers has gone back to "category-driving" advertising, working with retailers to amplify its message.

The company is now in an interesting place, with certain things making it an attractive asset, others less so. De Beers' executive committee, traditionally made up of lifers, currently has only a handful of people with extensive diamond experience. The Ukraine war has hurt generic marketing efforts, yet it could lead to a boon for De Beers: If G7 sanctions truly shut out Russian diamonds, De Beers will have the world's biggest gem market (mostly) to itself. But for the moment, De Beers and its African partners seem more concerned about the logistical burdens that sanctions pose than how they might benefit from them.

The government of Botswana—15% owner of De Beers—will likely play a role in any sale, though we don't know whether it has veto power over potential buyers. (I haven't been able to get an answer to that basic factual question.) While Botswana has a respected, democratic government, it's also become a more demanding, less predictable partner for De Beers. Nearly a year after the government agreed to sign a new contract with De Beers, no deal has been finalized. I certainly understand the country wanting the most for its resources, but I am not a corporate executive. Things politicians say to appeal to voters can cause anxiety in boardrooms.

In the end, De Beers could come out of this in a stronger position. But that's far from clear. It all adds up to a lot of uncertainty—and the industry has plenty of that already. [jckonline.com]

## Liquid Intelligent Technologies launch Cloud Cyber Security

AMANDA DAVID  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**L**EADING INTERNET CONNECTIVITY and infrastructure provider, Liquid Intelligent Technologies rolled out its cloud cyber security product for businesses and the community in Francistown on Thursday. The cyber security product dubbed C2 is not only targeting to educate and sensitise businesses, but also schools and senior citizens in the Northern region.

Liquid Intelligent Technologies Botswana Managing Director Odirile Tamajobe said in an interview with this publication that it is critical for Batswana to utilise the internet safely and remain wary of cyber criminals, especially that 75 percent of the country's population has access to internet.

He further reiterated that as a company Liquid Intelligent Technologies saw the need to engage with businesses in the second city at the opportune time of the Business Botswana Northern trade fair currently taking place, as it houses a many businesses under one roof. Tamajobe emphasised that as a company they are committed to teaching businesses in Francistown about the cloud and cyber



Liquid Intelligent Technologies team at the launch of cloud and cybersecurity services in Francistown

security as well as cyber crimes and cyber theft and the threats they pose to their businesses.

"We have been training businesses in Gaborone and surrounding areas and we strategically decided to come to the expo because the show has businesses under one roof and it is important that we engage with our clients under one roof and make them understand what operating on the internet

means for them," he added.

Tamajobe further highlighted that though the internet is an important aspect of any business, it is important to be vigilant of cyber crime adding that there are people invested in stealing information, stealing finances and identities of businesses. He also noted that Liquid Technologies not only focuses on businesses but also teaches students how to use the internet safely as

well as educating adults on monitoring what their children are exposed to on the internet.

"We have embarked on cyber training to train 50 schools countrywide, we started in March and have trained 20 schools so far. One of the reasons we decided to launch our product now is because we will now start training schools in Francistown and surrounding areas," he said.

For his part, Liquid Intelligent Technologies Sales Manager Duncan Muranganwa highlighted that a lot of people have the belief that they are not affected by cyber crimes but it is evident that anyone with a cellphone and access to the internet are exposed.

"How secure are you while operating on the cloud, regardless of who is giving you connectivity? You must be secure as an individual on the cloud," he added.

Muranganwa further clarified that a lot of people might not know what the cloud is, and further explained that the cloud is where an individual's different gadgets are connected and where most businesses operate adding that the space must be a secure one. Liquid Intelligent Technologies' vision is to see everyone on in Africa connected but in a safe and secure space.



# Stock market indices increased

**B**ANK OF BOTSWANA (BoB) HAS noted in its Monetary Policy Report for April 2024 that the Domestic Companies Index (DCI) increased by 14.4 percent in the twelve months to March 2024, compared to an increase of 10.1 percent in the year to March 2023.

The increase was mainly due to the higher share prices for First National Bank of Botswana, Standard Chartered Bank and Chobe, which increased by 31.4 percent, 69 percent, and 64.7 percent, respectively, in the same period.

The higher share prices were because of increased trading activity and a significant increase in average daily turnover during March 2024, (led by FNBB, possibly reflecting the announcement of the increase in overall profit for 2023), with the institutional investors being the biggest contributors to equity turnover.

The Foreign Companies Index (FCI) increased by 58.1 percent in the year to

March 2024, compared to an increase of 1 percent in the corresponding period in 2023.

“The increase was largely due to the year-on-year increase in the share prices for New Gold Issuer (RF) Limited (14.4 percent) and CA Sales Holdings Limited (34.1 percent) because of increased trading activity (since August 2023) and a significant increase in average daily turnover during March 2024,” BoB said.

Of note, on 23 August 2023, the Botswana Stock Exchange recorded the highest turnover (P235.7 million) in a single day of trading during 2023, adding to a series of significant trade milestones in the recent past years.

#### Property Market

Meanwhile, BoB said according to the latest (2023Q4) Riberry Report9, the residential rental market showed signs of improvement in the fourth quarter of 2023, compared to the third quarter, driven by good demand for rental and purchases of

houses in prime locations, while their supply was limited.

Conversely, middle-end houses to let experienced increased supply and weaker demand. Nonetheless, the rental market for low-end properties continued to have reasonable demand.

Meanwhile, there is an oversupply of upper-end properties, leading to a possible decrease in the rental prices of these houses.

The average price for residential properties sold in the fourth quarter of 2023 was P891 184, a 9 percent increase, compared to the previous quarter attributable to the increase in the number of high-valued properties traded in the quarter under review.

The demand for office space remains reasonable and improved slightly as Government took up some vacant properties.

Even though slower, there has been continued reasonable office enquiries and/or uptake in the Central Business District,



Showgrounds and Government Enclave. “However, the merging of some parastatals is likely to curtail the growth in demand for office space by Government.

In addition, there is limited construction of office space, which will most likely lead to excess demand for the same,” BoB added.

Botswana Savings Bank

TENDER NO: BSB/PU/ICT&MIS/009:2024/27  
TENDERING PROCEDURES

TENDER NOTICE AND  
INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER REF NO: BSB/PU/ICT&MIS/009:2024/27

## BHP proposal is opportunistic-Anglo American

Anglo rejects BHP bid for the third time



Stuart Chambers, Chairman of Anglo American

**F**URTHER TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY Anglo American plc (“Anglo American”) on 24 April, the Board of Anglo American (the “Board”) provides an update regarding the unsolicited, non-binding and highly conditional combination proposal from BHP Group Limited (“BHP”) (the “Proposal”).

The Proposal comprised an all-share offer for Anglo American by BHP, with a requirement for Anglo American to complete two separate demergers of its entire shareholdings in Anglo American Platinum Limited and Kumba Iron Ore Limited to Anglo American shareholders.

The all-share offer and required demergers would be inter-conditional. The Board has considered the Proposal with its advisers and concluded that the Proposal significantly undervalues Anglo American and its future prospects.

In addition, the Proposal contemplates a structure which the Board believes is highly unattractive for Anglo American's shareholders, given the uncertainty and complexity inherent in the Proposal, and significant execution risks. The Board has therefore unanimously rejected the Proposal.

Stuart Chambers, Chairman of Anglo American, commented:

“Anglo American is well positioned to create significant value from its portfolio of high-quality assets that are well aligned with the energy transition and other major demand trends. With copper representing 30% of Anglo American's total production, and with the benefit of well-sequenced and value-accretive growth options in copper

and other structurally attractive products, the Board believes that Anglo American's shareholders stand to benefit from what we expect to be significant value appreciation as the full impact of those trends materialises.

“The BHP proposal is opportunistic and fails to value Anglo American's prospects, while significantly diluting the relative value upside participation of Anglo American's shareholders relative to BHP's shareholders. The proposed structure is also highly unattractive, creating substantial uncertainty and execution risk borne almost entirely by Anglo American, its shareholders and its other stakeholders. Anglo American has defined clear strategic priorities – of operational excellence, portfolio, and growth – to deliver full value potential and is entirely focused on that delivery.”

Anglo American shareholders are advised to take no action in relation to the possible offer. A further announcement will be made as and when appropriate. There can be no certainty that any firm offer will be made.

Under Rule 2.6(a) of the Takeover Code, BHP must by not later than 5.00 p.m. on 22 May 2024, either announce a firm intention to make an offer for Anglo American in accordance with Rule 2.7 of the Takeover Code or announce that it does not intend to make an offer, in which case the announcement will be treated as a statement to which Rule 2.8 of the Takeover Code applies. This deadline will only be extended with the consent of the Takeover Panel in accordance with Rule 2.6(c) of the Takeover Code.

This announcement is not being made with the agreement or approval of BHP. [Anglo American]

### TENDER TITLE: A SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND SUPPORT OF LICENSE RENEWAL OF MICROSOFT E3 (3-Years Contract)

Sealed Tender offers are invited from Local 100% Citizen-owned companies for a services contract for the Supply and Delivery of Microsoft Licensing and Support Services (3-years contract).

The procuring entity is Botswana Savings Bank IT Department, Gaborone.

Bidding method: Open Domestic Bidding

Bidders who are to be considered for award of the contract should be appropriately licensed to trade and or supply the services tendered for, and in possession of requisite documentation to trade and or supply such services according to the laws of Botswana and must be 100% citizen owned entities.

Bidding companies should be in possession of – PPRA Code 120: Technical Support Services, Sub Code 01: Systems Development and Maintenance Services

All applicable citizen economic empowerment schemes such as Local Procurement Scheme (LPS), Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP) and Economic Diversification Drive (EDD) shall be considered for evaluation and awarding purposes.

This tender is reserved for Citizen Contractors in line with Section 76 of the Public Procurement Act of 2021.

Tenderers to purchase all their products from 100% Citizen locally based manufacturers and service providers, provided that the goods and services are locally available, competitively priced and meet tender specifications in terms of quality standard as certified or recognized by Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) or other recognized certifying bodies.

Documents shall be accessed from the below link:

[www.bsb.bw/news&resources/downloads.php](http://www.bsb.bw/news&resources/downloads.php)

with effect from 26/05/2024. Tender documents shall be available both in soft copies and hard copies. Bidders are informed that receiving Soft Copies shall only be through the above link. Proof of payment to be attached to the bid.

A non-refundable fee of P600.00 shall be paid by interested bidders before collection of tender documents. Youth companies shall purchase at half price. Payment shall be made at any of the following Botswana Savings Bank branches and or ATMs: BSB Headquarters, Rail Park, Palapye, Mahalapye, Molepolole, Serowe, Hukuntsi, F/town and Maun; Old Naledi and Kanye ATMs, at the following Account details:

- 1) Acc Name: Other Income  
Acc No: 1415-1-03-35-24-00-0000  
Reference no: Bidder's Company Name

A One-Envelope procedure will be followed.

Parts of each tender offer communicated on paper shall be submitted as one (1) original marked original, plus two (2) copies.

Winning Bidder shall be required to have a BSB Account for transaction purposes.

Queries relating to the issue of these documents may be addressed to [procurementunit@bsb.bw](mailto:procurementunit@bsb.bw) at Tel +267 3670162/3/0148 Fax No +267 395 2608 at least (5) days before tender closing date; Copied to [mkeabetswe@bsb.bw](mailto:mkeabetswe@bsb.bw) and [bratsatsi@bsb.bw](mailto:bratsatsi@bsb.bw). No queries shall be allowed thereafter.

The tender Evaluation will follow Least cost Services method.

The closing time for receipt of tender documents is 1000hrs on 07/06/2024

Tender offers received after closing date, telegraphic, faxed or emailed submissions will not be accepted. Late tenders will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

Names and addresses of bidders should be reflected on the envelopes.

The physical address for tender submission is:

Botswana Savings Bank (BSB) Plot 53796, Tshomarelo House 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Tender Box, Kagiso Mall, P O Box 1150, Gaborone Botswana.

Tender opening shall be available both online and physical. A link shall be provided 2 days later from the bid closing date to those who have registered/submitted their bids.

Bid opening shall be available both online and physical.

Tender documents not correctly packaged and labelled as indicated above will not be accepted.

The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Standardised Conditions of Tender shall apply to this procurement, for which all the applicable Tender Data is contained in the tender documents.

Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, Botswana Savings Bank is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer, nor incur expenses in the preparation thereof.

Procurement Unit  
Botswana Savings Bank



Contact Us Now on: 367 0001  
or Visit a BSB branch near you for  
more information

[www.bsb.bw](https://www.bsb.bw)

## Inflation 3 percent up in April

**S**TATISTICS BOTSWANA HAS INDICATED that the annual inflation rate was 3.1 percent in April 2024, an increase of 0.2 of a percentage point compared to 2.9 percent recorded in March 2024.

The largest contribution to the April 2024 annual inflation rate came from Miscellaneous Goods & Services (0.8 of a percentage point), Transport (0.7 of a percentage point) and Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (0.6 of a percentage point).

The inflation rates for regions between April and March 2024 showed an increase of 0.3 of a percentage point for Rural Villages, from 2.9 percent in March to 3.2 percent in April.

SB also highlighted that the Urban Villages inflation rate recorded a rise of 0.2 of a percentage point, from 2.8 percent in March to 3.0 percent in April, while the Cities and Towns inflation rate was 3.2 percent in April 2024, moving up by 0.1 of a percentage point from the March rate of 3.1 percent.



# Boeing expects a 2024 cash burn, slow recovery of airplane deliveries amid crisis

▪ CFO West asserts

**B**OEING WILL BURN THROUGH CASH this year and deliveries of new planes won't improve in the second quarter from the first, as the manufacturer deals with a host of production challenges tied to its bestselling planes, the company's CFO, Brian West, said Thursday.

A month ago, West forecast Boeing would generate free cash flow "in the low single-digit billions." The new forecast shows the mounting costs of the plane maker's latest crises.

Boeing burned through nearly \$4 billion in cash in the first quarter and West said that figure could be similar or "possibly a little worse" in the second quarter, but that the company would likely return to generating cash in the second half of 2024.

The company's aircraft deliveries in the first quarter fell to the lowest level since the pandemic. The bulk of a plane's price is paid when it's handed over to a customer.

Boeing's shares lost more than 7% on Thursday after West's comments at a Wolfe Research industry conference, a slide that weighed down the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

"We have frustrated and disappointed our customers because of some of the production supply chain issues that we're up against," West said at the conference. "And while I understand that frustration, the most important thing we can do for our customers and the supply chain in the industry is to focus on the actions that are underway as we speak so that we could stabilize this production system, improve quality, and get more predictable."

Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun in March said

he would step down by the end of the year, and the company replaced the chairman and chief executive of its commercial airplane unit. Leading up to the shake-up, CEOs of major airline customers complained about delivery delays and difficulty planning flights because of surprise disruptions.

Boeing's latest production issues surfaced after a door plug blew out midair from a nearly new 737 Max 9 at the start of the year, just as the company was trying to repair years of reputational damage from two fatal Max crashes in 2018 and 2019.

The accident increased federal scrutiny of the company, whose executives have vowed to stamp out production flaws and regain the trust of regulators, airline customers and the public.

Next Thursday, Boeing leaders are set to meet with the Federal Aviation Administration to present the company's plan to improve its quality control, the FAA said. The agency gave Boeing 90 days to complete the plan starting in late February.

Other problems have also sprung up, including a pause on deliveries of 737 Max planes to China to review batteries for the cockpit voice recorder.

Boeing said in a statement that it is working with "our Chinese customers on the timing of their deliveries as the Civil Aviation Administration of China completes its review of batteries contained within the 25-hour cockpit voice recorder assembly unit."

Earlier this month, the FAA said it opened a new probe into the 787 Dreamliner inspections after the company disclosed "misconduct" by some employees. The



agency said it was looking into whether employees falsified records. Parts shortages have also slowed deliveries

of Dreamliners, Boeing has said. American Airlines last month said it would cut some international flights because of delays

of the wide-body jets. Other carriers, including United Airlines and Southwest Airlines, said they had to scale back growth

and hiring plans because of delayed Boeing jets. [CNBC]

## Nasdaq Unveils AI Tools for Market Surveillance Offering



**N**ASDAQ ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK new Artificial Intelligence features for its Market Surveillance platform, enhancing its leading solution with tools for its clients to increase the efficiency of the investigators guarding against manipulation and abuse.

These tools will use purpose-trained generative AI to highlight relevant news and information from trusted sources and corporate filings to assist client surveillance teams with triaging alerts. By quickly providing key details for investigators, these tools can help them decide more efficiently whether suspicious activity or price action merits in-depth analysis.

"Market surveillance teams at our clients routinely get hundreds of alerts per day, and some of them are false positives and others require a deeper dive. Just triaging the initial batch of alerts can be highly time consuming, so we set out to streamline this process by combining our expertise in the space with the best in generative AI," said Tony Sio, Head of Regulatory Strategy and Innovation at Nasdaq.

Surveillance analysts who participated in a proof-of-concept test estimated that the new AI features led to a 33% average reduction in investigation time – while simultaneously leading to improved overall outcomes.

The generative AI features will integrate directly into Nasdaq's existing Market Surveillance platform, meaning the basic workflow will remain the same for users of the most widely used surveillance technology by regulators and exchanges globally.

Importantly, Sio noted, that final say for investigations remains in human hands.

"We have built a decision-making tool and have made sure that it is the analyst who is making the decision," Sio said. "Maintaining an ethical and trusted AI feature was a very important factor for us – and we have dedicated considerable and thorough testing to ensure that our output would not mislead."

That imperative led the Nasdaq team to both test the new generative AI features

with other AI tools that analyzed their output, and to tightly control the quality of the information they were feeding into the system.

"We were highly focused on avoiding any misleading or fake news, not to mention hallucinations or anything of that type, in the product itself," Sio explained. "And while generative AI may get some public complaints about issues like that, you can design a tool correctly so that it is appropriate for your use case – and that's exactly what we believe that we have done here."

Nasdaq is planning to leverage the new functionality for its own U.S. equity market surveillance.

To learn more about Nasdaq's new generative AI features for its Market Surveillance technology solution, see the official announcement [here](#).

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements:

The matters described in this communication contain forward-looking statements that are made under the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. When used in this press release, words such as "believe," "will," "planning," "can," and similar expressions and any other statements that are not historical facts are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

These statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding Nasdaq's AI powered feature within its Market Surveillance technology solution. We caution that these statements are not guarantees of future performance.

Actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve a number of risks, uncertainties, or other factors beyond Nasdaq's control.

These factors include, but are not limited to, factors detailed in Nasdaq's Annual Report on Form 10-K and its other periodic reports filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. We undertake no obligation to release any revisions to any forward-looking statements. (Nasdaq.com).

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Botswana  
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### BOTSWANA ASH STAFF PENSION FUND KYC

#### To our Valued Deferred Members

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# lifestyle

## Young Ditshiping Chef in USA

SOLOMON TJINYEKA  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**T**HOKOMELANG OTHUSENG, A young lady from Ditshiping settlement, located in the Okavango delta, has landed in the United States of America to begin her three months exchange programme at YMCA Camp Coniston in New Hampshire.

Othuseng, 20 years is among the top ten students from South African College for Tourism, selected as cooking camp counsellors who will teach the camp attendees who to cook through outdoor cooking experience.

Expressing her joy at the Maun International Airport before boarding the plane, Othuseng humbly conveyed; 'I am over excited about this trip, I couldn't believe it when I was told I am going to the USA.'

Sharing insights into her journey as a young chef, Othuseng said she loved cooking from early age and when an opportunity presented itself to study as a chef it was easy decision to take. She explained that last year she was selected to study



Othuseng

as a chef at South Africa College for Tourism at Eastern Cape, for a year. After completing her culinary course in South Africa, she worked as an assistant chef at Ngwedi Tours company operating in the Okavango delta.

Othuseng explained that it was not easy to cope while she was in South Africa as she was separated from her family for a year and it was tough. 'There was a time whereby I nearly gave up.

I wanted to quit the course and come back home but I managed to get through and finally graduated.'

She also acknowledged that the unwavering dedicating has garnered her to be selected to USA and also opened doors for her in the culinary sector as she was working closely with one of top chef in the Okavango delta before going to the USA.

This opportunity was made possible by Mr David Foot and Ms Robyn Foot of Ride Botswana/ David Foot Safaris through the provision of educational opportunities for individuals from communities, facilitated in collaboration with the Peace Parks Foundation.

Through this partnership, Ride Botswana secures four places per year, at esteemed college of South Africa, including SA College of Tourism and the Trackers Academy offering invaluable skills and empowerment prospects within the tourism and conservation sectors.

Tumie Matlhware, a social corporate consultancy from Thari ya Sechaba Consultancy has been instrumental in managing the educational program, overseeing the selection and facilitation of students from the NG 32 concession in Ngamiland.

Matlhware explained that she engages the Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust, OKMCT to assist select potential students from all the six settlement within the delta to study at South Africa College for Tourism. After selection, she conduct all the interviews and select those who qualifies.

Under her guidance, 30 students have gained access to higher educational opportunities, subsequently becoming more valuable contributors to their communities and the wider tourism industry.

## Molosi wins USD\$120 000



**D**ONALD MOLOSI HAS BEEN awarded the Dilling Yang and Robert Potter Prize for his noted contributions to global postcolonial theatre as a playwright, producer and an actor over the past 20 years. The honour will be bestowed to Molosi next month and it will be hosted by the University of California in Santa Barbara.

Born in Mahalapye, 38 year old Donald Molosi currently divides his time between the UK where he runs CattlePost Films and Trinidad. Molosi's retirement from theatre as an actor in 2022 ended a 15-year Broadway career marked by hits like "Blue, Black and White (2007)", a play about the life, romance and legacy of Sir Seretse and Lady Ruth Khama. Molosi's other off-Broadway plays include "Black Man Samurai," (2017) "Can I F\*\*\*\*\* Live?" (2011) and "Dear Zibanani" (2013) all of which won numerous awards.

Following the historic international impact of "Blue, Black and White" in 2007, Molosi proceeded to name his homeland's flag after the play. The registered phrase "Blue, Black and White" is now commonplace as a de-facto name for the Botswana flag.

At Botswana's golden jubilee in 2016, Molosi starred in the 2016 Hollywood telling of the same story of Ruth and Seretse. The two-hour long biopic was called "A United Kingdom" and also starred Oscar nominee Rosamund Pike and Emmy winner David Oyelowo.

Molosi's latest writing credits are for the screen but they remain influenced by his theatre writings. For the 2023 film "Partly Cloudy & Hot" starring Kaone Kario and Zenzo Ngqobe, Molosi adapted his off-Broadway stage play called "Motswana: Africa, Dream Again" to the medium of film.

The play previously won the 2013 Sanford Prize for Excellence in Theatre.

Before he wrote and produced films, Molosi was a Broadway superstar for an uninterrupted 15 years. The Dilling Yang and Robert Potter Prize highlights Molosi's

extensive theatre catalogue as a result of those 15 years he spent performing seven days a week on Broadway. Molosi was the first Broadway actor from Botswana.

The international actor retired from an award-winning Broadway acting career in 2022 to lead CattlePost, a UK-based film production company. The outfit is producing feature film starring an international cast: Tamara Astor (UK), Molibi Maphanyane (Botswana) and Jolanda Steiner (Switzerland). MOITOBO is an adaptation of Molosi's off-Broadway play called "Black Man Samurai."

According to the statement, the Dilling Yang and Robert Potter Prize of \$120 000 will assist Molosi to "produce more professional theater that tells the world of Africa and specifically, of Botswana, a homeland that is close to the itinerant playwright's heart."

Molosi's last performance before retirement was as "Dumela Fella" a drag queen, on London's West End at the United Solo Festival in 2021. Dumela Fella was nominated for Best International Show.

The show featured cross-dressing and singing unlike Molosi's previous work. His last performance perhaps indicated indeed Molosi's status in the elite club of only a few actors of African heritage to achieve sustained success on both the West End and Broadway like Mbongeni Ngema, Sophie Okonedo, James Earl Jones and Whoopi Goldberg.

Molosi trained as an actor at the prestigious London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) alongside David Oyelowo and Chiwetel Ejiofor. Molosi and Oyelowo would later co-star in "A United Kingdom." Molosi holds BA in Theatre and Political Science from Williams College (US), MA in Theatre and Performance Studies (Univ. Of California) and earned his PhD in Creative Writing from Brunel university (UK) in 2024. He is author of "We Are All Blue," (2016) a collection of Botswana theatre plays.

## Lethafula Festival: Celebrating Culture in Style

**C**RESTA RILEY'S MAUN IS SET to host the 11th Annual Lethafula Festival on Saturday (May 25th), promising a vibrant celebration of culture and tradition under the theme "See Culture Differently."

With an exciting lineup of performances, mouthwatering Tswana cuisines, and family-friendly activities, this year's festival aims to immerse attendees in the rich heritage of the Ngamiland region.

The festival boasts a stellar lineup of acts, including renowned performers such as Khoisan, Matsieng, Thabang Gaarogwe, Ancestral Rituals, and Kilimanjaro Nature BW. Adding to the festive atmosphere are the dynamic disc jockeys Gouveia and T.H.A.B.O, who will keep the energy high with their electrifying mixes throughout the



event.

The charming Mdala Ka Tje will serve as the host, ensuring that attendees have an unforgettable experience.

Greg Soutter, the General Manager of Cresta Riley's, expressed his excitement about hosting the festival, stating, "The Lethafula Festival is a highlight on our calendar each year. It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase the vibrant culture and talent of the Ngamiland region while providing an unforgettable experience for our guests."

In addition to the captivating performances, the festival will offer a tantalizing array of Tswana cuisines, allowing attendees to indulge in traditional flavors and culinary delights.

Children will also have their share of fun at the kiddies' corner, ensuring

that the festival is inclusive and enjoyable for the whole family.

Furthermore, Cresta Riley's Maun will provide premium accommodation options for guests attending the event, ensuring a comfortable and convenient stay at an affordable price. Located in the heart of the Ngamiland region, the hotel offers the perfect setting for this celebration, surrounded by the natural beauty and cultural richness of the area.

The Lethafula Festival has a history of attracting people from different parts of the country, and this year is expected to be no different. The event is open to individuals, families, and the corporate world, welcoming everyone who is eager to experience the vibrant culture and hospitality of the Ngamiland region.

## Banana Club celebrates 5 years



Banana Club Founder and Creative Director Tanlume Enyatseng [C]

**B**ANANA CLUB PROUDLY announces the release of its new documentary short film, "Banana Club: The Documentary," in celebration of the collective's five-year anniversary.

This poignant film captures the queer art collective's pioneering efforts in art and advocacy, poetically recounting a pivotal year of the club's work in film projects, a self-funded artist residency, corporate collaborations, and community engagements. The narrative delves into the vital question: what is the role of the artist in their community? The documentary features

compelling interviews with community leaders who have supported Banana Club's initiatives, including esteemed activist Bradley Fortuin, entrepreneur Tudueto Tebape, and former Head of the Political, Press, and Information Section of the European Union, Silvia Bopp-Hamrouni.

Executive produced by Banana Club Founder and Creative Director Tanlume Enyatseng and produced by Banana Emoji Productions, the film showcases animation by emerging animator Salvador Sunpai, who also designed the film poster.

Reflecting on the club's achievements, Tanlume Enyatseng said, "I am immensely proud of the work Banana Club has accomplished over the past five years. Despite numerous challenges, we have continued to create and maintain platforms for community dialogue and artistic expression. Our journey, from hosting a quarterly community dialogue at Zest restaurants in Village, Gaborone to reaching a global audience, now showcasing our work in Paris, has been truly amazing." This June 15th marks Banana Club's five-year anniversary, and the collective promises an array of celebrations, announcements,

memories, and expressions of gratitude for the community's support. Banana Club understands that artists change the world simply by existing and connecting with others through shared experiences and creations.

The collective remains committed to diversifying the media landscape through the production of limited edition publications, short films, and documentaries.

BANANA CLUB is an interdisciplinary collective creating safe space platforms for community dialogues. Launched in 2019 by creative consultancy

Banana Emoji, the collective aims to contribute to social impact by promoting the visibility and inclusion of marginalized bodies through contemporary art and strategic engagements. Over the years, Banana Club has become a cornerstone of art and advocacy in Southern Africa, collaborating with notable partners such as the Delegation of the European Union in Botswana, Debswana Diamond Company, and The World Bank.

Through our work, we elevate artists' voices from the margins to the center, fostering strength in diversity and unity.





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# Sport

## Orange Olympics gift: P1.68 million

Qualifying athletes pocket P50,000.00 each ahead of Paris 2024 Games

**I**N LINE WITH ITS UNWAVERING commitment to develop and grow the sporting fraternity in Botswana, Orange Botswana launched a partnership with the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) and qualifying athletes on 22 May 2024 to sponsor the Olympic Team in readiness for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games, set to be held from July 26th to August 11th, 2024, in Paris, France.

The sponsorship, valued at P1,680,000, includes a provision for qualifying athletes to receive P50,000.00 each as a once-off amount. Notable among the athletes who have qualified for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games under Team Botswana are Letsile Tebogo, Leungo Scotch, Collen Kebinatshipi, Bayapo Ndori, Tshepiso Masalela, and Kethobogile Haingura. Additionally, Orange Botswana will sponsor the relay team with P60,000 once-off amount as the team heads to the Olympic games as well.

Expressing the significance of this partnership, Orange Botswana's Chief Executive Officer, Nene Maiga, articulated, "At Orange Botswana, we recognise the transformative power of sports beyond the track and playing field. It instills values of discipline, teamwork, and perseverance, nurturing not only athletes but also future leaders and role models. As we invest in the growth of sports in Botswana, we are investing in the holistic development of our nation, empowering individuals to reach their full potential and inspiring generations to come."

The Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games are anticipated to be the largest event ever organised in France. For Botswana, this marks its 12th appearance since its first participation in 1980 in Moscow, Russia. Notably, Nijel Amos stands as Botswana's sole Olympic medalist to date, clinching a silver medal in the London 2012 competition.

"Our sponsorship of P1,680,000 to support Team Botswana's Olympic Campaign is not merely a financial contribution; it is a demonstration of our dedication to fostering the growth of sports in Botswana. This partnership with the Botswana National Olympic Committee signifies our collective commitment to nurturing talent, empowering athletes, and propelling Botswana onto the global stage of sporting excellence. It is a pledge to invest



in the future of our youth and provide them with the necessary resources and support to realize their full potential," added Ms Maiga. The Botswana National Olympic

Committee (BNOC) President, Colonel Botsang Tshenyego noted, "To the Orange Botswana CEO, Ms. Nene Maiga on behalf of BNOC Board and staff, I am delighted to

express our sincerest gratitude to yourself and your organisation for this noble gesture to BNOC and Team Botswana to Paris 2024 and I hope that this could be the beginning

of a long and fruitful partnership.

It is on that backdrop that I continue to urge other public and private corporates to take lessons from what Orange Botswana

have done in coming on board to join hands with ourselves in sport development, team preparations and bringing home glory at major Games and making Batswana proud."

## Rugby women amplified

NANCY RAMOKHUA  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**R**UGBY COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO EXPAND as many women gradually show interest in the sport, yet also presenting excellent playoffs on the field in many local games hosted. The men dominated sport has been seen attracting a good number of female players across various age groups groomed to compete at international level.

The on going rugby league performance by women has been rated outstanding, featuring

new teams which are equally performing at a satisfactory level. As shared by Botswana rugby union secretary general Osi Kopano, the league is spread out throughout the country and has roped in upcoming teams such as Shakawe among other new teams. "The ladies teams are doing great in my perspective and our proudest moment was having a team from Shakawe participating in the league, not just that but competing and playing quite well. Shakawe team has during the league's round three games won 29-0 against Botho Ryders. The league is going into round five this weekend and we are expecting to see more of

our women teams performing to the best of their ability," Kopano stated.

According to BRU SG, the teams are mostly made up of Under 17 girls and a few out of school young ladies. The recent UB Rhinos ladies game against BDF Cheetahs attracted a full pack of audience as the last game of the night during the fourth round of the league, an uncommon feature of ladies teams. "Usually the men's fixtures are featured last so it was a proud moment for such an unpredictable game and we are looking forward to trialling that as the season progresses,"

With the absence of school sports currently,

Kopano revealed that it is no secret that the bulk of many rugby players came through the school system, further indicating that like any other sporting codes, they too as the rugby association are still struggling to get their development leagues going. "The absence of school sports is a disadvantage. We have been here before, rugby has not always been part of the BISA programme, we only became a BISA member in the year 2011 but we will do our best to get it going again and continue to rise as rugby association," explained Kopano.

Speaking on issues relating to sponsorship,



Shakawe team (red and grey) has during the league's round three games won 29-0 against Botho Ryders (white and red)

Kopano alluded that their major sponsorship has been Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC), also sharing that there is however a need for more funding. "We wish we were

getting more from BNSC but we do understand their position as a funding office for many other sporting codes."



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