

# The Patriot

on Sunday

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## Bulela Ditswe haunts Ministers

- Ministers decry that challengers are ahead campaigning
- Demand to be released from official duties to prepare
- Masisi confirms Bulela Ditswe dates, campaigns intensify

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**P**RESIDENT DR MOKGWEETSI Masisi is grappling with a difficult request from his cabinet ministers who are demanding flexible schedules or leave, to enable them to launch campaigns ahead of Bulela Ditswe in their constituencies, worried that their opponents are ahead.

Successful candidates who passed the vetting process in the ruling Botswana Democratic (BDP) are already on the ground pursuing voters, while cabinet ministers are missing out on the campaign trail.

On Wednesday, before his departure to attend the JCK trade show in Las Vegas, the United States of America (USA), Masisi said primaries will be held at the end of June or first week of July, exciting democrats. He also announced that the BDP central committee will continue to trim the candidates by vetting out more candidates from contesting Bulela Ditswe, but pundits warn that such move will polarize the party.

Those expected to be vetted out are accused of violating BDP Bulela Ditswe code of conduct and rules. Some ministers have told this publication that they are being disadvantaged by being hands-on in their ministerial duties while their opponents are ahead in terms of campaigning and winning ground support.

The Patriot on Sunday has established that the ministers made their proposal to Masisi through the vice president and BDP chairman Slumber Tsogwane, but the former has not responded.

One minister said part of their campaign leave includes official events being now officiated by the Permanent Secretaries or Directors, so that they can spend time in their



President Masisi

[PIC.PRESSPHOTO]

constituencies. "Our chances of campaigning vigorously and win support on the ground are very slim as compared to our counterparts who spend most of their time on the ground and interacting with potential voters. We are also more worried that the dates have been announced and are very short for us to campaign," one minister said.

Furthermore, it is said the BDP members are worried about preparations by the party that are going at a snail pace ahead of elections while the opposition on the other hand started to intensify their campaign.

Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) last weekend hyped the elections ground by launching in style its vice president Ndaba Gaolathe who is contesting elections

in Gaborone Bonnington South constituency.

Also, this week Botswana National Front (BNF) was expected to conclude its primary elections, which have conducted in phases and present its final candidates to beef up UDC preparations.

BDP is expected to launch its confirmed parliamentary and council candidates after Bulela Ditswe, but observers are of the view that such will be a heavy task given little amount of time left before elections.

**Drawback**

Meanwhile, political analyst Kitso Morekisi said ministers are fully aware that defeat is imminent for them at primary elections because they are not always in touch with voters when appointed ministers.

He said in the past primary elections, many ministers endured defeat and that ended political careers of some who never made a bounce back, adding that more current ministers could go lose out immensely.

He said Masisi could be interested in retaining some few members of his cabinet and would somehow canvass for votes for them, buttressing that such could be through star rallies at their constituencies.

"A cabinet post comes with lot of responsibility and the ministers are expected to serve at the interest and loyalty of the president. Ministers don't have much time to oversee constituency and understand needs of their electorates compared to ordinary MPs and that alone costs them at elections," he said.

## Botswana's Constitutional Review: A fool's errand?

Upon being inaugurated as Botswana's fifth President, five years ago Mokgweetsi Masisi promised a Constitutional Review as top of his agenda. But five years later, chaos has erupted. A nation stands dived, torn apart by what was supposed to be a uniting Constitutional amendment which many deem just a sham. **KABO RAMASIA reports**



Morwaeng

**W**HAT SEEMED LIKE A noble idea to have the Constitution of Botswana holistically reviewed has now snowballed into a great tragedy of Shakespearian

proportions. The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) is pushing with all its might to have the bill passed at the earliest convenience whilst across the aisle, efforts to ensure a people-centric review are hitting a brick wall.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 5

## Marginalized groups demand recognition

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**M**MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN Botswana have raised concern over being side-lined in the socio-economic development of the country and are pushing for recognition. This comes in the wake of the Constitutional (Amendment) Bill (No. 4 of 2024) currently being debated in Parliament.

Marginalized groups form the view that from inception, the Constitution of Botswana has excluded them. Consequently, the groups demand further recognition in the amended constitution.

Botswana Khwedom Council Public Relations Officer (PRO), Banyatsi Salutu, stated that the constitution doesn't recognise all citizens. Salutu stated that there should be a right to health clearly stipulating repercussions upon violation by government. He said, with the right to education, those who deny it for their children should equally face the wrath of the law.

Regarding the right to land he complained that as Basarwa they were the first inhabitant of land in Botswana even though the Land Act has disposed them of the land. To this end, he said, they now struggle

- Basarwa decry of land deprivation, demand recognition under new constitution, Women feel unsafe in Botswana

with cultural identity and have been forced to modernise. He expressed that throughout the country, Basarwa are found in areas where minerals are explored despite government's failure to accord them "land rights".

Moreover, he outlined dissatisfaction in a lack of representation at Ntlo Ya Dikgosi (NYD) due to Botswana being divided into the Tribal Territory Act. "We feel the time has come for the Tribal Territory Act to be demolished to accommodate every tribe to have representation at Ntlo Ya Dikgosi," he said.

Basarwa have in the past faced insurmountable challenges like being denied land, poor water and sanitation, language barrier, unemployment, lack of recognition of cultural rights, lack of access to health and education and a lack of political representation. Despite repeated calls by the local advocacy groups and international pressure groups, Basarwa remain socially and economically segregated. Basarwa are thus calling for the constitution to promote and protect their rights.

Lebogang Mothibatsela of the Feminist Alliance Botswana (FAB), maintained that Botswana has failed women. Mothibatsela argued that there are many barriers to women representation. She stated that Botswana cannot be proud of itself as a democracy that serves people if almost 50% are not represented.

"In Botswana women are still behind when it comes to engagement of their rights," she said.

She buttressed that women feel unsafe in Botswana and are prominently victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV). She further said Botswana is topping the rape chats globally. She queried how the democracy can be regarded true without their safety. She highlighted that as Feminist Alliance Botswana, their intention is that of reigniting the conversation of women rights. Additionally, she noted that they focus mainly on verbal sexual harassment which goes undetected.

"It is easy to come up with laws but if we are not implementing them (then) it's not enough," said Mothibatsela.

TO PAGE 4

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# Bera on fuel contamination incident

**T**HE BOTSWANA ENERGY Regulatory Authority would like to notify the public that it is investigating an incident in which unleaded petrol 93 (ULP93) at some selected Engen sites was found to have been contaminated. The incident was reported by Engen Marketing Botswana on the 27th May 2024 after they had received complaints from consumers.

As at now a total of seven retail service stations in Molepolole, Mahalapye, Kgatleng, Bontleng, Mmopane, Gaborone Western Bypass and Gaborone Tsholofelo have been affected and at least 358 vehicles have reportedly been affected. Whilst the source of contamination is not yet established all the affected product has been identified and isolated. This product is currently not being sold to any customer whilst the investigation and remedial action is being put in place. The Authority together with Engen and Botswana Oil Limited are carrying out investigations to determine the cause of contamination and prevent any possible reoccurrence.

All those that have been affected will be assisted in accordance with the Engen



Engen filling station

Marketing Botswana complaints handling procedures and BERA Complaints Settlement Procedures Regulations, 2021. The Authority, therefore, advises the affected persons to directly contact Engen

through the service stations from which they were served. The public is requested to only contact the Authority after exhausting the Engen complaints handling processes. The Authority wishes to further assure

the nation that it will continue to ensure that they received petroleum products of desirable quality and that incidents of this nature are immediately addressed with preventive actions put in place.

# Botswana, China collaborate to promote economic growth

BIUST seminar on Coal to Liquids Technologies in partnership with China Technology Company



DR BATLANG SEREMA\*

**I**AM PRIVILEGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIUST seminar on Coal to Liquids Technologies in partnership with China Technology Company. I would like to extend a warm greeting to Professor Li Yongwang, the General Manager of Synfuels, and his group to Botswana.

The timing of this Forum is advantageous as Botswana and China continue to strengthen their collaboration to promote economic growth. This specific endeavor holds the capacity to provide fresh prospects, including the generation of employment, improvement of infrastructure, and advancements in technology, for our nation. Furthermore, it is a favourable measure in promoting our economic collaboration and fostering progress in both nations.

The President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi has stressed the need for Botswana to prioritize the development of a mindset that fosters

innovation and creativity as part of the Reset Agenda. Additionally, as Ambassadors we have received strong recommendations to establish collaborative alliances. Synfuels China Technology Company Limited prides itself on its team of highly skilled engineers, technicians, and researchers. By leveraging its innovation capability and engineering integration capability, BIUST can successfully meet the target set by His Excellency. Moreover, BIUST can be innovative and establish multiple mutually beneficial relationships.

The collaboration between Botswana and China in the field of innovation has the potential to greatly enhance and improve the bilateral relations between our two countries. By utilizing forums like the Forum on China and Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the Belt and Road Initiative, we can effectively accomplish mutual objectives, foster sustainable development, and establish a mutually beneficial outcome for both nations.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our gratitude to the leadership of BIUST, especially Vice Chancellor Professor Totolo, for establishing this cooperation and organizing this significant Forum, which enables us to engage in discussions on a wide range of topics that are of shared interest. We anticipate a fruitful collaboration between the China and Botswana, and we are enthusiastic about the potential advantages that this agreement may yield for our countries.

# Integrating HIV, NCD treatment

AGODIRWE KOKORO

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**“**THERE IS A TRANSITION FROM communicable diseases to non-communicable diseases,” this was said by the Minister of Health Dr. Edwin Dikoloti at the annual HLB-SIMPLE meeting held this week which was in collaboration with the University of Botswana. Honorable Minister Dr. Edwin Dikoloti said they have made strides in preventing the spread of HIV through various measures like teaching preventative measures and educational campaigns.

The meeting was attended by experts from different organizations both local and international. The minister advised that as they try to integrate treatment of HIV with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) treatment the voice of the community should be one of the factors that shape up their deliberations. In his speech the minister urged Health Financing to align with the nation and regions priorities.

He advised in his speech that the World Health Organization (WHO) should be quick in assisting member states to improve their health systems; this is to prepare, improve and be able to respond well to health emergencies.

The meeting was also attended by various stakeholders such as WHO representatives, FHI 360 and others. Mukta Sharma the Cutting Lead from WHO spoke of HIV as one of the fatal diseases in the world ranked at number 22. Her advices are that for HIV chronic care to function fully it needs to be integrated into an already functioning health care system.



Dr Dikoloti

The Secretary of Preventative Health under the Ministry of Health Mareko Ramatsha aims to revitalize primary health care which according to Ramatsha sexual reproductive health is centered.

The Project Director and Country Rep of FHI 360 stated that the integration is feasible at community level and that the main challenges faced are poor data management as patient records are paper based and the drug supply chain. A number of panelists discussed the subject matter and at length, one of them being Ms Anchindika Mugala from K43.

Ms Mugala was leading research on Addressing unhealthy alcohol use to improve control of hypertension among people living with HIV in Zambia, she mentioned that unhealthy alcoholism consumption is closely associated with cardiovascular disease

# IEC release first supplementary voters roll

**A**LL VOTERS, STAKEHOLDERS AND ANY interested persons are formally informed that the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has released the First Supplementary Voters Rolls in readiness for the twenty-one (21) days statutory inspection period, in accordance with Section 15 of the Electoral Act.

The statutory inspection of the roll will be done from the 30th May to the 19th June, 2024 in all the sixty-one (61) constituencies. Copies of the roll will be available for inspection at the office of the Secretary to the Commission, as well as those of District Commissioners, Council Secretaries/Town Clerks and Chief Elections Officers/Principal Elections Officers around the country. Other than the Secretary to the Commission, these are officers who served as Principal Registration Officers during the First Supplementary Voters Registration Exercise from the 26th February to the 15th March, 2024.

Similarly, for the convenience of voters, the Commission will provide copies of Polling District (Council Ward) rolls at some dikgotla in each constituency for Batswana residing there to have an opportunity to participate effectively in this critical process.

Moreover, it is also important to note that the Commission has Seventy-Four Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety-Five (74,395) voters validly registered in this roll, spread across the 61 constituencies. There are also Seven Hundred and Eighty-Four (784) voters whose registration was rejected for two main reasons: 52 were rejected because they registered whilst not meeting the minimum age requirement, whilst 732 were rejected on account of them having been validly registered

elsewhere.

Consequently, all Batswana who have registered for the 2024 General elections during the First Supplementary Voters Registration Exercise from the 26th February to the 15th March, 2024, are strongly advised to visit the places where the rolls will be placed for inspection. It is the voter's right and responsibility to inspect the rolls with a view to perfect it so that there are no queries on the day of the poll.

In terms of Section 16 (3) of the Electoral Act, if anybody wishes to have own copy of the roll, they can have a hard copy, upon payment of a fee determined from time to time by the Secretary of the Commission. Currently the applicable fee is P1.75 per page of the roll.

Furthermore, in accordance with Section 14 of the Electoral Act, processes have already been activated for the issuance of appropriate notice regarding publication of the rolls for inspection by members of the public in the Government Gazette. Members of the public can expect such notice to be issued anytime today or Monday the 27th May, 2024.

Lastly, the Commission advises all its stakeholders and members of the public to once again, familiarize themselves with Section 16 of the Electoral Act, which deals specifically with the inspection of the rolls and Section 18 of the Act, focusing mainly on processing of objections in respect of the same rolls. Sections 26 and 27 of the Act are also quite instructive on issues of formal alterations to the rolls as well as procedure for alteration of the rolls respectively. All these Sections of the Electoral Act combined, may be helpful to a voter in case they wish to raise issues pertaining to the said rolls.

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# Building forever at Camphill

**LAGAGO TAMOCHA**  
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■ Debswana drives ambitious sustainability programme

**D**EBSWANA MINING Company continues to demonstrate its dedication to improving the lives of Batswana through its Community Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP), a core component of their mission to foster thriving communities. On May 25th, Debswana's Executive Head of Corporate Affairs, Rachel Mothibatsela, led the annual Camphill Community Trust 10KM sponsored walk in Otse. This event saw the participation of supporters, local businesses, and the families of children with disabilities. During the event, Mothibatsela also revealed a substantial financial contribution from Debswana and its partners.

**Sustainable Impact**  
Mothibatsela, bearing significant monetary support, highlighted Debswana's decision to partner with Camphill Community Trust. This partnership originated from an employee's identification of the organization through the 'Employee Volunteerism Project' during the 2019 pandemic. Recognizing the declining government grants essential to the Trust's operations, Debswana stepped in under their Socio-economic Development Programme. This initiative aligns with the broader Vision 2036, aiming to ensure prosperity for all by helping Camphill implement sustainable income-generating projects.

To this end, Debswana leveraged its collaborative



Debswana's Executive Head of Corporate Affairs, Rachel Mothibatsela (Top Right) led the annual Camphill Community Trust 10KM sponsored walk in Otse

partnerships with like-minded entities, including De Beers Sightholder Services and Diarough Diamond Cutting and Polishing Company, to fund the renovation of Camphill's Tea Garden Restaurant. Debswana committed P771, 000 to this project, while De Beers and Diarough contributed P150, 000 and P500, 000, respectively, to refurbish the kitchen and the learners' run-down hostels.

**Vision for Sustainability**  
Mothibatsela emphasized that once renovated, the Tea Garden will operate commercially to generate supplementary funds for the Trust. "The intention is to make Camphill sustainable so that they won't have to seek funds every year. Today's walk was not only a fundraiser but also a symbol of solidarity, compassion, and the ethos of not leaving anyone behind," she stated.

She further noted that Debswana's strategy relies

heavily on partnerships to pool resources and expertise, ensuring the effectiveness of their initiatives. By bringing in partners like Diarough and coordinating with De Beers, they have set clear goals for the Camphill project, focusing on income-generating activities and robust project management. Debswana also plans to involve its technical teams, including engineers and surveyors, to ensure the quality and durability of the infrastructure.

"We were instrumental in bringing in a partner like Diarough because we reminded De Beers that they wanted to partner with us and bring in their Sightholders and we had assessed the needs of Camphill Community Trust, agreed that we only wanted to target income generating projects, the expected outcomes and how we will manage the

project. We also want to bring in our technical teams like engineers and surveyors for the infrastructure because we want to make sure that the quality of the infrastructure can stand the test of time. They will do that hand in hand with the construction company that will be given the contract," Mothibatsela added.

**Broader Initiatives**  
Sponsoring the Tea Garden at Camphill Community Trust aligns with Debswana's broader goals under their 2024 Environment, Social, and Governance strategy, 'Building Forever'. This strategy encompasses six pillars, including Partnerships for Thriving Communities, focusing on critical sectors in Botswana like job creation, community health, safety, education, and skills for the future. It also aligns with their commitment to support marginalized groups such as

women, girls, and persons with disabilities, which includes the students of Camphill Community Trust.

For his part, Camphill Community Trust's Director, Andreas Groth, said, "I am deeply grateful for the generous cash donations from Debswana and its partners, following the 10KM sponsored walk. Debswana's support has been instrumental in our recent developments. In 2022, their project to install solar water heaters on most of our buildings resulted in a 50% reduction in our electricity use. Currently, they are aiding in the upgrade of our tea garden restaurant's kitchen, which will allow us to re-open this essential social enterprise. The sponsored walk was a remarkable partnership with Debswana, supported by numerous companies and individuals. Over 200 participants walked 10km around the village of Otse, energized by the marching and singing of the Police College cadets.

Our Tea Garden is a vital social enterprise, offering healthy food in a tranquil outdoor setting and serving as a training resource for catering and hospitality students at Motse Wa Badiri Training. Although currently closed for refurbishment, we look forward to its reopening in July."

Through these initiatives, Debswana continues to build a legacy of sustainable support and empowerment, ensuring that organizations like Camphill Community Trust can thrive independently and continue their vital work in the community.

**Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd.**

Month - June 2024

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
<b>BWP</b>	(Lowest-Highest)	(Lowest-Highest)	(P'000)
Current	0.00-0.00%	0.00-0.00%	3000
Call	0.00-1.00%	0.00-1.01%	1000
Savings	0.00-2.00%	0.00-2.03%	100
91-Days Fixed Deposit	1.50-1.50%	1.50-1.50%	500
6 months	1.75-1.75%	1.75-1.76%	500
12 months	4.00-4.00%	4.00-4.09%	500
24 months	4.25-4.25%	4.25-4.33%	500
Over 24 months	4.25-4.50%	4.25-4.57%	500
<b>USD</b>	(Lowest-Highest)	(Lowest-Highest)	(USD)
3 months Fixed Deposit	0.00-0.00%	0.00-0.00%	No Minimum Balance
6 months	0.20-0.25%	0.20-0.25%	5000
Over 12 months	0.45-0.50%	0.45-0.50%	5000
<b>ZAR</b>	(Lowest-Highest)	(Lowest-Highest)	(ZAR)
6 months	2.00-2.00%	2.01-2.01%	1 million
Over 12 month	3.00-3.00%	3.03-3.03%	1 million
Baroda Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) 6.51% p.a. w.e.f 08.12.2023			
<b>Lending Rates</b>		Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Average Effective Interest Rates (%)
MoPR	2.40%		2.40%
Baroda Prime Lending Rate	6.51%		6.71%
Mortgage Facility	6.51-12.00%		6.71-12.68%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	6.51-11.75%		6.71-12.40%
Credit Card	NA		NA
Lease Loans	6.51-11.75%		6.71-12.40%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgages, and credit cards)	8.50-14.75%		8.84-15.79%
Other Long-Term Loans	6.51-11.75%		6.71-12.40%

Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd. is a member of Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

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## SENIOR WAREHOUSE RECEIVER

**Job Title:** Senior Warehouse Receiver  
**Reports To:** Warehouse Coordinator

**Department:** Procurement  
**Location:** Botswana

### PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The purpose of this job is to acquire, distribute, and sending stock to all the Camps. The Warehouse Senior Receiver will investigate all inventory data entry and accounting for them.

### Key Responsibility Areas

- Manage the warehouse receivers, and logistics team under the Procurement department.
- Identify any training needs and facilitate suitable training for the warehouse receivers.
- Ensure a high level of performance at all times is adhered to in the warehouse.
- Ensure all deliveries of goods delivered to GPC for all our camps are accounted for by any given time.
- Ensure all paperwork is up to date for all deliveries done at the GPC warehouse for all camps
- Ensure deliveries are allocated to the correct camp by tagging with the correct camp color code allocated to GPC.
- Ensure quality and quantity of all goods delivered are correct to specifications as per the end user requests.
- Ensure storage of goods received in line with requirements, as per GPC warehouse operating procedures.
- Ensure the correct quantity is received against the invoice and order every time.
- Ensure correct prices are charged, that means when you receive you are to always check.
- Highlight any huge price increases to procurement officers being all items received in the Warehouse for GPC.
- Ensure discrepancies are always communicated to procurement officers.

- Ensure all invoices are signed when the correct items have been received at GPC Warehouse.
- Liaise with procurement officers on all queries that might be seen coming from suppliers.
- Ensure all goods are stored correctly while awaiting transport to the end destination, GPC camps.
- Ensure all goods are packed correctly for transport to GPC camps.
- Ensure all goods are marked correctly per camp color code all the time.

### Required Skills and Experience:

- Certificate in Purchase and Supply Chain Management (CIPS).
- Knowledge of using Procurement systems.
- Knowledge of Excel.
- At least 3 years of Procurement experience, of which at least 3 years must be in a similar position, preferably within the Hospitality industry or Safari.
- Knowledge of reconciling Procurement systems against Accounts systems.
- Strong leadership capabilities.

### Personal Attributes

- High attention to detail
- Able to work independently
- Self Motivated

**CLOSING DATE: 15TH OF JUNE 2024.** Interested applicants should email a cover letter and updated CV to the below listed email addresses. The subject heading of the email should be written as: **Third Party Contracting Manager - patience@greatplainsconservation.com** or **opportunities@greatplainsconservation.com**

THE REMUNERATION PACKAGE WILL BE OFFERED ACCORDING TO EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE. WE DO NOT ACCEPT HAND DELIVERIES. PLEASE NOTE, DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUMES OF APPLICATIONS ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SHORTLISTED WILL BE CONTACTED.

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We are looking for dynamic and energy packed suitable individual to join our training team. This person must be a self-motivated team player, and be dedicated and committed to providing excellent service within a high-pressure environment. The individual should have the ability to interact well and be able to form good relationships with employees across all levels. We wish to invite suitably qualified candidates to apply for the below position.

**Commercial Pilots C208B X (4)**

**Purpose of position:**

Reporting directly to the Accountable Executive to whom authority has been granted to ensure that all activities undertaken by Wilderness Air Botswana are carried out in accordance with the Wilderness Air Botswana Operations Manuals in terms of the applicable requirements prescribed by the Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana and the Wilderness Air, Air Service licenses.

The role of a commercial pilot is to safely and economically fly guests to the different scheduled destinations. Before every flight, the commercial pilot is expected to check flight plans, ensure that the aircraft's controls are operating efficiently, calculate the required fuel for the flight, and take the responsibility of checking the weather conditions.

**Qualifications**

- A valid Commercial pilot license
- Level 6 English proficiency
- A valid Class B driver's License
- A degree or equivalent will be an added advantage.
- Possession of a safety management system (SMS) qualification will be an advantage
- Possession of a quality management system (QMS) qualification will be an advantage

**Experience**

- Minimum of 1000 hrs. total flight time
- C208 rated (Preferred)
- Turbine experience is an added advantage
- Instructors rating and experience is an added advantage

**Competencies**

- Customer service skills
- Must have leadership skills
- Ability to work as part of a team

Only candidates who meet the above requirements need to apply by following the link below:  
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Closing date: 21 June 2024

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE COMMUNICATED WITH.



# Technology and Teen Mental Health: What can schools do?



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

adolescent mental health. Recent studies have highlighted the dual-edged nature of social media. On one hand, these platforms can foster a sense of belonging and community. Teens often use social media to connect with peers, share experiences, and find support for issues they might be hesitant to discuss in person. For instance, a study from Yale Medicine notes that social media can offer valuable support networks for teens navigating personal challenges, potentially alleviating feelings of isolation and loneliness. Conversely, the relentless exposure to curated images and lifestyles can exacerbate feelings of inadequacy and self-doubt. Social media's highlight reel often skews reality, leading teens to compare their lives unfavorably with the seemingly perfect lives they see online. This phenomenon can trigger or worsen mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Research underscores this point, revealing that prolonged use of social media sites like

Facebook is linked to increased rates of depression among teens. Moreover, the addictive nature of social media apps can disrupt sleep patterns and reduce face-to-face interactions, essential components of healthy adolescent development. Parents and educators are increasingly concerned about these platforms' potential to distract from academic responsibilities and real-world socialization. As society grapples with these challenges, it is crucial to strike a balance. Encouraging healthy social media habits, fostering open communication about online experiences, and promoting offline activities are essential steps. Technology, when harnessed responsibly, has the power to enrich our lives. For teenagers, understanding and mitigating the risks associated with social media is vital to nurturing a balanced and healthy digital future. Promoting Internet Hygiene in Schools: The Role of ICT Officers in Botswana

In the digital era, where online activities are an integral part of daily life, particularly for teenagers, the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) officers in schools has become crucial. In Botswana, where efforts to enhance ICT infrastructure in educational institutions are ongoing, these officers play a pivotal role in fostering internet hygiene, which is essential for maintaining teens' mental health. **The Role of ICT Officers**  
Educating on Safe Online Practices: ICT officers can conduct workshops and training sessions to educate students about safe online behaviors. This includes teaching them how to protect their personal information, recognize and avoid cyber bullying, and understand the implications of sharing content online. Implementing Internet Safety Programs: Developing and implementing comprehensive internet safety programs is another critical responsibility. These



programs can cover a range of topics, from understanding privacy settings on social media platforms to identifying and responding to online threats. By providing students with the knowledge to navigate the internet safely, ICT officers can help reduce the incidence of online-related mental health issues. Monitoring and Support: ICT officers can also establish systems to monitor internet use within schools. By using software to filter inappropriate content and track usage patterns, they can identify potential problems early and offer support to affected students. This proactive approach can help mitigate issues such as exposure to harmful content and excessive screen time, both of which are linked to mental health problems. Collaborating with Mental Health Professionals: Collaboration between ICT

officers and mental health professionals can enhance the support system for students. Joint initiatives can include creating resources that address the mental health impacts of internet use and providing a platform for students to seek help anonymously if they encounter online problems. The Importance of Internet Hygiene Promoting internet hygiene is vital for ensuring that students can enjoy the benefits of technology without compromising their mental well-being. By teaching students how to engage with the digital world responsibly, ICT officers in Botswana's schools can help cultivate a healthier, safer online environment. This, in turn, supports the overall mental health and academic success of teenagers, preparing them for a balanced life both online and offline.

**I**N OUR RAPIDLY EVOLVING DIGITAL AGE, social media has woven itself into the fabric of daily life, particularly for teenagers. Platforms like Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok offer unprecedented opportunities for connection and self-expression. However, the pervasive nature of these apps has sparked significant concern regarding their impact on

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## Marginalized groups demand recognition



Basarwa [PIC.PRESSPHOTO]

### FROM PAGE 1

At the moment, women account for 11% of representation in Parliament with 25% being members of cabinet. This has greatly left them out of the decision-making table. Other challenges include unequal pay, physical and sexual harassment and limited access to assets (including land) to mention a few. According to Lame Moreeng, Programme Officer at Ditshwanelo, the constitution excludes the socio-economic and cultural rights of marginalized groups. Rather, she said it only caters for the civil and political rights. She argued that in the case of Basarwa, they continue to struggle with issues of land. Moreover, she noted that the right to political representation should be granted to Basarwa as other Batswana. For his part, Motheo o Masha, Chairperson, Morena Monganja, said marginalization can be politically, economically and socially. Monganja who also made reference to Basarwa as a case in point, buttressed that they are part of the forgotten groups and at the bottom of the list. He mentioned that their rights are continuously violated. He stated that the current constitution doesn't have the right to water, education and health and there is nothing compelling the government to provide. "The Basarwa do not properly have access to this and government continues to curtail access to Basarwa's ancestral land also because the right to land is not entrenched in the constitution," he said. He added that the 2006 court judgement was very instructive after government evicted them from the Central Kalahari

Game Reserve (CKGR). He highlighted that their eviction was illegal and unconstitutional as found by the court. As a result, he argued that government has in turn decided to punish them. He argued that marginalised groups have not been protected from inhumane treatment contrary to what the constitution entails. Additionally, he outlined that our system is dominated by certain groups/tribes to the exclusion of the so called minority groups. "In particular, the Basarwa suffered greatly and are not part of community engagements. They are unable to freely enjoy their human and democratic rights," he said. According to Monganja, marginalized groups have not been properly consulted in the on-going constitutional review process. Presenting a statement on the constitution amendment bill No. 4 of 2024 for second reading in Parliament recently, Minister for State President, Kabo Morwaeng, proposed that Clause 2 of the bill incorporates the right to health, education and work. Morwaeng said this bill will ensure that the state respects, protects and fulfils these rights. Further, Clauses 5 and 6 of the bill incorporates the inclusion of "intersex" and "disability" among the grounds for protection from discrimination. Meanwhile, as the debate continues in Parliament, the proposed amendments have not explicitly catered for the aforementioned groups. However, some Members of Parliament (MPs) predominantly from the opposition have continually called for inclusivity arguing that people living with disability, women, children, the gay community and youth should be protected.



# Botswana's Constitutional Review: A fool's errand?

WHAT SEEMED LIKE A NOBLE IDEA to have the Constitution of Botswana holistically reviewed has now snowballed into a great tragedy of Shakespearean proportions. The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) is pushing with all its might to have the bill passed at the earliest convenience whilst across the aisle, efforts to ensure a people-centric review are hitting a brick wall. Thanks to the might of Minister of State President, Kabo Morwaeng who has been but a man of the moment for the BDP. At the core of the unfolding saga has been complaints by civil society, academia, marginalized groups, the church, and the general public who felt they were not thoroughly consulted. Meanwhile, Morwaeng is taking no for an answer. According to the minister, all citizens were consulted and have given the process a thumb's up. As it stands, the BDP majority in Parliament is therefore forging ahead with the amendments albeit this building resistance.

Presenting the second reading of the constitution (amendment) bill 2024, No. 4 of 2024, Morwaeng said the bill was deferred to Ntlo Ya Dikgosi which convened from the 6th -10th May 2024. Morwaeng said On 17th December 2021, President Masisi set up a Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Review of the Constitution in accordance with Section 2 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act(Cap:05:02). He stated that this was the first holistic inquiry into the review as the previous two targeted specific sections.

He noted that the Commission traversed the 57 constituencies soliciting views. However, he said out of the 93 recommendations only 31 related to the constitution that is 33.3%, 39 out of the 93 related to primary legislation, making 41.9% while 23 of the 93 recommendations related to policy, translating to 24.7%. Morwaeng said in considering the recommendations, government regarded operations of the constitution and determined if the recommendations will; preserve the unity, peace and stability of the country; promote, adhere to or enhance the rule of law and separation of powers; or add to the adequacy of the constitution in protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals, among others. He noted that the process was flexible and allowed the

public to ventilate views on various issues.

## The Bill

The bill seeks to make a number of amendments. Clause 2, in section 3 introduces the right to health, education and work. Clause 4 in section 13 adds the right to collectively bargain and strike. Clauses 5 and 6 in sections 14A and 15, calls for the inclusion of "intersex" and "disability" among the grounds of protection from discrimination. Further, Clause 7 calls for the disqualification of a person who has held the Office of the President for 10 years, Vice President, Cabinet Minister, Member of Parliament or Speaker. The bill inserts section 33 (1A) under clause 7(in relation to the President), amending section 59(2) under clause 12(in relation to the speaker) and inserting section 62(1) (h) under clause 14 (in relation to membership of the National Assembly). Clauses 8, 12 and 14 incorporates in sections 34(4) and (5), 59(2) and 62(1) (h) respectively, the changes agreed to with variation to bare retired Presidents from political office.

Additionally, Clause 10 inserts section 45A which provides for a transitional arrangement for transfer of executive power during the dissolution of Parliament; Clause 11 incorporates in section 58(2) changes agreed under the recommendation 26 to increase Specially Elected Members of Parliament from six to ten so as to promote inclusion of different groups. Clause 12, section 59(2) barring anyone who have held the position of a speaker for a period of 10 years to run for political office, Clause 13, in section 61 introduces qualification for one to be a member of the National Assembly. Furthermore, Clause 14, in section 62, limits membership of the National Assembly to only citizens. On the other hand, Clause 15, section 66(2) provides for the President to nominate the Secretary to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

According to the lengthy amendments, Clause 16 amends section 68 to disqualify a Specially Elected Member of Parliament from holding the seat when they resign from the political party they were a member of at the time of being elected. Clauses 17, 18 and 19 incorporate sections 77, 78 and 79(1) of the constitution to enable Ntlo Ya Dikgosi to be tribally neutral. Moreover, Clause 20 adds in section 89(3) is a call for

change in the name of the country to be made through a referendum. As per the bill, Clause 21 in section 90 will empower the President to set the date for elections. For Clauses 22 and 25 amending sections 95 and 99 provides for the Chief Justice as head of the judiciary and President of the Court of Appeal as deputy head of the judiciary. Still, regarding the judiciary, Clauses 23, 26 and 28 incorporates in sections 96(1) 100 and 103A changes to the effect that the President provides three nominees for the position of Chief Justice and the President of Court of Appeal to judicial committee for assessment and interview. Clauses 24 and 26, in sections 97, 100, 101,104 and 110 are consequential amendments to the aforementioned judicial provisions.

Notwithstanding that, Clause 27 of the bill incorporates in section 103(1) (g), (h) and (i) of the constitution, changes agreed by recommendation 29 to amend composition of Judicial Service Commission(JSC) to include Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Justice, auditor and legal practitioner. Clauses 29 and 30 incorporate in section 116(4) and 122 of the constitution respectively, as consequential amends of having the new committee as provided for under clause 103A to assess and interview candidates for the position of Chief Justice and President of Court of Appeal. For Clause 31 as incorporated in section 126, is a consequential amend to the period of 10 years for one to hold Office of President. Even so, Clause 32, is related to the amendment on increasing the number of specially elected MPs. The last one, being Clause 33 calls for the deletion of the second schedule under section 78, clause 18 which is about making provisions for a tribally neutral Ntlo Ya Dikgosi to be selected through an electoral college.

## Loopholes

Be that as it may. Academics in the areas of politics and law have pointed to gaping holes in this whole process. They deem the process as fundamentally flawed and one that ought to be withdrawn from Parliament. At a recent public lecture organized by the Evangelic Fellowship of Botswana, retired constitutional law academic and former University of Botswana Vice Chancellor, Professor Bojosi Otlhogile, said the process of the review



Morwaeng

was flawed in terms of the appointments, methodology and process. Otlhogile said it was the duty of the Commissioners to interpret what the people were saying. But he argued that before then, public education on what the constitution is ought to have been done. He stated that only after educating the public would consultation have sufficed. He added that, the process that follows after consultation should have been to render feedback to the nation.

"I thought there should have been engagements before the white paper. Government should have issued a green paper (instead)," he said.

Contrary to what transpired here. He explained that constitutional reviews are long processes by nature. He added that the purpose of such is to improve on democracy and good governance failing of which it falls short of a comprehensive review. He complained of legislations which he deemed the " (Ian) Khama" and "(Unity) Dow law" which he said were targeting people. Further, he said other constitutions are taking more powers from leaders whilst this one empowers the President even more. He questioned the amendment on increasing specially elected MPs to 10 which he said it will increase the total number of MPs to 72 of which 11 members are not elected including the President. According to Dr Adam Mfundisi,

a public policy expert at the University of Botswana (UB) Department of Political and Administrative Studies, a constitution is a fundamental law of the land consisting of basic principles, values and laws governing the people. Mfundisi said Botswana is a constitutional democracy where the rule of law, participation, inclusivity, must be paramount for good governance.

"Reviewing a Constitution is a tall order requiring broad participation of all the people including political, social, cultural organizations that have a stake in how the country is to be governed. Additionally, republicanism requires that the constitution be a product of the people as they are supreme. Supremacy of the people in a Republican setting demands that they be the architects of the constitution that governs them. In effect, a constitution is a social contract between the ruler and the ruled and must be complied with by both parties otherwise chaos and instability. Therefore, a constitution review should be citizen driven to enhance its legitimacy, durability and sustainability," he said.

He argued that what transpired in Botswana defeats the letter and the spirit of constitutionalism premised on the rule of law and republicanism. He added that International best practice and experience show that the design and process of constitutional review determine the substance, outcome and success of the change. Consequently, he asserted that invoking the Commission of Inquiry legislation for the review of the constitution reflect bad faith, manipulation, usurpation, chicanery, and a violation of oath by the President.

According to the UB scholar, a Commission of Inquiry is not suitable for constitutional reformation as it lacks inclusivity, participation, impartiality, expertise, and serves partisan and institutional interests. " In this case the process and outcome were determined by the President and by extension the BDP political elite," he stated, adding that a commission of inquiry is suitable for regulatory, distributive and redistributive policies which are within the realm of the Executive. As per his view, a genuine participation of the people from all walks of life was essential to ensure legitimacy and acceptance by all stakeholders. He

cautioned that Botswana should have learnt from its neighboring countries who developed progressive constitutions through broader participation of the people. "A constitutional convention should have been a viable path towards a durable, sustainable and legitimate constitutional process and outcome. This would involve all stakeholders, among others, political parties, civil society, business, labour, academia, and community representatives. Parliament as a representative institution should have been instrumental in the design and process of constitution review not the rubber stamping it is called to do," he quipped.

## Civic society cry foul

According to the Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (BOCONGO) representing at least 44 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), government failed to thoroughly consult. BOCONGO argued that, they were persistently blocked from accessing the Office of the President for indulgence since the process of reviewing the constitution was initiated. To this end, the CSOs have continued to call on the government to withdraw the bill and go back to thoroughly consult.

Similarly, the church has aired its views on the matter. According to EFB, the bill should be withdrawn from Parliament as it doesn't reflect the aspirations of all Botswana. EFB maintained that government drafted the bill without according Botswana an opportunity to look into it. Other like-minded organizations representing interests of the minority (marginalized groups) including women, indigenous people and those living with disability have repeatedly called for the amendments to be inclusive of their social, political and cultural rights to enhance their quality of life. But as the debates continued at Committee stage in Parliament, the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) anchored by Minister Morwaeng continued to shoot down further amendments to the bill proposed by the opposition. In its wisdom, the BDP majority in Parliament believes the bill carries the interest of Botswana and should thus pass sooner than later.

A parliament debate into the bill continues on Monday at 09:00am.

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# Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



**ADAM PHETLHE**  
ON SUNDAY!

**T**HE CHIEF PROPONENT OF THE Constitution (Amendment) Bill, Hon Kabo Morwaeng is correct that using the Commission of Inquiry Act does not render the review/amendment of the Constitution unlawful. He further boldly asserts this is the reason why the detractors of the Constitution review process have not been able to approach court to interdict the process. That said, the detractors could be waiting to challenge the Bill once passed, considering the ever-changing dynamics.

The Commission of Inquiry Act was purposefully preferred in order to concentrate the process in the hands of the President such that he solely determines and manipulates what goes into the final Constitution of the Republic of Botswana. In the process of determining and manipulating what goes in and out of the Constitution at the behest of the President given the sole powers as provided in the preferred instrument, the political power of the President would be significantly increased as demonstrated in the various clauses of the Bill. Much as there is the Dow and Khama clauses, it is fair to say this is the President's Constitution on account of how the Commission of Inquiry Act vests all the power and authority in the President. So how has the Act consolidated the President's

## Masisi chose Commission of Inquiry to consolidate power



Morwaeng

power?

**Separation of Powers**  
Former President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Ian Kirby said back in 2017 that there is no real separation of powers in Botswana particularly between the Executive and the Legislature. This scenario has existed for as long as the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) has been in power. Past and current Presidents of the party have had a tight grip on the Legislature where the latter has become the willing partner to blindly rubberstamp decisions of the Executive. This state of affairs stands to continue.

The legislature is a willing subordinate where it does not employ its own staff; does not draw its own budget for its operational and other requirements. A true Constitutional review would have ensured the Legislature is truly independent of the

Executive. Employing the Commission of Inquiry Act ensured the Legislature remained the perennial lapdog of the Executive to the point where MPs stand to be removed for misbehaving. One would have expected BDP MPs to have outrightly rejected the proposal. But lo and behold, they are terribly terrified to defend their own positions. How sad!

**Good Governance**  
Good governance is a prerequisite in progressive democracies whose key function is to ensure that public institutions promoting and supporting values of good governance are free from political and other influences. Institutions supporting and promoting good governance in Botswana are deliberately located in the office of the President in order to micro-manage them to toe the political line.

Otherwise, they wouldn't be located in that Office of the President. Some of the heads of these institutions are not protected by the security of tenure rendering them extremely vulnerable to political and other potential influences or manipulation. The recent in-fighting between the DCEC and DIS clearly where the latter arbitrarily sealed the offices of the former for unexplained reasons palpably demonstrated the Executive micro-managed these institutions. The appointment and dismissal of the institution heads is the absolute preserve of the President.

As a consequence, a widely held perception that these institutions are a thick firewall around the political leadership close to the President will be perpetuated. The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) remains under the office of the President despite the perception that there is a big room for mismanagement/manipulation of election outcomes. Employing the Commission of Inquiry Act ensured institutions setup to support and protect good governance remain firmly under the unfettered direction of the President. Put mildly, Botswana has and continues to suffer from institutional collapse where institutions are a pathetic shadow of themselves owing to bad governance. Corruption has become the way of life with this view ably demonstrated by the Auditor General Report on how Covid-19 Relief Fund was decimated. The President has ignored this report with his MPs too terrified to seek accountability from him particularly that the fund was administered from his office.

**Judicial appointments**  
One of the topical talking points with regards to judicial appointments has been the Judicial Service Commission populated by individuals who are directly appointed by

the President save for one or two members. Various bodies and academics have called for judicial appointments to be transparent and public. This has always fallen on deaf ears. The Bill sought to improve the process by establishing a Judicial Service Committee which in and of itself is simply a cosmetic adventure of sorts. The composition of this body will essentially remain the same.

The President will present names to a parliamentary committee from which to select a Chief Justice in the event the position becomes vacant. Whichever name is selected will still be the President's preferred man or woman. The arrangement as contemplated in the Bill does not bring comfort that judicial appointments, which are a prerequisite to the administration of justice, will be premised on meritocracy and not any other consideration.

Reading through the Bill, it has become undisputed that the powers of the President remain huge and deeply entrenched despite the arguments made by some of his MPs that some mechanisms have become crafted in the Bill to somewhat limit them. Nothing

could be further from the truth. The use of the Commissions of Inquiry Act to review/amend the Constitution of the Republic is the source of so many 'flaws and defects' that have emerged.

The legitimacy and credibility of the Bill to review/amend the Constitution has attracted huge public attention here and elsewhere and such attention will not be easily wished away.

The argument that the Constitutional review/amendment process is lawful consequent to using the Act does not take away the discontent arising from some members of the public including the civil society organisations that an inappropriate legal route has been chosen.

There is a view from some that the Bill could die with the dissolution of Parliament as the nation goes to the general election in October 2024, while government holds firm this is not the case. It will be interesting to see whose view carries the day. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

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

## EFN mourn former SG Ronelle Rademeyer

**I**T IS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT THE Editors' Forum of Namibia (EFN) received the news that the highly respected veteran journalist and former Secretary-General, Ronelle Rademeyer, passed away last night after a long battle with cancer. The news of her death at 56 was announced on the Republikein's Facebook page last night.

With just a foot away from breaking the glass-ceiling and becoming editor of the Afrikaans daily Republikein, Ronelle was forced to retire in December 2022 on medical grounds to deal with the cancer that was fast ravaging her body.

Ronelle was a journalist with her heart and soul in the profession and her ethical conduct and insights, caused her to be highly respected by her peers and colleagues.

The EFN will fondly remember her for the crucial role she played in organising the EFN Journalism Awards since 2018, which she often referred to as Namibia's own "Pulitzer Awards". Her last event was on 19 October 2023, a few kilometres outside of Windhoek.

Ronelle tirelessly and selflessly dedicated herself in organising these awards, as well as sourced sponsorship to make them a reality.

The 2023 awards ceremony was officiated by the late President Hage Geingob. One of the keynote speakers was Jacques Pauw, a close friend and author of the President's

Keepers who returned to the Namibian awards ceremony to share insights into his new book *Our Poisoned Land*.

She was overly excited that the EFN managed to virtually interview the renowned Israeli Professor Yuval Noah Harari, the author of *Sapiens* and *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on humanity and its implications on journalism. Harari also spoke about the war in Gaza and how dwelling on the past was the cause of the continued conflict in that region.

One of the experiences that had a major impact on her as a journalist was the laying to rest of Nelson Mandela, the first South African President of the post-apartheid era. She attended the burial as an accredited Namibian journalist.

Today, the EFN looks back and honours, Ronelle, in the same manner that she worked tirelessly to ensure that the EFN grew over the years to become a respected and integral part of the media landscape in Namibia.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family during this difficult time. Her husband Lourens and two sons, Wilhelm and André, as well as her four sisters and her parents.

**Frank Steffen**  
EFN Chairperson on behalf of the entire EFN executive committee

## Concern over Cabinet principles on ZMC Act, Media Practitioners Bill

**T**HE SOUTHERN AFRICAN EDITORS Forum (SAEF) notes with serious concern the Zimbabwe Cabinet principles on the amendment of the Zimbabwe Media Commission Act and the proposed Media Practitioners Bill that are meant to effect media co-regulation and professionalise the media in Zimbabwe.

The cabinet principles, if applied and enacted into law as announced, will further entrench statutory regulation of the media in Zimbabwe and smuggle back into law clauses from the repealed Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA). SAEF implodes the Zimbabwe government to reconsider the proposed position in order to enhance press freedoms in the country and to ensure that the agreed co-regulation principle by government and the media sector is properly implemented.

Under the recently announced cabinet principles, government indicated that it would set up a statutory Media Council of Zimbabwe to regulate media conduct. The

cabinet principles are in direct contrast to the Media Alliance of Zimbabwe (MAZ) and the Zimbabwe National Editors Forum (Zinef) position on co-regulation captured through a MAZ statement released on 24 April, 2024 and a later statement released by the Alliance in response to the cabinet principles.

SAEF is in support of the view that the existing complaints handling mechanism and Code of Conduct are effective and industry led and should therefore form the basis for any other structure that could emerge as a result of this law-making process.

This is the same position of MAZ, which reaffirms in its position paper its commitment to self-regulation as the most democratic regulatory framework but subscribes to the consensus position of co-regulation reached between government and media stakeholders.

SAEF supports the MAZ position on co-regulation in full and warns that proceeding with the cabinet principles in their current state will be against the co-regulation principles agreed to between the

government and the media sector. Setting up of the statutory council will be bringing through the back door, re-packaging and resurrecting of the abhorred AIPPA, repealed by the Zimbabwean government when the Second Republic came into office, and this will be against the government's media reform principles.

A similarly suggested Zimbabwe Media Council was set up under AIPPA on 13 September 2012 and was roundly condemned and rejected by the media sector and ultimately it never saw light of day.

It would be a tragedy for the government to seek to revive AIPPA through resuscitating this ghost from the previous law.

SAEF urges the Zimbabwe government to undertake a broad consultative process that will involve media stakeholders, media civil society organisations and media regulatory bodies in order to reach a common position on the democratic implementation of co-regulation.

A holistic and inclusive model anchored on co-regulation – which means an

industry-led regulatory system supported by the government, especially on legislative arrangements, and other stakeholders – is evidently the best approach to ensure solid media freedom, ethical journalism and sustainability.

For the current process to yield the desired results, there is need for clarity of concept, thought and implementation of the co-regulation model.

SAEF agrees with Zinef's position that government should revisit the process to help regulate the media in a progressive – and not stifling – way as this maybe the case with the current cabinet proposals which do not represent the letter and spirit of the wide consultations by stakeholders.

As SAEF we are prepared to walk the media freedoms journey with the Zimbabwe government and media practitioners in Zimbabwe.

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### 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.

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email to [dibeela@thepatriot.co.bw](mailto:dibeela@thepatriot.co.bw) /  
[ditiro@thepatriot.co.bw](mailto:ditiro@thepatriot.co.bw)



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**Key Responsibilities:**

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- Reviewing design specifications and troubleshooting any issues.
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- A minimum of 7 years proven post experience is required.
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# VACANCY

**Strides of Success (Pty) Ltd** is looking for an **Electrical & Instrumentation Engineer** for their paper manufacturing plant at Plot 33184, Nkoyaphiri, Mogoditshane, Botswana. The successful candidate will be responsible for the electrical & instrumentation department for the paper machines and pulp mills.

**Qualifications and Experiences**

- Diploma or Degree in Electrical & Electronics or equivalent qualification.
- A minimum of 6 years working experience in paper machine and pulp mill in Electrical and Instrumentation department.
- Experience in Kraft paper Machine, Tissue Paper Machine, Mold Machines, ETP, Boiler, and pulp mill equipment.
- In depth expertise in diagnose electrical and instrumentation faults in pulp and paper machine equipment.
- In depth experience in HV & LV electrical systems, Transformers, Motors, DB's, and Switch Gears.
- Good knowledge and experience in AC Drives, Variable Frequency Drives, PCC, MCC, & Distribution Control Panels, P&I drawings, Instruments such as Temperature Indicator, Temperature Controller, Thermocouple, RTD, PID Controller, Pressure Transmitter, Level Transmitter, I/P Converters, UPS, QCS, Scanner, Steam flow meters, control valves, etc..
- Must be self-motivated and well disciplined.
- Must be prepared to work irregular hours if required.

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- Ensure the preventive maintenance of all electrical and instrumentation systems.
- Support process managers with electrical and instrumentation data's.
- Manage maintenance cost within prescribed norms.
- Prepare and execute the planned maintenance in time.
- Maintain the inventory control of electrical& instrumentation spares.
- Manage the training and development of personnel

Applicants should enclose current CV, copies of their certificates and transcripts, copies of identification and two traceable referees.

All applications must be addressed to:  
**The Chief Executive Officer,**  
**Strides of Success (Pty) Ltd**  
**Private Bag 00278**  
**Gaborone**

**Or hand deliver at Plot 33184, Nkoyaphiri, Mogoditshane, Botswana. Contact No. +267 3904495. Closing Date: 16th June 2024.**



# Strengthening primary healthcare remains cornerstone to achieve universal health coverage

DR EDWIN DIKOLOTI\*

AT THE OUTSET, I WISH to congratulate the outgoing President Dr Chris FEARNE from Malta for his leadership of the 76th World Health Assembly. I also thank the outgoing first Vice President, Honourable Minister of Togo; Professor Moustafa Mijiyawa for chairing the opening session this morning.

It is my honour to congratulate you, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus for your exceptional leadership at the helm of this Organization as evidenced by the significant achievements of the 13th General Programme of Work. You have also steered the Organisation during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and led the Secretariat tirelessly, to save lives and livelihoods around the world. There is no doubt you have already created an impressive legacy.

Your commitment to advancing health in your respective countries and support of the World Health Organisation's central role in global health governance, is important to advance our collective agenda of achieving universal health coverage. This is in line with United Nations agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

This Presidency has great meaning for the Republic of Botswana, and indeed the entire African community. I would therefore, like to take this opportunity to thank Member States of the WHO Africa Region for the confidence they have shown in nominating me to serve in this post. It is indeed

an honour and privilege.

We convene the 77th World Health Assembly during an unprecedented time in history when multilateralism is undergoing transformation. As such, it is more important than ever before, that we do all we can to safeguard international cooperation and global solidarity.

I congratulate the WHO for supporting Member States and the noteworthy progress towards the "triple billion" targets as set out in WHO's 13th General Programme of Work. Globally, 585 million more people are expected to be covered by essential health services, without catastrophic health spending, by 2025. Again, 777 million more people are expected to be better protected from health emergencies.

Healthier populations provide the sole bright spot, where an estimated 1.5 billion more people will enjoy healthier lives by 2025. I also note with appreciation the substantial progress that has been made in my Region of Africa, where successes include the eradication of smallpox, certification of wild poliovirus in 2020, as well as managing health emergencies like Ebola and elimination of some neglected tropical diseases. At the same time, we still have to deal with the increasing burden of hypertension, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases.

The 14th General Programme of Work that will be considered by you Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegations aims to bring together Member States, the WHO Secretariat and



Dr Dikoloti

[PIC: PINO KILANO]

a broad coalition of Partners around a shared strategy to promote, provide and protect health. It should also propel us into realizing WHO's founding vision for the highest attainable standard of health, as a fundamental right for all people. We welcome the priorities as set out, which will enable us to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage and the SDG targets.

In this regard, the World Health Organization must be steadfast in facilitating Member States to strengthen health systems to build resilience to prevent, prepare and respond to health emergencies. This also includes implementation of a one health approach. We must also prioritize management of chronic non-communicable diseases, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

In 2021, WHO Member States embarked on negotiations of a WHO Pandemic Agreement under the auspices of the WHO, with the aim of strengthening

global health security. Parallel to this work, are the amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005). In this regard, I wish to congratulate fellow Member States for your hard work and tenacity in contributing to global norm-setting, which will have a meaningful and sustainable change on the trajectory of global health in general. Throughout these two negotiating processes, Member States were led by highly committed respective Bureau Members, with the support of the WHO Secretariat.

Therefore, underpinned by the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, the international community must ensure that a multilateral governance mechanism is in place that will result in equitable access to vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and other medical products and tools. The Pandemic Agreement must support regional efforts and ensure transfer of knowledge

and intellectual property, well trained human resources and financing for sustainability of the pharmaceutical production facilities, amongst others.

Our priority is also the need to ensure that State Parties respect the WHO guidance and the International Health Regulations, in terms of travel and trade. Whereas we note the significant progress achieved so far, it is important that we complete the mandate that we set for ourselves. We must consolidate the gains achieved so far in the draft Agreement and work collectively to conclude negotiations in a timely manner. To achieve this, Member States should give their fullest commitment and solidarity to the agreement to address equity with clear and tangible outcomes.

With respect to Health Financing, I wish to appeal to the developed countries and development Partners, to align their funding with regional and national priorities and interests

including to reduce placing conditionalities on voluntary contributions. Removing conditionalities and allowing more flexibilities in spending, has the potential to unlock the much-needed financial resources that will enable WHO to cross fund other broad priorities.

As I draw to a close, I would like at this juncture to reflect on Botswana's contribution towards the health of our people in general and to global health. Just as in the Constitution of the WHO, we in Botswana also recognise that "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition".

Based on these tenets, we have made substantial advancements in improving the health of our people. We continue to demonstrate the highest political commitment and willingness to ensuring health for all as demonstrated by the 2022 Presidential Reset Agenda which outlines

achieving good health outcomes as a key national development priority. This will enable active and inclusive participation of Botswana in the economy.

The Government of Botswana is funding about 80% as a share of domestic health expenditure. For instance, for the 2024/25 national budget, the Ministry of Health was allocated the fourth largest share of the domestic budget, which was particularly important in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be noted that in Botswana, only about 4% of the total health expenditure is generated through out-of-pocket payments, which remains one of the lowest globally.

Our biggest challenge currently, is that we are experiencing an epidemiological transition, from communicable diseases to an increasing burden of non-communicable diseases. These include ischaemic heart diseases, stroke and diabetes, amongst others. With respect to HIV/AIDS, Botswana has surpassed the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets and attained silver tier status in the prevention of mother to child transmission

of HIV. While treatment and management approaches have significantly helped our people to live longer, we are committed to ensure that everyone lives the highest quality of life. Given the foregoing, strengthening primary healthcare remains the cornerstone to achieve universal health coverage.

Finally, Chair, I have no doubt that the world today is in a better place because of the work of the WHO. We have achieved much together and continue to learn from each other.

It is therefore, befitting that as we embark on implementing the next General Programme of Work, we must reflect on these targets in order to save the lives of many of our people, in particular the most vulnerable.

Let me end my remarks by wishing this Assembly successful deliberations and fruitful outcomes and thank you Dr Tedros for convening us to advance global health.

\* STATEMENT BY HON. DR EDWIN G. DIKOLOTI DURING THE 77TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, 27th MAY 2024 IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

## Zimbabwe's Crisis: A Call for Urgent Action

DEAR EDITOR,

AS I WRITE THIS LETTER, Zimbabwe is facing an unprecedented crisis that requires immediate attention and action. Extreme poverty, corruption, and mismanagement have ravaged our nation, leaving millions suffering. Billions are lost annually to looting and corruption, while our educational system crumbles, with poor facilities, underpaid

teachers, and high failure rates.

The consequences are stark: millions are forced to migrate, hyperinflation has decimated our economy, and our healthcare system is in shambles. The lack of public transport, abuse of public funds, and 89% unemployment rate have created a perfect storm of despair.

Furthermore, the decay of our infrastructure, lack of a soccer stadium, and rampant human rights abuses have stripped us of our dignity. The heartless

ruling party, Zanu PF, has failed to address these issues, and it is time for a change.

The clueless, careless and corrupt Mnangagwa government must go, and new leadership must prioritize the welfare of our citizens.

Charity Mahuni human rights activist demands action now to address these crises and build a better future for Zimbabwe.

Sincerely,  
Charity Mahuni human rights activist



## Unique Fuel Quality checks for Shell Customers

**Gaborone, Botswana – 30 May 2024:** Vivo Energy Botswana has set in place advanced product quality control mechanisms to ensure high-quality Shell fuels and lubricants for customers.

Vivo Energy Botswana, the company that distributes and markets Shell fuels and lubricants, operates in accordance with Shell's global Health, Safety, Security Environment and Quality (HSSEQ) standards, and in strict adherence to all applicable local legislation. As a brand, Shell stands for quality and innovation brought to life through our retail proposition: "Go Well" which seeks to make life's journeys better, underpinned by the pillars of Better Products and Services, Better Experiences and Better People and Communities. For this reason, the company sets and maintains the very highest standards in all HSSEQ aspects, including controlling product quality across its supply chain.

Vivo Energy Botswana seeks to differentiate itself, and the Shell products that it markets. To ensure that Shell's high-quality fuels and lubricants reach the end-user at the exact quality levels they should, Vivo Energy Botswana has in place elaborate long standing quality control processes along its entire supply chain. Most recently, due to regulatory changes consolidating the supply chain for Vivo Energy and similar market players, Vivo Energy Botswana has taken the extra step of ensuring quality testing of all products received from the fuel's supplier, to ensure that products received meet agreed specifications before going on to our network of service stations. The check includes density check, water, and appearance testing.

Vivo Energy Botswana also has a modern fuel-testing laboratory at the company's Francistown Depot, where additional product tests like distillation and flashpoint take place, in addition to basic checks. The lab is SADCAS ISO 17025:2017 accredited, making it the only local fuel testing lab with this standard in Botswana. The accreditation assures the competency of the laboratory and its personnel. Another key pillar of our robust quality check tools is our mobile quality testing laboratory that allows us to conduct product quality spot checks regularly at our service stations across the country. This ensures that we consistently deliver on our customer promise regarding the unique quality benefit Shell fuels offer.

Shell quality fuels have been used by customers in Botswana for over 50 years, and we endeavour to maintain the same quality standards.

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About the Vivo Energy Group:

The Vivo Energy Group operates and markets its products in countries across North, West, East and Southern Africa. The newly extended Group has a network of over 3,900 service stations in 28 markets operating under the Engen and Shell brands and exports lubricants to a number of other African countries. Its retail offering includes fuels, lubricants, card services, convenience stores, restaurants, and other non-fuel services. It provides fuels, lubricants, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and chemicals to business customers across a range of sectors including marine, aviation, mining, construction, power, transport, agriculture and manufacturing. It is continuing to develop innovative energy solutions to enhance sustainability.

The Company employs around 6,000 people and has access to over 2.1 billion litres of fuel storage capacity.

For more information about Vivo Energy, please visit [www.vivoenergy.com](http://www.vivoenergy.com) and [www.engen.co.za](http://www.engen.co.za)



WILDERNESS

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we are hiring

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To ensure that the food experience in Botswana exceeds guest expectations and is always being improved and reinvented. The Food Experience Manager reports directly to the General Manager - Hospitality Botswana Region.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF POSITION**

- Menu Planning - with the Group FEM to plan seasonal menus twice a year, in accordance to Wilderness Minimum standards
- Par stocks and Variable food budgets - Ensure that for each menu a par stock order sheet is created for both fresh and dry goods
- Chefs training - Responsible for coordinating all chefs training courses for the Premier, Classic camps and F&B Managers
- Kitchen CHEF Structures - Ensure that the kitchen have proper structures, with the right number of skilled chefs in place
- Guest feedback and measurement - Ensure that you monitor camps scores and read through evaluation forms
- Suppliers - Ensure a good relationship with suppliers and be able to discuss issues and improvements to quality and delivery
- Kitchen Assets - Ensure that the camp has adequate equipment and that the chefs look after them properly
- Camp Food Audits - Ensure that an audit form is completed and issues raised are rectified when you go into camps

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Diploma in Hospitality or equivalent qualification
- BQA Accreditation as a Trainer will be an added advantage
- A minimum of 5 years proven experience in remote locations (Bush experience)
- A minimum of 5 years proven working experience in the hospitality field under Food and Beverages Department or Restaurant
- Proven experience of delivering a five star dining experience - ala carte
- Proven record of outstanding staff relations

**COMPETENCIES**

- Service excellence (Desire to enhance guest experience)
- Outstanding communication skills
- Attention to details
- Ability to work long hours
- Time Management
- Leadership by example

Only candidates who meet the above requirements need to apply by following the link below:

<https://wilderness.simplify.hr/vacancy/hm47tu>

**Closing date: 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE COMMUNICATED WITH.**



# Business

## The rise of a technocrat

### ... as Tsheole lands in Kigali

From ZERO to P120m - Tsheole's legacy at the BSE



Thapelo Tsheole

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

In a space of eight years, he transformed the local bourse into one of the Top 5 on the continent; in the process earning a Presidential Meritorious Service Award. This is Thapelo Tsheole; the Mochudi native whose drive for excellence knows no bounds; a trait that has won him admirers from close and afar. He has now accepted a new challenge as the Chief Executive of Rwanda Capital Market Authority (CMA).

"I have done the groundwork. My successor stands to harvest huge dividends from this," he declares.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS - LEAVING BSE WITH P120M CASH

He assumed the leadership of the BSE in 2016 as CEO and there set off a transformational race that can only be matched by a few.

The workaholic in him knew very well that he would do well with a listening and ambitious team that prided itself with putting professional development at the very top of their priorities. No wonder it took them a few years to say 'thank you' to bail outs as they moved into profit-making and self sustenance.

He kicked off his reign with completing the demutualisation process - turning the exchange into a commercial entity. Swiftly the company was making millions. He prides himself in leaving the bourse with Cash Reserves of over P120 million.

He successfully established the BSEL Employee Share Option Scheme (ESOP); a key motivation in employee performance.

"I introduced the first Exchanged Traded Funds (ETFs) in Botswana, the first in Africa -ex RSA and achieved market turnover of over P1.1 billion and designing their trading, settlement, and regulatory framework. And more ETF Listings. I further increased investor participation in the BSE from around 23,000 in 2016 to more than 100,000 in 2022 through Financial Literacy Programmes," Tsheole declared with pride.

He has led BSE's growth in international profile by overseeing its joining of Sustainable Stock Exchanges, World Federation of Exchanges, accreditation to Her Majesty Revenue and Customs. "This was a rigorous process where we had to be assessed to ascertain that we were well qualified to be accepted," he declared.

He succeeded in listing the first privatised Botswana entity in the BSE - Botswana Telecommunications

Corporation Limited (BTCL) and achieved record Fixed Income & Commercial Paper Listing while overseeing the admission of the BSE into African Exchanges Linkages Project in 2022. He has launched new technologically advanced systems for the BSE.

The BSE brand has become so strong that it has begun attracting investors from the region. "We have welcomed listing companies from Zambia, Zimbabwe, and even Mauritius. This is because our level of compliance is very high. Companies must operate within these confines. This is why we are able to attract more international companies because their investments remain safe," he declared.

BSE has gone further to ensure that investors have their investment protected with the launch of an Investor Compensation Fund - which stands to "grant securities investors compensation for financial losses suffered as a result of a participant failing to meet their contractual obligations".

Tsheole is of the view that things could have been even better in growing the capital market. "Things ought to have been done much faster in certain areas. One difficulty was getting the message across to policy makers to help us advance. Equally while it is important to advance citizen empowerment, restricting sales of certain stocks to citizens alone affects capital market development. There has been slowness in taking advantage of the full potential of the market," he said, decrying the slow pace of private sector development, which has resulted with the domination of foreign investors in key areas.

#### AFRICA IMPACT

Tsheole's impact at the BSE made him an attractive pick for more loftier positions in the region and beyond; the pinnacle of which was his elevation to the Presidency of the Africa Stock Exchanges Association (ASEA) from 2022 to 2024. He has been a board member and Deputy

President of the African Securities Exchanges Association from 2016.

He has been the Chairman of the Committee of SADC Stock Exchanges since 2018 - date and a board member of the Pan African Federation of Accountants from 2016 - 2021. His skill has been drawn upon locally as well to overseeing the running of other organisations having served as a board member of ACHAP Botswana, Botswana Accountancy Oversight Authority: 2016 - 2020 and Botswana Medicine Regulatory Authority: 2016 - 2018. He spearheaded the setting up of the Special Economic Zones Authority as Chairman of the Board from 2017 to 2021.

As Chairman of SADC Stock Exchanges, he successfully fundraised for "The SADC Green Bond Programme" and worked hard in supporting listings within SADC. "I spearheaded the bond market development in the region, calling for the centralisation of trading of bonds. I managed to secure sponsorship for harmonisation and interconnectivity of SADC markets, to allow cross trading," he said.

At Africa level, he said, they have managed to secure a second round of funding for the Africa Linkages Project.

#### THE TEAM

His philosophy in assembling his executive and overall staff was informed by the need to keep a lean and effective team that is well rewarded for its work. "I believe in training and developing staff to equip them well. I am happy that almost all staff had enrolled for an Executive development programme at the BSE," he said. Having served for years under the leadership of Lt General Tebogo Masire as BSE chairperson, last year the Board welcomed a new chairperson in Neo Mooki - a leading investment guru who leads Generali Group in Milan, Italy. Generali is a global player in the insurance and asset management sector with an AUM of €700 billion.

Tsheole cannot hide his excitement

about the arrival of Mooki at the BSE, saying he was looking forward to an aggressive growth of the bourse with her. As fate would have it, this has unfortunately coincided with his decision to move for greener pastures.

"We have just returned from Doha, Qatar where we made a presentation on behalf of the BSE. We wowed the audience and created a massive impact about the value and potential of the BSE. She is set to do wonders," he declared; reaffirming that he is happy that he is leaving the BSE in good hands.

Most importantly he is adamant that he has done all to set up the BSE for a strong and lucrative future. He pointed to the Tshipidi Programme through which they have been enrolling small companies to educate them on the value and benefits of listing on the BSE.

"We expect to see an increase in the listing of companies that have been enrolled in the Tshipidi Programme, which will further the value of the BSE," he enthused; saying the recent move to increase local investment of pension money held by the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) will come in handy for the companies that are ready to list.

#### THE FUTURE

A breeder of dorper and ardent hunter, Tsheole is a busy body that equally cherishes a good time out with friends. His drive and insatiable appetite for exceeding the limits of his knowledge and achievements point to a man who will do all to make his presence and work felt in Rwanda. By his own admission he chose the Rwanda assignment because it was well aligned to his future outlook.

A man of his calibre though is constantly surrounded by opportunities, and it will not be surprising that the Rwanda detour will pave the way for a much bigger platform ahead. But first, just like he did at the BSE; he is bound to turn the Rwanda assignment into a testimony of his worth. He will outshine the mandate.

**T**HIS WEEK, ON MAY 29, Thapelo Tsheole entered the office halls of his new employers well armed to deliver on his lofty mandate - to steer Rwanda's capital markets into a thriving operation that is attractive to investors.

There is no doubt that Botswana's loss has become a big gain for Rwanda. And the fast-talking sure-footed executive is far from being overawed by the new task at hand. After all, he has done wonders to Botswana's investment space - turning around the local bourse into a robust wealth generating machine.

Ask Tsheole about what made him so successful at the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) he minces no words in proclaiming the virtues of good education.

He was well armed with the requisite qualifications to master his craft and deliver a thriving exchange that raised his profile across the continent.

He is well grounded in business. With a single major economics degree from the University of Botswana, Tsheole turned himself into a financial markets guru by enrolling for a Masters in Financial Markets at South Africa's Rhodes

University.

But it is the MBA from the University of Cape Town, that he can't stop raving about. "This institution is not named Africa's No 1 Business School for nothing. Their programmes are solid and transformative. It shaped my work," he declared.

He does not point to anyone in particular for having relied on to rise to the top. In terms of output in literally lifting BSE from obscurity to the centre stage of Botswana's financial sector, Tsheole was like a bulldozer that pushed aside every obstacle.



**BOTSWANA ACCOUNTANCY COLLEGE**  
The Botswana Business School

**GABORONE CAMPUS**  
Plot 50661, Fairgrounds Office Park  
Private bag 000319 Gaborone, Botswana  
Tel: +267 395 3062 Fax: +267 390 41103

**FRANCISTOWN CAMPUS**  
Plot 31403 Mofat Street  
Private bag 137 Francistown, Botswana  
Tel: +267 241 0558 Fax: +267 241 0534

## INVITATION TO TENDER

<b>BOTSWANA ACCOUNTANCY COLLEGE</b>	<b>TENDER TENDERING PROCEDURES</b>	<b>T 1.1 TENDER NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER</b>
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Tender Ref No. BAC/IFM/02/2024 | Closing Date: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR PROVISION OF STUDENTS ACCOMMODATION - BOTSWANA ACCOUNTANCY COLLEGE AT GABORONE CAMPUS**

For more details visit: <https://www.bac.ac.bw/tenders.php>



# Anglo response to BHP, rejects request for extension of talks

THE BOARD OF ANGLO AMERICAN NOTES the announcement from BHP Group Limited regarding an update on its potential offer for Anglo American. On 22 May 2024, the Board announced that it had unanimously rejected a third unsolicited, nonbinding and highly conditional takeover proposal from BHP on the basis of not meeting

the Board's expectations of value delivered to Anglo American's shareholders.

In order to allow BHP an opportunity to propose solutions to address the risks and value impact on Anglo American's shareholders inherent in the BHP Proposal, the Board agreed on 22 May 2024 to extend the PUSU deadline by seven days to 5.00 p.m. on 29 May 2024. There

has since been extensive engagement with BHP and its advisers, with a particular focus on the proposed structure and associated execution and value risks for Anglo American's shareholders. The BHP Proposal includes the same highly complex and unattractive structure as the proposals previously rejected on 26 April 2024 and 13 May 2024. This involves 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 ("Anglo American Platinum") and Kumba Iron Ore Limited ("Kumba") to Anglo American's shareholders, prior to the takeover. The all-share offer and required demergers would be inter-conditional. As stated in the announcement of 22 May 2024, the requirement to pursue two contemporaneous demergers of publicly listed companies alongside a takeover and the interconditional nature of the three transactions is unprecedented. Undertaking a takeover in parallel with two demergers would result in additional material approvals. Such regulatory considerations for takeovers are not unique to South Africa and are increasingly prevalent in a number of jurisdictions. The approvals required in relation to the BHP Proposal would be likely to result in material conditions being imposed that would disproportionately impact the value of Anglo-American Platinum and Kumba and, therefore, the value delivered to Anglo American's shareholders. On 28 May 2024, BHP put forward a limited number of socioeconomic measures that were confined in scope, impact and duration and that BHP stated would support regulatory approvals. This



Diamond sorter

[PIC.PRESSPHOTO]

approach does not sufficiently address the fact that Anglo American's shareholders would bear disproportionate execution and value risks and uncertainty over an extended period, nor does it consider that material conditions would likely be imposed in relation to both Anglo American Platinum and Kumba which would require the approvals of their respective boards

This value risk would therefore be exclusively for the account of Anglo American's shareholders under the BHP Proposal, as well as eroding the value of the shares held by the minority shareholders of both subsidiary companies. Throughout the engagements with BHP, BHP continues to restate its belief that the risks of its complex structure are not material, yet has repeatedly and consistently stated both publicly and during the engagements that it is unwilling to amend its proposed structure to assume these risks. The BHP Proposal is in clear contrast to Anglo American's simpler standalone plan to accelerate value delivery, as announced on 14 May 2024. The complex structure proposed by BHP is likely to take more than 18 months to implement, throughout which there would be material risks to completion and uncertainty around the value delivered to Anglo American's shareholders, regardless of whether regulatory approvals are ultimately received or

In aggregate, BHP has not addressed the Board's fundamental concerns relating to the disproportionate execution risk associated with the proposed structure and the value that would ultimately be delivered to Anglo American's shareholders. Also taking into consideration detailed feedback from the Board's extensive engagement with Anglo American's shareholders and stakeholders, the Board has therefore unanimously concluded that there is no basis for a further extension to the PUSU deadline. Anglo American's shareholders are advised to take no action in relation to this matter.

There can be no certainty that any firm offer will be made.

Further to the announcement released by Anglo American on 22 May 2024, BHP must by not later than 5.00 p.m. on 29 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 being made without the agreement or approval of BHP. [bse.co.bw]

## Know Your Corporate Leader

**Full Name:** Gamu Mpofo  
**Position:** New Ventures Manager  
**Institution:** Botswanan Oil Limited  
**Date Started:** 2014  
**Nature of business:** Petroleum Industry



standard chartered

### Wealth and Retail Banking - June 2024

#### Deposits Interest Rates

##### BWP - Botswana Pula

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%) (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rate (%) (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Call	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	10,000
Savings (Tema)	0.50% - 2.75%	0.50% - 2.79%	500
Ordinary Savings	0.00% - 0.50%	0.00% - 0.50%	100
30-Days (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.30% - 0.50%	0.30% - 0.50%	1,000
90-Days (Regular Fixed Deposit)	1.30%	1.31%	1,000
6 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	1.50% - 2.20%	1.50% - 2.21%	1,000
12 Months (Upfront Fixed Deposit)	2.20% - 2.40%	2.20% - 2.40%	100,000
12 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	2.25% - 2.60%	2.25% - 2.60%	1,000
24 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	2.85% - 3.20%	2.85% - 3.20%	1,000

##### GBP - British Pound

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%) (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rate (%) (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (GBP)
Call	0.00%	0.00%	2,000
30-Days (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.00%	0.00%	2,000
90-Days (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.00%	0.00%	2,000
6 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.00%-0.20%	0.00%-0.20%	2,000
12 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.00%-0.25%	0.00%-0.25%	2,000

##### ZAR - South African Rand

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%) (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rate (%) (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (ZAR)
Call	0.40%	0.40%	15,000
30-Days (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.30%	0.30%	200,000
90-Days (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.80%	0.80%	200,000
6 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	1.25%	1.25%	200,000
12 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	1.80%	1.80%	200,000

##### EUR - Euro

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%) (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rate (%) (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (EUR)
Call	0.00%	0.00%	2,000
30-Days (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.00%	0.00%	2,000
90-Days (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.00%	0.00%	2,000
6 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.00%	0.00%	2,000
12 Months (Upfront Fixed Deposit)	Not available		
12 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.00%	0.00%	2,000

##### USD - American Dollar

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%) (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rate (%) (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (USD)
Call	0.00% - 0.015%	0.00% - 0.015%	3,000
30-Days (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.00% - 0.10%	0.00% - 0.10%	3,000
90-Days (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.00% - 0.11%	0.00% - 0.11%	3,000
6 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.00% - 0.15%	0.00% - 0.15%	3,000
12 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.00% - 0.20%	0.00% - 0.20%	3,000

#### Lending Interest Rates - Personal and Priority Clients

Product	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest rate(%)
MoPR	2.40%	2.43%
Prime Lending Rate	6.51%	6.71%
Mortgage Facility	Prime + 0.50% to Prime + 6.00%	Prime + 0.77% to Prime + 6.85%
Credit Card	Up to 34.80%	Up to 34.84%
Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage, and credit cards)	Prime to Prime + 18.00%	Prime + 0.23% to Prime + 21.32%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit)	Prime+2.00%	Prime + 2.02%

Debit Interest Rate on Unauthorized Overdraft: Prime Lending Rate + 12%

The Prime Lending Rate of 6.51% as published, has been independently determined by SCBB.

1- Nominal Interest Rate: This is the real interest rate + inflation rate

2- Average Effective Interest Rate: This is the actual interest rate which can be earned on an asset over a given period of time.

Please contact our 24/7 Client Care Centre on +267 3615800 for more information.

Standard Chartered Bank is a member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana.

Terms and Conditions apply

## Communications Ministry salutes Paratus Botswana BKF route



Bruwer

THE DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY OF the Botswana Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Cecil Masiga said that the recently launched Botswana Kalahari Fiber route (BKF) is a triumph for the people of Botswana and for the country's economy. He was speaking at an event held at Paratus Botswana Head Office in Gaborone, to officially mark the opening of the BKF route. Last month, leading telecommunications and network services provider, Paratus Botswana announced that it had completed the last leg of the new Botswana Kalahari Fiber (BKF) route. Also attending the event to celebrate this connectivity breakthrough were Barney Harmse, Paratus Group Executive Chairman; Gert Duvenhage, Paratus Group Chief Operations Officer; MD of Paratus Botswana, Shawn Bruwer; and executives from BTC, Mascom and Orange.

A total of 840 kms of fiber was laid between the Namibian border and Lobatse and was activated last month. Representing an investment of approximately BWP 70 million in Botswana, the BKF is the largest significant investment in its own infrastructure by Paratus Botswana to date. The BKF completes the last leg of the

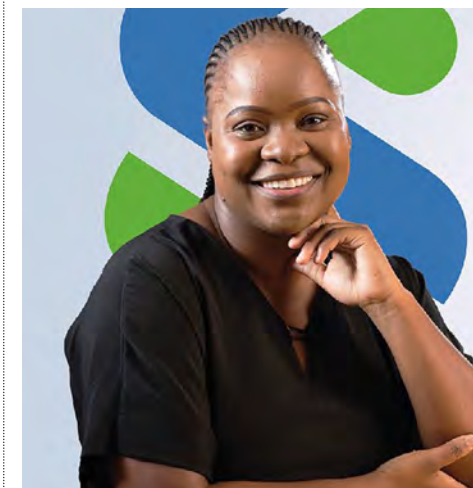
Paratus built Trans Kalahari Fiber (TKF) route which runs from Johannesburg to Swakopmund in Namibia. The new route creates the lowest latency primary transit path through Botswana and Namibia to Europe. The new BKF will connect Botswana and neighbouring countries to various international subsea cables, and to the rest of the world.

Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Communications Ministry, Cecil Masiga said at the event: "The launch of the Botswana Kalahari Fiber (BKF) route by Paratus Botswana is not just a testament to the power of innovation but also a pivotal step towards achieving our national goals as outlined in Vision 2036. In today's fast-paced world, reliable and high-speed internet connectivity is not a luxury but a necessity. It is the backbone of modern economies, a vital tool for businesses, and an essential service for our communities. The strategic endeavour by Paratus Botswana to lay an 840-kilometer fiber route from Gaborone all the way to the Namibian border, is a ground-breaking project that promises to revolutionize our digital landscape.

He also stated that "Organisations like Paratus Botswana are the pillars upon which we build our digital future. Their efforts in providing cutting-edge infrastructure and connectivity solutions play a critical role in transforming our nation. By ensuring that businesses and communities have access to reliable internet services, they empower Botswana to engage in the global digital economy, access educational resources, and improve their quality of life."

MD of Paratus Botswana, Shawn Bruwer says: "The completion of this fiber route is yet another integral intervention in our commitment to provide the highest quality network services and to the Paratus Group's overall vision to transform Africa through exceptional digital infrastructure and customer service."

## StanChart appoints Executive Director, Company Sec



Butale



Benza

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Limited wishes to announce the appointment of Ms. Tapiwa Butale as, Executive Director effective May 24, 2024. Ms. Tapiwa Butale is a seasoned financial management professional, with over 20 years of cumulative experience in Audit and Financial management. Butale, the current Chief Financial Officer, joined the Bank in 2006 as a Statutory Reporting Manager, rising through the ranks to become the Bank's Financial Controller, a position she held from April 2016 until April 2022 when she was appointed, Chief Financial Officer. She is a Chartered Accountant and a member in good standing of the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). Tapiwa is also Association of Accounting Technicians

(AAT) qualified. The Board is pleased to have Tapiwa bring her wealth of knowledge and experience, and have her serve as an Executive Director. The Board has also appointed Ms. Luzibo Benza effective May 10, 2024 as Company Secretary. Ms Luzibo Benza is an admitted Attorney with the Courts of Botswana and has gained experience in corporate commercial law, general litigation and labour laws through working as a practising attorney and as an in-house counsel. She holds a Master's Degree in Commercial Law from the University of Cape Town, Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of Botswana, a post graduate certificate in Enterprise Risk Management from Botswana Accountancy College and a postgraduate certificate on the law of banking and financial markets with the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. [bse.co.bw]



# Moapare is absa board chairman



Moapare

**A**BSA BANK BOTSWANA IS PLEASED to notify its shareholders of the appointments of Mr Cosmas Moapare as the Company's Board Chairman and Mr Kgotlayarona Ramaphane as the Company's Lead Independent Non-Executive Director with effect from Thursday, 23 May 2024, following the conclusion of the requisite regulatory approvals. This follows an interim appointment in both capacities since the resignation of the former Board Chairman in November 2023. Cosmas is a chartered accountant by profession and joined the Company's Board in March 2020 and served as the previous Lead Independent Director and Chairman of the Board Audit Committee. He has held various positions at Botswana Telecommunications Corporation, Botswana Telecommunications Authority (presently Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority), and the Local Enterprise Authority, where he was the

Deputy Chief Executive Officer. He has vast directorship experience with previous seats on the boards of Air Botswana, National Development Bank and the Finance and Risk Subcommittee of the Botswana Institute of Development Policy Analysis, as well as the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants Practice Review Committee. Kgotlayarona joined the Company's Board in August 2018 and is the Chairman of the Human Resources, Remuneration and Nominations Committee. He previously served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Public Enterprises Evaluation and Privatisation Agency and held several leadership positions in organisations such as Botswana Railways and Botswana Technology Centre. These appointments reflect the emphasis placed on intentional succession and leadership development from a Board and Management perspective, and align with the Company's strategic growth ambitions and direction. [bse.co.bw]



Kgotlayarona

## Risk Insights, BSE join forces to drive ESG excellence

**R**ISK INSIGHTS, A LEADING DATA science company specializing in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) analysis, is proud to continue its strategic partnership with the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE), a pivotal institution in the economic landscape of Botswana. Building on the success of their collaboration announced in January 2024, this ongoing partnership reaffirms their shared commitment to advancing ESG standards and promoting sustainable business practices in the region.

On May 24th, 2024, as part of this partnership, an event known as the 'BSE and Risk Insights ESG Roundtable,' themed 'Leveraging ESG Disclosures for Competitive ESG Ratings and Corporate Sustainability,' showcased the commitment of Risk Insights and BSE to promote ESG transparency and sustainability within Botswana's corporate sector. Leveraging Risk Insights' innovative ESG analytics platform, businesses listed on the BSE

will gain access to comprehensive ESG assessments and insights tailored to the unique environmental and social landscape of Botswana. The partnership aims to empower businesses to integrate ESG considerations into their decision-making processes, fostering responsible corporate citizenship and contributing to the preservation of Botswana's rich biodiversity.

Leveraging Risk Insights' innovative ESG analytics platform, businesses listed on the BSE will gain access to comprehensive ESG assessments and insights tailored to the unique environmental and social landscape of Botswana. Since the inception of the partnership, notable achievements have been reached, including the successful implementation of ESG initiatives and the expansion of ESG ratings coverage across various industries.

The partnership aims to empower businesses to integrate ESG considerations into their decision-making processes, fostering responsible corporate citizenship



Bolokwe

and contributing to the preservation of Botswana's rich biodiversity. By organizing events, conferences, and workshops, Risk Insights and BSE continue to raise awareness and educate stakeholders about the importance of ESG integration and transparency. Andrey Bogdanov, Interim Chief Executive Officer of Risk Insights, expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration, stating, "We are pleased to partner with the BSE once again to drive positive change and promote sustainable development in Botswana. By leveraging our expertise in ESG analysis, we aim to empower businesses to make informed decisions that not only drive financial performance but also contribute to the preservation of Botswana's natural heritage."

Kopano Bolokwe, Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Botswana Stock Exchange, emphasized the importance of the partnership in advancing sustainable business practices, saying, "As BSE, we recognize the critical role of responsible corporate governance and sustainable

business practices in driving sustainable economic growth and long-term value creation. Our transformative partnership with Risk Insights underscores our commitment to promoting ESG transparency and empowering businesses to integrate sustainability into their operations. The ESG Roundtable has afforded us the opportunity to promote broader ownership of this initiative by the capital markets practitioners. Our aspirations are to see listed companies, pension funds and asset managers, integrate ESG Data and Analytics, and ESG Ratings into their business and investment management processes in order to fulfill the beneficiaries' expectations that their investments should contribute to a World and a Botswana worth retiring into." Together, Risk Insights and the Botswana Stock Exchange are committed to fostering a culture of sustainability and responsible business practices in Botswana. By promoting ESG excellence, the partnership aims to contribute to the preservation of Botswana's unique natural environment and support the country's long-term economic prosperity.

### GREAT PLAINS

CONSERVING AND EXPANDING NATURAL HABITATS

## TECHNICAL PROCUREMENT OFFICER

**Job Title:** Technical Procurement Officer  
**Reports To:** Supply Chain Manager

**Function:** Procurement  
**Location:** Botswana

### PURPOSE OF THE JOB:

The purpose of this job is to identify potential suppliers and evaluating their capabilities. Negotiating contracts, pricing, and terms with vendors. Managing relationships with existing suppliers and new suppliers.

### Key Responsibility Areas

- Accepting requisitions from Camps and generating Orders for Vehicle Spares, Maintenance, Building Materials, plumbing water plants, Biogas, and Projects for GPC.
- Making sure that Orders are emailed or printed and sent to suppliers, and delivery dates are communicated to suppliers as per Camp request.
- Requesting quotations from suppliers and negotiating prices for quotes now and then.
- Sourcing alternative items and any other items within the suppliers that we don't have accounts with, by using petty cash.
- Making sure that correct items are bought all the time.
- Communicate any high amount or quantities ordered to save costs for GPC.
- Action all camp queries from GPC camps in time.
- Give timeously feedback on camp queries in a short time.
- Follow-up on credit notes of any short deliveries.
- Regular feedback to suppliers on the quality of goods we procure from them.
- Assisting in giving the correct specifications to the Warehouse coordinator so that they write the correct names for items to be sent.

- Assist by giving clarity when load sheets are done for technical and non-technical items when trucks are loaded.
- Manage HQ generator fuel usage and its services.
- Manage HQ cars services register.
- Report defects in the register attendant/control room at HQ.
- To advise on technical items to be written off as they arrive from GPC camps.
- To manage items coming from camps by using of register to know the suppliers used and to service the item.

### Required Skills and Experience:

- Diploma in Technical professional.
- Proven working experience as a Technical buyer, or Head of Technical buyer
- Knowledge of sourcing and procurement techniques on Technical items.
- Experience in negotiations and networking.
- Good knowledge of supplier or third-party management software.
- Aptitude in decision-making and working with numbers.
- Experience in collecting and analyzing data.
- Strong leadership capabilities.
- At least 3 years of Procurement experience, of which at least 3 years must be in a similar position, preferably within the Hospitality industry or Safari.

### Personal Attributes

- High attention to detail
- Able to work independently
- Self Motivated

**CLOSING DATE: 15TH OF JUNE 2024.** Interested applicants should email a cover letter and updated CV to the below listed email addresses. The subject heading of the email should be written as: **Third Party Contracting Manager**  
To: [patience@greatplainsconservation.com](mailto:patience@greatplainsconservation.com) or [opportunities@greatplainsconservation.com](mailto:opportunities@greatplainsconservation.com)

THE REMUNERATION PACKAGE WILL BE OFFERED ACCORDING TO EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE. WE DO NOT ACCEPT HAND DELIVERIES. PLEASE NOTE, DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUMES OF APPLICATIONS ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SHORTLISTED WILL BE CONTACTED.

WWW.GREATPLAINSCONSERVATION.COM

### GREAT PLAINS

CONSERVING AND EXPANDING NATURAL HABITATS

## WAREHOUSE AND LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

**Job Title:** Warehouse and Logistics Coordinator  
**Reports To:** Supply Chain Manager

**Department:** Procurement  
**Location:** Botswana

### PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The purpose of this role is to oversee an organization's inventory control and manage Warehouse Administration.

### Key Responsibility Areas

- Manage the warehouse and logistics team under the Procurement department.
- Ensure a high level of performance at all times is adhered to in the warehouse.
- Manage team attendance register, by communicating with Supply Chain Manager so that you are not short-staffed in the warehouse.
- Ensure all deliveries of goods delivered to GPC for all our camps are accounted for by any given time.
- Ensure deliveries are allocated to the correct camp by tagging with the correct camp color code allocated to GPC.
- Ensure quality and quantity of all goods delivered are correct to specifications as per the end user requests.
- Ensure storage of goods received in line with requirements, as per GPC warehouse operating procedures.
- Ensure the correct quantity is received against the invoice and order every time.
- Ensure discrepancies are always communicated to procurement officers.
- Ensure all goods are stored correctly while awaiting transport to the end destination, GPC camps.
- Ensure deliveries to camps are done on time as per the requested times and dates by the camps.

- Ensure load sheets are done and signed off with all items dispatched to GPC camps
- Ensure contracts are in place with all logistic suppliers for the movement of goods, including insurance.
- Managing truck movement to the concessions with assistance from concession managers.
- Ensure load sheets for return legs are received from logistics suppliers and signed off at all the time and items addressed to individuals are communicated immediately.
- Ensure stock movement is managed in place so that missing stock can be traced at any given time.

### Required Skills and Experience:

- Diploma in Purchase and Supply Chain Management
- Knowledge of using Procurement systems
- Knowledge of Excel.
- At least 5 years of Procurement experience, of which at least 5 years must be in a similar position, preferably within the Hospitality industry.
- Knowledge of reconciling Procurement systems against Accounts systems.
- Strong leadership capabilities

### Personal Attributes

- High attention to detail
- Able to work independently
- Self Motivated

**CLOSING DATE: 15TH OF JUNE 2024.** Interested applicants should email a cover letter and updated CV to the below listed email addresses. The subject heading of the email should be written as: **Third Party Contracting Manager - patience@greatplainsconservation.com** or [opportunities@greatplainsconservation.com](mailto:opportunities@greatplainsconservation.com)

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WWW.GREATPLAINSCONSERVATION.COM



# DBGSS Academy hosts the 7th Cohort Learnership Programme Graduation

De Beers Global Sightholder Sales (DBGSS) Academy holds a graduation ceremony for its seventh cohort Learnership. The six-month rough diamond sorting and evaluation development course offers qualified candidates a unique opportunity to earn significant job experience, skills, and knowledge in Botswana's diamond industry. The programme consists of four months of technical training on the sorting bench, followed by two months of experiential learning inside the organization. The Academy is devoted to developing not only technical skills, but also the overall professional capabilities of its participants. In addition to diamond-specific training, DBGSS Academy provides comprehensive soft skills training for its learners. The Academy provides external clients with a range of courses, including Rough Diamond Sorting (one month online, two weeks classroom), Polished Grading (three months online, one week classroom), and the 4C's Course (one-day classroom instruction). At present, the Academy has graduated 60



students, with a 92% placement record at De Beers. The program is critical in advancing the De Beers Group beneficiation strategy and developing a pipeline of trained alumni for possible employment in the diamond business. "At DBGSS Academy, we are dedicated to training the next generation of diamond industry experts and advancing diamond beneficiation in Botswana. Our learnership curriculum not only provides

technical skills but also prepares students for successful careers in the diamond business. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of training delivery, ensuring consistency, and fostering excellence across our academies in Botswana, South Africa, and Namibia," said Thabile Moipolai, Senior Vice President People, De Beers Group. Tshidiso Ramatlaping, a Graduate of the DeBeers

Global Sight Holder Sales Academy Learnership Program of 2024 highlighted, "The De Beers Global Sightholder Sales Learnership program has provided invaluable training on the entire diamond value chain, from mining to jewellery production. While Botswana are aware of the economic significance of diamond sales, few have had the opportunity to work directly

with rough diamonds. We, as a cohort, are deeply grateful to the DBGSS Academy for their unwavering commitment, dedication, and devotion. This journey of excellence has profoundly impacted our lives, and today's achievements are a testament to this. We eagerly anticipate a brighter future, enriched by the knowledge and experiences gained through this program." The Botswana Qualification Authority (BQA) has accredited DBGSS Academy as a conventional Educational Training Provider (ETP) and it is certified to the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems

standard. The Academy's diamond sorting training is provided by highly competent and experienced instructors, assuring the highest level of knowledge. Furthermore, DBGSS Academy is associated with the Institute of Diamonds (IoD) in London. As a Centre of Excellence, DBGSS Academy assists other academies by performing ISO 9001 internal audits, moderating, developing training materials, and maintaining consistency and standardization of training delivery throughout the Midstream.

## American Express, Ecobank Group sign expansion pact



**A**merican Express and Ecobank Group, the leading pan-African financial services Group, announced an agreement to significantly expand American Express Card acceptance in twenty-one countries across Africa. Through this agreement, American Express Card Members will be able to use their Cards in twelve new countries: Burundi, Central African Republic, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Togo. Additionally, the number of merchants accepting American Express Card payments will increase in nine further countries where American Express acceptance already exists: Cape Verde, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Nigeria, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. Acceptance in these countries will be rolled out over the next 12 months. Ecobank will also provide ATM acceptance for American Express in all countries where they operate in Africa (with the exception of Cape Verde). The agreement, which was announced at the African Development Bank Group Annual Meetings 2024, will strengthen the American Express global network by increasing the number of locations where American Express Card Members can use their Cards in Sub-Saharan Africa. The agreement will also enable merchants to

attract business from a new customer base of American Express consumer, business and corporate Card Members in Africa and around the world. "We are delighted to welcome American Express to our network, reinforcing our commitment to offering innovative payments solutions for customers across Africa," said Jeremy Awori, CEO of Ecobank Group. "This agreement will benefit American Express Card Members, providing them with greater choice and will help merchants to grow their businesses. It also highlights the scalability of Ecobank's unrivalled borderless banking ecosystem and network across Africa." Mohammed Badi, President of Global Network Services at American Express, commented: "This agreement with Ecobank is a major milestone for American Express acceptance across Africa as it will expand our presence in sub-Saharan Africa to 42 countries from 30 at present. With Ecobank's support, we look forward to providing merchants in these countries access to higher-spending American Express Card Members both in Africa and from around the world." This collaboration aligns with Ecobank's Growth, Transformation and Returns strategic agenda. Ecobank is committed to offering its retail customers innovative and easy-to-use financial solutions through its unified banking platform across Africa.



## Stanbic Bank

### Stanbic Bank Botswana DEPOSIT, LENDING AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT INTEREST RATES June 2024

Stanbic Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate (SBBPLR) - 6.51%



#### BWP Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance
Current	NIL	NIL	P50
Youth Account	2.00%	2.02%	P50
Call	0.05% - 1.00%	0.05% - 1.00%	P10,000
Premium Call	0.80% - 1.80%	0.80% - 1.81%	P50,000
32 Day Notice	0.25% - 1.00%	0.25% - 1.00%	P1,000
Savings (Pure Save)	0.25% - 0.75%	0.25%-0.75%	P50
Koketso Savings	2.40%	2.43%	P100
Matshelo Savings	0.50% - 1.50%	0.50% - 1.51%	P500
Maitlamo Savings (12 - 36 months)	2.30% - 2.80%	2.32% - 2.84%	P100
91 day fixed deposit * <sup>2</sup>	1.90%	1.92%	P1,000
6 month fixed deposit <sup>2</sup>	2.10% - 2.30%	2.12% - 2.32%	P1,000
12 month fixed deposit <sup>2</sup>	2.20% - 2.35%	2.22%-2.38%	P1,000
24 month fixed deposit <sup>2</sup>	2.55% - 2.80%	2.58% - 2.84%	P1,000
Over 24 month fixed deposit <sup>2</sup>	2.80% - 3.30%	2.84% - 3.35%	P1,000
Stanbic Bank Prime Lending Rate	6.51%		

\* Reference rate  
<sup>2</sup> Rate applies to Flexi - Access Account  
 All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

#### Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)
MoPR	2.40%	2.40%
SBBPLR Lending Rate	6.51%	6.51%
Mortgage Facility	SBBPLR +2% - SBBPLR + 5%	SBBPLR +2.02% - + SBBPLR 5.12%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit lines)	SBBPLR +5% - SBBPLR +12%	SBBPLR +5.12% - SBBPLR +12.68%
Credit Card	28% - 32%	31.89% - 32.14%
Lease Loans	SBBPLR +2% - SBBPLR +5%	SBBPLR +2.02% - SBBPLR +5.12%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	SBBPLR +8% - SBBPLR +20%	SBBPLR +8.30% - SBBPLR +21.94%
Other Long-Term Loans	NIL	NIL

\*Scheme related lending is per the scheme contract and is negotiable.  
 All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

#### Foreign Currency Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
<b>SA RAND</b>	<b>SA RAND</b>	<b>SA RAND</b>	<b>SA RAND</b>
Current	0.0%	0.0%	100.00
Call	0.00%-1.75%	0%-1.76%	500.00
1 Month	1.50%-2.50%	1.51%-2.53%	1,000.00
2 Months	1.60%-2.60%	1.61%-2.63%	1,000.00
3 Months	1.70%-2.70%	1.71%-2.73%	1,000.00
6 Months	1.80%-2.80%	1.81%-2.84%	1,000.00
12 Months	2.20%-3.20%	2.22%-3.25%	1,000.00
Over 24 Months	2.40%-3.50%	2.43%-3.56%	1,000.00
<b>U.S. DOLLAR</b>	<b>U.S. DOLLAR</b>	<b>U.S. DOLLAR</b>	<b>U.S. DOLLAR</b>
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.05%-1.00%	0.05%-1.00%	100.00
1 Month	0.25%-0.35%	0.25%-0.35%	100.00
2 Months	0.35%-0.42%	0.35%-0.42%	100.00
3 Months	0.37%-0.45%	0.37%-0.45%	100.00
6 Months	0.40%-0.60%	0.40%-0.60%	100.00
12 Months	0.45%-0.75%	0.45%-0.75%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.75%-1.25%	0.75%-1.26%	100.00
<b>BRITISH POUND</b>	<b>BRITISH POUND</b>	<b>BRITISH POUND</b>	<b>BRITISH POUND</b>
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.05%	0.05%	100.00
1 Month	0.05%-0.07%	0.05%-0.07%	100.00
2 Months	0.07%-0.09%	0.07%-0.09%	100.00
3 Months	0.09%-0.10%	0.09%-0.10%	100.00
6 Months	0.10%-0.15%	0.10%-0.15%	100.00
12 Months	0.20%-0.30%	0.20%-0.30%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.25%-0.40%	0.25%-0.40%	100.00
<b>EURO</b>	<b>EURO</b>	<b>EURO</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
1 Month	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
2 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
3 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
6 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
12 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00

All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Member of Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

## MASCOM launches MYZAKAPAY: Transforming Digital Payments

**M**ASCOM, A LEADING DIGITAL services provider in Botswana, is excited to introduce MyZakaPay, a groundbreaking digital payment solution service designed to transform the payment experience for customers and merchants alike. MyZakaPay offers a user-friendly and widely accessible platform that allows users to make seamless transactions for goods and services directly from their phones. This innovative service is currently available through USSD, and other channels to follow. MyZakaPay marks a significant leap towards financial inclusion.



Matenge

In a world increasingly driven by digital transactions, Mascom recognises the importance of financial inclusion for all individuals, especially the unbanked and underbanked population. MyZakaPay bridges the gap between those without access to traditional banking services and the advantages of electronic transactions, empowering them to actively participate in the modern economy with the added benefits of convenience and security. "We are thrilled to introduce MyZakaPay to the market," said Ms Boipelo Matenge, Mascom Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, "as a Business and Community leader, Mascom's journey is marked by numerous milestones in the history of communications in Botswana. MyZakaPay marks a milestone with a revolutionary advancement to our MyZaka offering. With this digital payment solution, we promise to strengthen the digital payment ecosystem and afford Botswana the benefits of being a cashless and cardless society. MyZakaPay is not limited to specific industries; it covers a broad spectrum of merchant categories, making it a versatile solution for various needs. Customers can use MyZakaPay for a wide range of purposes, including paying salaries for field workers, settling bills for water and

electricity, facilitating school fee payments, purchasing goods and services, and streamlining payments for health services, among others. To promote widespread adoption and usage of MyZakaPay, Mascom is collaborating with a wide range of merchants, both large and small, to ensure extensive coverage across the country. By partnering with various businesses, including retailers, food vendors, and service providers, Mascom aims to establish MyZakaPay as a widely accepted and trusted payment method in the market. Mascom invites the public to experience the future of digital payments with MyZakaPay and join the movement towards financial inclusion. The service is set to empower individuals and businesses, fostering a more connected and prosperous society. For Merchants, MyZakaPay provides for a self on-boarding process through the \*167# USSD while for customers, it's readily available on the MyZaka \*168# USSD for them to transact. For customers new to the service, visit your nearest Mascom MyZaka Agent, Kitsong Centers and Mascom Shops to register.



# NORTHERN TRADE FAIR 2024

# 28TH

## Business Botswana promotes Sustainable Innovation

NEO NWAKO\*

IT IS MY SINCERE DELIGHT TO WELCOME you to the 28th Northern trade fair, and my 1st as the president of Business Botswana. Your presence here underscores your high regard for Trade and investment and your commitment to advancing wealth and economic growth in Botswana.

Hosting the fair in Francistown is strategic as the Northern region is endowed with abundant natural resources, a skilled workforce, and strategic geographic positioning, making it a prime destination for investment and economic development.

Our Vision at Business Botswana is to build a diverse, vibrant, and robust private sector. Therefore, the Northern Trade Fair provides 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.

Globally, Small, and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) contribute significantly to their economic growth, and likewise in Botswana, it contributes to at least 14% of our GDP as of 2022 (source LEA). We must, therefore, build structures that support their growth. Leveraging on today's platform, I implore you, BB members and the entire private sector to review incentives that will improve access to capital for SMEs. Government is a few steps ahead of us through the creation of programmes such as Chema Chema, and others.

Of the 2500 businesses we represent, 85% are SMEs, and therefore its growth and capacitation remain a key priority. This is a testament to our deliberate efforts through the various programmes 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. Since its launch, we have conducted countrywide capacitation programmes for over 300 businesses in the horticulture, business development, and tourism sectors. This training was conducted in partnership with the Botswana Horticulture Council (BoHoCo), and The Hospitality and Tourism Association of Botswana (HATAB). It would be a remiss of me not to inform you that the development of our new 5-year strategic plan is almost complete and aimed at fostering long-term economic development. This blueprint will be geared towards nurturing an inward-looking,



The Patriot Media group won the Top Award at the 28th Northern trade fair ahead of other media houses that exhibited



and stakeholder-centric organization that will drive economic growth in Botswana, with a strong emphasis on evidence-based policy research, technology adoption, cohesive partnerships, and robust value-added services. The Northern Trade Fair serves as evidence of our progress toward realizing this vision. We have at least over 120 exhibitors participating this year, from across all sectors of the economy.

With newly crafted vision and mission statements, and for each strategic thrust, we will be steadfast in our advocacy for a private sector that not only plays a leading

role but also significantly contributes to the country's GDP by creating opportunities that propel economic growth and job creation. Your diverse exhibitions at events like these reaffirm our collective pursuit of a private sector-led economy.

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. I, therefore

urge you to take advantage of these services



The Patriot team comprising Marketing Supervisor Ogomoditse Thase [R] and Reporter Amanda David

to drive your businesses forward. Allow me, Director of Ceremonies to add that membership affiliation is paramount for organizations and individual enterprises alike, as it unlocks access to these invaluable benefits and enables us, to actively advocate for policies that will drive a private sector-led development model for our economy.

After all, a thriving business environment depends on how we engage the government, as policymakers, they get direction from

us, the private sector on the business environment we want. Therefore, please continue supporting us, to grow and facilitate businesses even beyond the Botswana borders.

This year's theme "Sustainable Innovation: Building a greener tomorrow," highlights our commitment to harnessing the untapped potential of this vibrant and dynamic region while prioritizing environmental sustainability. It is imperative

to recognize that in the pursuit of profit, we must not neglect our responsibility to care for the environment, which is rapidly deteriorating due to business activities. Therefore, our current objective is to foster business ideas that are environmentally friendly and contribute positively to our shared future. We look forward to hearing from our guest speaker, the Honourable Minister on innovations, and sustainable solutions the government is implementing, particularly under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Allow me to reiterate our dedication to advocating for a business-friendly environment that will foster sustainable and lasting relationships amongst all stakeholders both locally, and nationally. We will continue partnering with the Francistown leadership to amplify economic growth in the region.

Before I close, I would like to urge and encourage you to support and contribute to the 17th National Business Conference (NBC), happening from the 25th – 28th of August 2024, at Adansonia Hotel, Francistown. The Conference brings together 500 senior government officials, business leaders, development partners, NGOs, and Civil Societies to discuss ideas to make Botswana internationally competitive. The conference will therefore explore practical reforms to accelerate Botswana's transformation toward a high-income economy. His Excellency, the President, will officiate under the theme "Invigorating Economic Transformation Through the Private Sector." The theme aims to ignite innovative actions to accelerate economic transformation through private sector participation.

Given this, we request your support through the registration of delegates, sponsorships, and technical support to deliver a successful conference. Additionally, the conference contributes to the Meetings, Incentives, Conference, and Events (MICE) strategy to propel Francistown as a City to live, work, stay, and most importantly, invest in.

In closing, I would like to once again urge all our guests, exhibitors, and the public to embrace the plethora of opportunities presented by the fair to extensively engage, connect and broaden your business endeavour. May this trade fair be a fruitful and enriching experience for everyone involved.

\*Business Botswana President

## Collaboration essential to drive sustainable innovation

FIDELIS MOLAO\*

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE for me to officiate at the 28th Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair. An initiative whose primary objective is to bring together businesses from across sectors to enhance not only their business and trading skills, but also to provide a platform for them to market themselves to optimise growth opportunities, through innovative solutions.

It is important to realise that trade fairs are the apt medium for doing business today, and in a special manner, I would like to acknowledge Business Botswana for persisting in ensuring this ideal platform to promote products and services to a wider range of audience, takes place annually. Equally important, Francistown is an ideal and central meeting place for industry professionals from different sectors to share their creative ideas and business initiatives for promoting creative content and services.

As we gather here today under the theme "Sustainable Innovation: Building a Greener Tomorrow," we embark on a journey of discovery, collaboration, and action towards a more sustainable future for generations to come. In a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges, the imperative for sustainable innovation has never been clearer. Climate change, resource depletion, and pollution, demand urgent attention and decisive action. However, amidst these challenges lies an opportunity—a chance to harness human ingenuity, creativity, and technology to forge a path towards a more sustainable and resilient future. Sustainable innovation is crucial for building a greener tomorrow. As our planet faces increasing environmental challenges it is essential to prioritize sustainable practices and technologies in order to mitigate the impact of climate change, reduce pollution and



Molao

preserve our natural resources for future generations. The strategies in place by my Ministry and the Government of Botswana will be shared with you at a later stage in my speech. Collaboration between governments and businesses is essential in driving sustainable innovation forward. By working together we can accelerate the development and adoption of sustainable technologies and create green jobs that contribute to preserving and restoring the environment.

Director of Ceremonies, the Government is proud to have Botswana here today as innovators, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and stakeholders from across industries to showcase their cutting-edge initiatives, products, and solutions that prioritize sustainability. From renewable energy technologies to eco-friendly products, from circular economy models to sustainable Agriculture, each exhibitor represents a

beacon of hope in our collective quest for a greener tomorrow in our country as envisioned in our Vision 2036.

In fact, we can say it is envisioned globally through the (Sustainable Development Goal) SDG Pillar 3, which speaks to having a sustainable environment, ensuring sustainable and optimal use of natural resources to transform the economy and uplift the livelihoods of Botswana. This is also aligned to the global agenda for sustainable development and the principles of the Africa Agenda 2063.

Distinguished guests, it is vital to note that sustainable innovation is not just about developing new technologies or products; it is about fundamentally reimagining our systems, processes, and mind-sets. Mindset change as presented by our President, His Excellency, Dr. Mokgweetsi E.K Masisi, requires us to challenge conventional



Exhibitors at the fair

wisdom, embrace collaboration, and prioritize longterm sustainability over short-term gains. It necessitates a holistic approach that considers not only environmental impact but also social equity and economic prosperity.

As you already know, the agriculture sector is dualistic, as in we have subsistence/traditional farmers and then we have commercial farmers. Botswana is dominated by subsistence farmers, whom we all know have helped build the country and raise its people, that includes you, me, and everyone else in the country. The sector is highly reliant on rainfall, which are very unreliable, erratic and generally low. You may recall that we are currently going through a drought season and it has not been a pleasant journey to date.

The sector, despite going through severe drought is one of the strategic sectors for

economic diversification, employment creation and income generation. In addition to these, there is great amount of policy support from things like the horticulture import ban, VAT exemption on agricultural implements, and last but not least, liberalisation of the meat sector through the establishment of the Meat Industry Regulatory Authority.

There are various investment opportunities available in the agriculture sector. Value addition in terms of processing and packaging are one such available opportunities, investing in the value chains available. Through the use of the various support programmes such as the recently launched Thuo Letlotlo, Temo Letlotlo, and the AIS, just to mention a few, one can indeed contribute to a sustainably innovative and green tomorrow.

I therefore: Challenge and encourage

Botswana to play an active role in green economy, for example, each one of us here must plant a tree, every yard to have a backyard garden, and so forth; Encourage sustainable farming, and its benefits.

As we explore the exhibits and engage in discussions over the coming days, let us not forget the urgency of our mission. The decisions we make today will shape the world of tomorrow. Therefore, let us commit ourselves to action, embracing sustainable practices in our businesses, communities, and daily lives.

To the innovators and entrepreneurs, I urge you to continue pushing the boundaries of what is seemingly impossible and make it possible, to never settle for the status quo, and to always strive for excellence in sustainability. Your efforts have the power to inspire change and transform industries. To Business Botswana, I call upon you to continue to engage with Government offices, so that we work together to create an enabling environment for sustainable innovation, to enact policies that incentivise green practices, and to foster collaboration between public and private sectors for the greater good.

And to all attendees here today, I invite you to not only witness the innovations on display but to also become agents of change in your own spheres of influence. Whether you are a business leader, a consumer, or an educator, each of us has a role to play in building a greener tomorrow.

In closing, let us remember that the journey towards sustainability is not a sprint but a marathon—a journey that requires perseverance, determination, and collective action. Together, let us seize this opportunity to create a future where innovation and sustainability go hand in hand, and where our planet and country thrives for generations to come.

\*Minister of Agriculture



# Business Botswana drive SMEs capacitation

**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 engaging 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 Sebebo 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.

Sebebo 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.

## BHC provide sustainable housing solutions



GOITSEONE SEBEGO\*

**I**T IS AN HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE FOR TO be standing before you this afternoon to speak briefly about Botswana Housing Corporation and our partnership with Business Botswana this year. I also thought it would be a great opportunity to re-introduce myself as the new BHC Regional Director - North.

At BHC our mandate is to revolutionize provision of sustainable housing solutions through innovation and exceptional customer service. The theme of this year's Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair speaks directly to us in terms of being intentional and prioritizing innovation and sustainability in general, while also promoting social equity and inclusivity. As a Corporation with an immense responsibility of housing Batswana, we are committed to contributing towards building sustainable communities, while also creating cutting-edge housing solutions that not only meet the needs of today but also anticipate the challenges of tomorrow.

I will quickly move to highlight three of our strategic areas aligned to this year's theme to demonstrate our commitment towards building a better Botswana;

**Innovation:** We are cognizant of the fact that sustainable housing solutions are crucial for addressing environmental challenges, promoting energy efficiency, and enhancing the resilience of our communities. To this end the Corporation has made great strides to ensure that green technology initiatives are incorporated in the business. The use of eco-friendly and locally sourced building materials such as the Kalahari sand brick is one such example. 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.

We believe in continuous improvement and relentless innovation. We recently launched a staff innovation initiative within the Corporation, with a view to foster a culture of creativity among our staff community.

**Sustainability:** Our commitment to sustainability drives everything we do right from carrying out environmental impact assessments before construction of our projects. We strive to minimize negative impact to the environment by structuring our layouts to preserve some indigenous trees/ vegetation in our plots. For instance in Kazungula in the Chobe District, we partnered with the Department of Forestry to ensure that our contractors do not destroy some of the tree species found in those areas.

**Customer centricity and stakeholder engagement:** Our customers and the communities we serve are at the heart of what we do. Without them, we will not survive as a crucial housing arm of the Government. First and foremost, we prioritize understanding their needs, which enables us to deliver better products and services. We believe in continuous stakeholder and community engagement to build long-lasting relationships based on trust and satisfaction. With the establishment of new districts in Botswana, we have found it rather imperative to engage various local communities to better understand their housing needs. To this end, we have commenced developments comprising 30 houses in Rakops in the Boteti District, 14 houses in Nata in Tutume District and 9 houses in Matsilotje. More developments are planned to commence in this financial year in Lethlakane, Pilane, Gaborone, Tsabong and many other areas across the length and breadth of our beautiful country.

I wish to invite all of you to make a stop at our stall in the main hall here at the Business Botswana Showgrounds to learn more about our product and service offerings. My team in Francistown is also available to answer any inquiries relating to housing needs. We are at your service even beyond the Fair.

**\*REGIONAL DIRECTOR - NORTH, MS. GOITSEONE SEBEGO ON THE OCCASION OF A LUNCHEON FOR THE 2024 BUSINESS BOTSWANA NORTHERN TRADE FAIR IN FRANCISTOWN ON THURSDAY MAY 23RD 2024**



# Botswana to host 2nd International Ombud Expo

**T**he office of the Ombudsman under the leadership of Advocate Stephen B. Tiroyakgosi will host the Second International Ombud Expo in Gaborone in July 2024 where delegates from over 100 countries all over the world are expected to attend. The Expo is expected to bring over 500 Ombud offices, human rights bodies, grievance handlers, integrity organizations, related oversight and governance institutions to exhibit and showcase their role, operation and performance impact.

The four-day expo which will be running from the 29th of July to the 2nd of August will facilitate one on one interaction and sharing of experiences, offer firsthand insight for policy makers, legislators, corporate leaders, organization managers and professionals on the role of the ombudsman and related oversight and regulatory bodies in tackling wide ranging governance problems, righting injustices, managing conflicts and boosting performance and productivity of governments and organizations.

Legal Investigator in the Francistown Ombudsman Office, Ms Thato Mguni pointed out that the Expo is open to everyone and further encouraged Botswana entities or representatives to register as delegates or exhibitors. Ms Mguni also encouraged members of the public to visit exhibition stalls in order to learn more about oversight institutions and their services.

The office of the Ombudsman participated at the annual Business Botswana Northern Trade fair 2024 last week where Ms Mguni noted that it was an opportune time to sensitize and teach members of the public about their mandate. The Ombudsman office was initially established to investigate issues of maladministration, but in July last year, it was also mandated to deal with human rights issues.

The Ombudsman investigates maladministration within government institutions as well as parastatals and any member of the public can report maladministration cases to any

ombudsman office. With respect to violations of constitutionally enshrined human rights, the mandate extends to private entities.

"We are here at the trade fair to make members of the public aware of the human rights mandate; there is a need to hold businesses accountable for any violation of fundamental rights they might be perpetrating against their employees or customers. Part of our mandate is to sensitize and teach members of the public about their fundamental rights," she added.

In line with the theme 'Sustainable Innovation; Building a Greener Tomorrow' the Ombudsman office has introduced a new computerized Case Management System, which basically means the Ombudsman office is going paperless.

"We are going digital, most if not all our cases will be on a system which will allow easy access to information. Soon members of the public will be able to lodge complaints and open cases

without physically visiting the office by either phone calls or emails. Batswana should also feel free to come to our offices, because 'we will listen when no one else will,'" Ms Mguni said.

Currently with offices in Maun, Tsabong, Gaborone and Francistown to help members of the public, the Ombudsman intends to introduce satellite offices in remote areas. Ms Mguni further emphasized that there was a need for people to differentiate between the ombudsman and the DCEC, which deals with corruption while the ombudsman focuses on maladministration and human rights.

She however noted that respect for human rights, good public administration and the absence of corruption all leads to the existence of good governance. Further that the office of the Ombudsman and the DCEC are all oversight institutions working towards a common purpose of transparency, accountability and good governance.





# Botswana Housing Corporation spread wings

Since the expansion of Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC) mandate in 2012 to spearhead and be responsible for all Government housing initiatives, the parastatal has been building and increasing its footprint across the country.

With the recent establishment of fully fledged local districts councils, Botswana Housing Corporation is preparing to go in, providing housing needs for public officers and the general public in the new districts.

Exhibiting at the just ended Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair hosted under the theme Sustainable Innovation; Building a Greener Tomorrow, BHC Manager, Corporate Communications, Mr. Tebogo Mmokele said "We will be carrying out targeted marketing initiatives in all the new districts, to establish their housing demands as we expect more people particularly public officers to move out to the new districts."

As a partner and exhibitor at the trade fair, BHC's goal was to introduce to the public a number of development projects which the entity has lined up in Gaborone, Pilane, Tsabong, Rakops, Kazungula and Matlapana in Maun.

BHC, which was established 53 years ago, is currently constructing two projects in Gaborone Block 7, Sebaga Estate situated close to Limkokwing and Botho Universities comprise of 192 units of 2 bedroomed units dedicated to the youth scheme and a total of 126 non-youth units.

In Maun, a project of 100 houses dubbed the Ohanja Estate will commence during the current financial year. The project consists of low, medium and high income houses whereas in Kazungula, a project dubbed Unzovu Estate is ongoing, with 212 stand-alone housing units under construction also comprising of low, medium and high cost houses.

Mmokele also

highlighted that they will be starting yet another housing development in Pilane in the Kgatleng district of 200 houses this financial year.

"All these initiatives are to encourage home ownership among Batswana and to alleviate the acute shortage of accommodation in major urban and per-urban areas," he added.

BHC also has other housing development targeted at low income earners such as the 30 houses in Rakops and 14 in Nata villages and as the financial year progress construction will start in Letlhakane for the same purpose. Mmokele also noted that for the coming months, BHC will be engaged in several stakeholder forums to sensitize the public and potential clients about the various housing products available and how the Corporation plans to assist Batswana in becoming homeowners.

In line with this year's theme at the BBN trade fair and the ever-changing ecosystem and to promote innovation, BHC in partnership with BiTRI has piloted a housing project in Tsabong using a brick made from local Kalahari sand. Mmokele emphasized that the Corporation is open to alternative building material to compliment the

conventional brick and mortar.

"Housing is a capital intensive business, and as BHC we are actively looking out for alternatives, in order to lower the costs of building. So we are willing to partner with Batswana innovators in this regard. In the communities BHC establishes infrastructure; developments such as roads, sewage lines and water infrastructure follow. Going forward we will be installing solar streetlights as well," he added.

BHC encourages Batswana to invest in property and home ownership, and considering the number of housing development in the pipeline, this will ensure Batswana secure their future through homeownership.







# Bank of Botswana goes green

Leading the industry by example, the central bank of Botswana (BoB) has made impressive strides in their efforts to becoming more environmentally aware and eco-friendly. The regulator and mother of banks, as it is usually referred to, recently participated at the Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair in Francistown where the Bank scooped third position in the parastatal category with Water Utilities Corporation and Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority taking position one and two, respectively.

The primary objective of the Bank is to achieve price stability; that is, making sure that inflation (the rate at which the prices for goods and services change over time) remains low, stable and predictable. The Bank also contributes to the stability of the financial system and foster and maintain a stable, sound and competitive market based financial system.

In line with this year exhibition's theme, Sustainable Innovation; Building a Greener Tomorrow, it is evident that the country's central bank is on the right track. It has as such, remodelled its headquarters building to be adaptable to the futuristic green technology which earned it a 6 - star Green Building design rating in 2022. The

sustainable building boasts of the following elements; water saving mechanisms (installation of efficient water closets, urinals and tap fixtures); waste management (stripping out of old buildings and making materials available to the market through reuse or re-cycling, use of recyclable biodegradable meal containers in the staff cafeteria and providing waste containers that separate collected waste); and energy-efficiency (LED lighting only, sensors to control light switches and solar panels installed on all rooftops to generate renewable energy). Another sustainable effort by the Bank is the installation of a borehole at the Bank to supply water to the xeriscaped gardens. In addition, the Bank has embraced innovation to keep up with technological advancement to ensure a more agile, scalable, efficient and secure services. For example, the Bank has reduced print of its publications such as the Bank of Botswana Annual Report and Monetary Policy Statement Report, launched a digital library and also implemented the Electronic Documents & Records Management System (EDRMS), a system which helps to handle electronic documents and records.

To showcase innovation at the trade fair, the Bank used a QR code tag that required the use of a smart phone to scan and access the banks numerous publications as well as its website in place of the

publications and booklets that were previously given to the public at trade fairs for public education purposes. One of the Bank's stall managers at the trade fair, Ms Keamogetse Ramadi highlighted that it is important to exhibit at the trade fair so as to increase brand visibility and, exposure as well as to build relationships with stakeholders.

Ms Ramadi further indicated that the Bank participates at the expo every year to teach Batswana about the Bank in general, Botswana currency security features and the importance of handling the banknotes with care. She further emphasized that the exhibition is an opportunity to teach and help Batswana differentiate between authentic and fake banknotes that might be in circulation.

In terms of turnout, the Bank stall gets an impressive turn out every year, evidence that more public education on the Bank's mandate and functions is required. Apart from exhibiting at the trade fair, the central bank continues to make efforts to educate the public such as appearing on local radio and television stations as well as school outreach, malls and other public spaces to drive the Bank's message. The Bank also intends to reach different councils across the country in efforts to push the public education drive by educating community leaders.





# LEA apprentices shine at Northern Trade Fair 2024



**A**t this year's dose of the annual Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair held in Francistown last week, Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) housed a number of its apprentices to help them sharpen their marketing and client relations skills, which they did exceptionally.

Testament to LEA's support and guidance of local SME's, some apprentices were awarded in their various categories. In the manufacturing category, Bloom Sanitary Pads was awarded first position whereas Fasteners Hub came in second, both protégés of the authority as well as Chenin Blanc under the horticulture category who scooped position one.

Calvin Motswaborwa, a Business Consultant under the Market Access division at LEA acknowledged that the awards their clients were given would give them the confidence to run their business with the knowledge that their businesses are appreciated outside of LEA.

Motswaborwa also highlighted that LEA clients are faced with a challenge of market access in the day to day running of their businesses; their products are snubbed by locals because Batswana still prefer import products over locally made products. He also noted that it is unfortunate that they are not

given the same opportunity by consumers to prosper as products from outside the country.

In its continued efforts to enable small businesses LEA, through platforms such as the northern trade fair, gives its clients the opportunity to explore markets on behalf of their brands as well as presenting to them the opportunity to interact with other industry players, in order to be able to compete within their various industries. At the trade fair we normally facilitate business to business meetings to help them engage and learn from other businesses.

At the authority's stall this year, LEA housed a several companies under the manufacturing category and invited established retail and hardware businesses to engage with the manufacturers so as to foster business relationships.

Motswaborwa further noted that LEA's clients participating at the trade fair helps the businesses test their products and allow the public to scrutinize products and give relevant feedback adding that the feedback clients get allows them to improve quality of the products if need be.

"We aware that there is a worry that products that are produced locally are of low quality, through the authority's interventions clients are assisted to meet required standards by BOBS and other entities. We ensure that our client's products are products that Batswana can accept and utilize," he added.

We give clients and mentorship in issues of marketing and sales. We teach them how to deal with a lead and how to follow it up as well as skills on closing a deal. We ensure they can stand on their own and how to conduct proper sales pitches to potential clients.







# I-Six Logistics, a multi-cultured organization

I-Six Logistics is a corporate education, training and consultancy entity that drives its mission and vision under its subsidiaries: I-Six Training and Research Institute (ISTR) and I-Six Capital Enterprises (ISCE).

The institute specializes in providing focused competencies through systems development, organizational and human capital development for management and technical skills and is the link between organizations and their clients-connecting service delivery, accountability, transparency and good governance. I-Six Logistics works with various organizations, companies and individual experts in providing hands-on solutions to help solve day to day operational challenges whilst bringing change in a sustainable, effective and efficient manner.

I-Six Logistics not only operates in Botswana but has a branch in Lesotho dubbed I-Six Logistics Lesotho which currently offers research consultancy services to different organizations in Lesotho through its diverse experts. Even thrilling news, the company is under way to opening an office in Ethiopia and intends to provide its services throughout Africa going forward.

The training and research institute has an ongoing project that focuses on drug manufacturing specifically the 'Monepenepene Capsule Development' where they will pair indigenous and scientific knowledge to investigate the medicinal benefits of monepenepene with the ultimate goal to locally producing monepenepene medicinal products. I-Six has also diversified to newer ways of undertaking research by incorporating videography and pictorials to the research processes to enable longevity and accessibility of information to larger and diverse groups of people.

I-Six Logistics participated at the just ended annual Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair 2024 mainly to create awareness on services and showcasing the company's contribution to the country with regards to addressing socio-economic, environmental and health challenges through its diverse service offerings as well as to network and form business partnerships that will enhance and drive I-Six's growth aspirations.

Thabiso Molefe, a Consultant at I-Six Logistics noted "The fair presented a boundless platform to suffice such opportunities. We brought to the nation our driver training services which include all classes of driving and complementary driver training course, defensive driving, Handling & Management of Hazardous substances by road and 4X4 off road training. We also presented our human capital development theoretical courses aimed at the working group to enhance their skills; targeting performance – these are incorporated with practical courses as we stress on hand-on application, real life experiences and front end

technology."

She further highlighted that it is a risk having executives and managers lack the skills of internally tracking progress of the effectiveness of their policies, strategies and programmes, hence I-Six logistics saw the need to strengthen organizational development through monitoring and evaluation to aid continuous management and assessment of progress in achieving expected results, to spot bottlenecks in implementation and to highlight whether there are any unintended effects (positive or negative).

I-Six also brings to the people research services which help solve day to day social, health, socio economic, environmental and business challenges by developing organizational systems and availing new information through applied and scientific research.

In Response to this year's theme at the trade fair Sustainable Innovation: Building a greener tomorrow, I-Six Logistics stresses on front end technology by offering services and exploring more innovative ways to undertake research and development. Furthermore I-Six has now diversified from applied research to scientific research.

"I-Six Logistics has done a lot in terms of applied research and we now want research and development to be the core of our mandate, as an innovative way to develop new services and products or improving existing ones and in the same way empowering locals through capacity building opportunities and creating employment for the youth as well. Research and development is sustainable as it breeds tangible end products that can be utilized by people and possibly change lives," Molefe said.

In conclusion Molefe emphasized that at I-Six Logistics distance is not a barrier, though the company's offices are in Gaborone only, I-Six Logistics reaches its clients across all regions in Botswana as trainers and experts are able to travel to various locations to provide the services required.







# Security Systems - More than just a security company

Having been in the industry for four decades this year, Security Systems has gone above and beyond in proving that they are more than just a security company; but one that leaves its footprints within the communities they operate in. Having taken notice of governments plea of being a just and caring nation, the company takes pride in its corporate social responsibility (CSR) that has touched lives of many Batswana.

Testament to this, the security giant has adopted a boy child for seven years now paying for his school fees, school uniform and medical expenses amongst others. Apart from covering his day to day needs Security Systems has helped restore his family's dignity by building him a house. Security System's CSR program takes pride in helping the needy with the basic need of shelter, as a struggling mother of triplets in the central region was also gifted a house.

Security Systems also helps Batswana realize their dreams, with the help of the company's CSR program a young man is currently pursuing his studies in Sports Management in the United States of America and Security systems has pledged to his accommodation and flight tickets as well as his upkeep while he is there for three years.

The company also promotes social engagement and local sports hence the formation of a football club that is currently playing in the Botswana Premier League dubbed Security Systems XI FC.

Another beneficiary of the Company's giving back to the community is Nkaikela Clinic in Tlokweng which was recently gifted an ablution block.

In support of the concept of the Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair 2024 that facilitates networking amongst businesses, Security Systems was a partner and exhibitor at the just ended exhibition, where the Minister of Agriculture Fidelis Molao appreciated this year's theme Sustainable Innovation; Building a Greener Tomorrow. Minister Molao challenged companies to play an active role in green economy and further pleaded with the business community to engage government to ensure an enabling environment for sustainable innovation. In an interview with Security Systems Marketing Manager, Chileshe Musonda, it was evident that the company goes beyond the core business of guarding and alarm installation and monitoring. "Security systems is innovative; we are the only local security company that has a retail shop that offers a variety of security devices. We offer extra accessories," she said.

In line with this year's theme, Security Systems showcased a number of its innovative products with emphasis on the G4 Salto Padlock which is weather proof; battery operated by a key tag and can be operated on a smartphone. The G4 Salto Padlock has a battery life of 18 years and can withstand harsh weathers such as proof storms and rains as well as scorching sun.

Musonda also introduced an alarm system dubbed Videofiede which is a regular alarm system that consists of a mother body, emergency panic button and a motion detector. The alarm system not only detects motion, but it shoots a short video clip when triggered that allows the owner to see what triggered the alarm.

"It is in line with green technology because it does not use electricity, it is wireless and is battery operated, batteries last up to 12 months before needing to be replaced," she added. The third product being highlighted at the trade fair was the Flexo Power Solar Panel together with the Lithium 444 Portable Energy Box. Unlike the traditional solar panel that is mounted on top houses, the 105 watts Flexo Power Panel is portable and user friendly. It can work continuously for 18 hours without charging and is equipped with charging ports that can connect laptops, USB, cell phones as well as Wi-Fi routers; it can power a mini bar fridge and an alarm system.

Asked how their participation at the trade fair has benefited Security Systems, Musonda explained "There are a lot of potential customers that attend the trade fair and we have previously secured clients from the expo and that is why we continue to be partners and exhibitors at the show. A lot of people do not know about many of our products and the trade fair presents an opportunity to teach them. We have also seen more business coming from the banking sector thanks to the trade fair".







# BERA in aggressive public education drive



**B**otswana's energy regulator, Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) used the just ended 28th Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair in Francistown as a platform to push public awareness on its core mandate, especially the recently published Petroleum Products Regulations.

The Petroleum Products Regulations which were published on 1st April 2024 permits only Botswana Oil Limited at 90 percent and Majority Citizen Companies at 10 percent, to import petroleum products into the country. Still in its efforts to sensitize the public and stakeholders on the new regulations, BERA is undertaking a countrywide tour which began mid-May and will end in August 2024.

BERA's Marketing and Communications Officer, Tshepang Monare revealed that they are currently on tour, going around the country sensitising the public about the new Regulations. "The Northern Trade Fair 2024 is one of the platforms we are using to ensure people are aware of the Regulations and how they affect them and the petroleum industry," he said.

The Regulations further state that where the Authority issues the license, the licensee shall import a petroleum product in quantities not less than 160 000 litres per month and the licensee is further required to transport the petroleum product in a container or vessel that conforms to applicable standards. The licensee will also need to produce documentary

evidence when required showing that the petroleum product has been tested and conforms to the required product quality.

During the northern trade fair, the team manning the BERA stall also sensitized stakeholders of the regulators existing regulations which include the Complaint Settlement Procedures and the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Regulations. The team's interaction with attendees of the expo impressed judges as BERA scooped second place in the parastatals category.

"We are still emphasizing on BERA's mandate and how we can help the public. We're educating the public on proper ways to handle petroleum products and be aware of their rights as clients when being assisted by service providers. We always emphasize that they request receipts from their service provider after receiving a service from an energy licensee, to keep as evidence in case of complaints," Monare said.

In alignment with the exhibition's theme and government's policy of going green, BERA facilitates countless efforts in that endeavor such as the Roof Top Solar Program, the Integrated Resource Plan that suggests that by the year 2030, 30 percent of the country's energy mix should be green energy adding that Independent Power Producers (IPP) are coming into this model to act towards the targeted 30 percent target.







# BOCRA addresses consumers at the Northern Trade Fair

**B**otswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) participated at the Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair in Francistown last week, where they engaged with consumers in efforts to educate the public about their rights and responsibilities as consumers of the communication services.

BOCRA's participation at the fair further proves its aims to communicate commitment to ensuring fair, safe, and reliable communications services across Botswana and to gather valuable feedback to inform future regulatory interventions.

With its interaction with consumers at the expo, BOCRA was able to gain several key insights which include

a strong demand for improved and affordable internet connectivity and service quality, particularly in rural areas. Attendees also expressed concerns about cyber security and data privacy, highlighting the need for more robust public education and protective measures.

Feedback from consumers indicated a desire for clearer information on consumer rights and more accessible complaint resolution processes. These insights will help refine BOCRA's regulatory frameworks, enhance consumer protection initiatives, and prioritize infrastructure development in underserved regions in the country. Masego Jeremiah, Head of Broadcasting & Corporate Communications at BOCRA highlighted that the regulator

has ongoing projects aimed at bridging the digital divide, such as expanding broadband access in rural and remote areas and implementing digital literacy programs to empower communities. As the communications regulatory body, BOCRA has made strides in efforts to address cyber security, data privacy, and consumer rights through a multi-faceted approach that includes setting regulatory standards, promoting best practices, and conducting public awareness campaigns and trainings on Cyber security matters.

The Cyber Security Incident Response Team, which is housed by BOCRA, collaborates with stakeholders, including government agencies and international bodies, to comprehensively enforce cyber security measures in the interest

of Botswana. Guidelines and resources are also provided to help consumers protect their personal information online and encourage service providers to adopt robust security measures.

Jeremiah further highlighted that this year's theme at the expo Sustainable Innovation; Building a Greener Tomorrow showcases BOCRA's efforts to promote environmentally sustainable practices in the communications sector, some of which include initiatives like infrastructure sharing, which encourages operators to share telecommunications infrastructure to reduce their environmental footprint, supporting e-waste management programs, and holding frequent e-waste management workshops.

"Our commitment to a greener future

is also evident in our works, as we are going paperless in our records system by introducing the Electronic Data Records Management System (EDRMS), and Enforcing Environmental Impact Assessment for our operators when putting up their towers. Our initiatives are aimed at enhancing service delivery and digital literacy," she added.

Beyond empowerment in the digital space, BOCRA is also committed to tackling matters that are of national interest such as the high rate of youth unemployment. In this regard, after having inducted 95 IT officers 2023 for the Kweneng region, the regulator is in the process of inducting a further 46 IT officers for the Southern region.



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Imagine the world without order  
Imagine Botswana without BOCRA





# NBFIRA PARTICIPATES AT THE BUSINESS BOTSWANA NORTHERN TRADE FAIR 2024.



As part of stakeholder engagement, the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) participated at the Business Botswana Trade Fair 2024 held in Francistown from 22nd to 26th May 2024. This year's event was themed **"Sustainable Innovation: Building A Greener Tomorrow"**

NBFIRA's participation at the Fair provided an opportunity to promote financial education and consumer protection, thereby empowering consumers of non-bank financial products and services and the general public about their rights and responsibilities as well as the Authority's mandate. The outreach also served as a platform for the Authority

to inform the public about licensing requirements for aspiring industry participants. Close interaction with the public enabled the Authority to identify arising and common complaints concerning financial products and services, buttress its customer protection role and avail the NBFIRA Complaints Procedure to those wishing to lodge complaints.



#BWMindsetChange #AreChencheng



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NBFIRA... Working Towards Financial Stability



# lifestyle

## Koolatitse for Miss Teen International 2024

**M**ISS TEEN BOTSWANA IS PROUD TO announce that Onkatlile Koolatitse, the reigning Miss Teen Botswana, will be representing Botswana on the global stage at the prestigious Miss Teen International 2024 competition in India.

Miss Teen International 2024 is set to take place in India, commencing on the 29th of June, where young women from around the world will compete for the coveted title. Among them will be Botswana's own Onkatlile Koolatitse, a beacon of grace, intelligence and beauty, who will showcase the essence and vibrancy of Botswana on an international platform.

In preparation for this esteemed competition, Miss Teen Botswana Onkatlile Koolatitse will embark on a media tour from Monday, May 27th, through to June 21st. This media tour presents an exceptional opportunity for the public and media personnel to engage with Onkatlile, learn about her journey, aspirations, and the causes she stands for. We cordially invite all media outlets and journalists to join us in celebrating Onkatlile's journey and to amplify her voice as she represents Botswana on the global stage.

Miss Teen Botswana Onkatlile Koolatitse expresses her gratitude for the unwavering support and encouragement from her fellow Batswana. She aims to carry the hopes and dreams of her nation with dignity and pride as she competes in Miss Teen International 2024.

Miss Teen Botswana is a prestigious beauty pageant that aims to empower young women and promote positive social change. The pageant provides a platform for talented and ambitious young women to showcase their talents, intelligence, and beauty while advocating for meaningful causes. Follow Miss Teen Botswana's journey on social media: Instagram: @missteenbotswana Facebook: Miss Teen Botswana



## 'SGELA premieres on Moja Love



**D**EE-ZONE PRODUCTIONS WILL ON Thursday launch a cinema premiere of Botswana's edutainment TV Drama 'SgELA' (slang word for School), in partnership with Dstv MOJA LOVE Channel.

Dee-Zone Production's 26-episode TV drama series is officially licensed by the DSTV Moja Love Channel 157, and it is the company behind local productions of Ntwakgolo TV drama, Letlhabile & Pula Power entertainment shows on Botswana Television-BTV. The 'Sgela TV drama is directed by Botswana's acclaimed filmmaker Thabiso Maretwaneng MFA and features 100% local cast and mostly making their screen debut. This is a proudly Botswana's creative product that intends to export and expose local talent to the content.

The launch will be a star-studded

red-carpet night event featuring local cast, celebrities, invited dignitaries from the government, corporate and the creative industry. There will be teaser promos, behind the scenes, 1 episode screening of the TV drama on the cinema big screen and musical performance by Khoisan, Thato Tladi and Mafithakgosi traditional as entertainment.

### SgELA tv drama

A coming of age teen TV drama series that showcases the bull-locking of horns between daring learners, unconventional teachers and unaware parents. The drama depicts social ills and behavioural changes surrounding adolescents, infused with conflict of traditional and cultural beliefs in the 21st century. Life lessons learnt in and outside of the classroom that forge a strong foundation for the real world. Can the students be saved from the lawlessness of the

school or even be saved from themselves?

Raising awareness about students, teacher, parent tripartite relationship showing each of their challenges and daily issues and highlighting the imperative role to nurture and guide students and youth as the future leaders of the country.

Adolescents and youth transition through significant physical, psychosocial and emotional changes as they grow into adulthood, and their social roles evolve substantially in the eyes of their community and their culture. When the community, schools, and families work together they can provide the best possible resources and expertise to enhance positive behavior change of young people both in and out of school regardless of gender, socio-economic status, family makeup, or even ethnic group.

## Her Confidence gives girls bright future

**NANCY RAMOKHUA**

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**A**S COUNTRIES CELEBRATED WORLD menstrual hygiene day on May 28th 2024, Her Confidence Project by Tshogofatso Raphuti promises young girls a bright future, through a well secured menstrual health.

The Digawana native is of the view that every young girl has the right to appealing menstrual health and therefore deserves to be informed and educated on menstrual health and be provided with sanitary pads, giving greater reference to the less privileged and girls living in rural areas.

Envisioned with creating a community where adolescent girls have access to menstrual hygiene and dignity, Her Confidence project aims to improve access to menstrual resources for adolescent girls in rural communities, provide early education on menstrual cycle and menstrual hygiene while also advocating for the fight against all form of stigma such that communities are in support of a girl child during her menstrual stage and womanhood journey.

According to the founder, the main

purpose of the project is to alleviate human suffering and solve social problems. "We wish to reach every adolescent girl in rural communities and improve their menstrual health by providing them with sanitary pads and empower them with relevant knowledge about menstrual cycle and menstrual hygiene before having their first menstrual period. We are focusing on a girl child in rural communities because that is where we find intense poverty due to low socio-economic status, where one may not even afford to buy sanitary resources."

Officially launched on January 12th 2024, the project's first outreach program was held at Lorwana Primary School. Raphuti shared that in launching this project, she was inspired by the God nature in her which allows her to express love, compassion and empathy for others. "I believe my authentic power is in serving others and having a significant impact in the lives of people around me. The act of giving is not done because we have enough, it is done out of love and compassion," she stated.

As the country strives towards achieving the UN sustainable development goals which advocate for reduced inequalities and less poverty, Raphuti shared that its

crucial to nurture a girl's confidence from a tender age, a commitment through which young women grow up empowered. She said there is a great need to contribute towards having a period friendly Botswana and a supportive community where getting through menstruation is not a struggle. "We want to restore a girl child's dignity and confidence. Therefore, we look forward to grooming young girls who take pride in their menstrual cycle, women who are healthy and confident in the God nature and gift they possess because menstruation is natural and is a sign of a healthy body."

Her Confidence project aims to hold three outreaches annually. Although the just launched initiative does not possess much in terms of sponsorship to successfully execute its mission, the project is nonetheless impacting the few communities it can. "Currently we don't have sponsors. However, it would be great to acquire partnerships that will help us carry out this great work by donating sanitary pads and transport resources to reach rural areas. For sponsorship, contact :+267 77177020 /76405036 Or email: tshogoradikgopo@gmail.com.



Founder of the project Tshogofatso Raphuti [Red Dress]



# Sport

## Rakgare appoints new BNSC Board

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**T**HE BOTSWANA NATIONAL SPORTS Council (BNSC) presented its newly appointed board members on the 28th of May 2024. The Minister of Youth, Gender Sports and Culture Honorable Tumiso Rakgare mentioned that the newly appointed board will play an imperative role in shaping the future of sports in our nation. Its mandate is to ensure that policies are progressive, inclusive and in alignment with international standards and practices.

Rakgare mentioned that Botswana was recently honored at the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 awards, the country's stellar performance has been recognized and this serves as a testament to the teamwork and dedication of the sports council. The Ministry is committed to providing the necessary resources to support the board's mandate which is partnerships with international sports bodies and other relevant stakeholders. The board includes chairperson of the board Marumo Morule and other board members, Tebogo Lebotse-Sebego, Col. Botsang Tshenyego, Keenese Katisenge-Tizhani, Katholo Mosimanegape, Lopang Pule, Mmaneke Maplanka, Tshepo Mophuting, Steve Bothasitse

The Minister proceeded to awarding Letsile Tebogo two RASA awards, one for Junior Athlete of the Year and RASA Sports Person of the Year.



### Celebrate power of sport to unite, inspire, and uplift



YVES FAMIEN\*

**T**ODAY MARKS A SIGNIFICANT moment for Orange Botswana as we come together to announce a partnership that embodies the essence of community support, athletic excellence, and national pride. This partnership is not merely a commitment; it's a testament to our unwavering support for the spirit of athleticism and the pursuit of excellence. I am reminded of the profound impact that sports have on our lives.

At Orange Botswana, we recognise the transformative power of sports. And it is with great pleasure that we proudly announce our partnership as the sponsor of

the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) campaign.

Furthermore, our partnership extends beyond the realm of athletics to encompass our broader commitment as Orange, to social responsibility and community development. Through initiatives aimed at promoting health and wellness, empowering youth, and fostering inclusivity, we are working tirelessly to create a brighter, more prosperous future for all members of our society.

As we reflect on our journey thus far, it's impossible not to celebrate the milestones we've achieved alongside remarkable individuals like Letsile Tebogo. Today, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to

the Olympic Team and embrace this new chapter of partnership with the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC). As Orange Botswana, we stand united in our commitment to supporting our athletes as they prepare to showcase their skills on the world stage.

To all exceptional athletes who have qualified for the Olympics, I offer my sincerest congratulations. Your hard work, dedication, and perseverance have earned you a place among the best in the world. Orange Botswana stands proudly beside you, ready to champion your success every step of the way.

I would like to take this time to also express my deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to making this partnership a reality. To the athletes, coaches, administrators, and supporters who have dedicated their time, talent, and resources to the pursuit of excellence, thank you. Your commitment to sportsmanship, integrity, and fair play inspires us all.

Let us celebrate the power of sport to unite, inspire, and uplift. On behalf of Orange Botswana, I extend our best wishes to Team Botswana as they embark on this extraordinary journey. May you shine brightly and make our nation proud.

*\*Chief Marketing Officer of Orange Botswana at the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) sponsorship launch in Gaborone on 22nd MAY 2024*

### Township Rollers switch investors

BAFANA PHE TO\*

**T**RFC IS CURRENTLY IN A SMOOTH transition from one investor to another. This is an ongoing delicate process that needs to be treated with the utmost care and diligence. There are issues to be finalized before all is revealed. Once everything is finalized, the right information will be shared with the TRFC family through the relevant platforms where members, supporters and key stakeholders are addressed. Please note that Prestige Funeral Group remains a partner in good standing and should anything change, that will be communicated. We therefore plead with the TRFC family to remain steadfast and await official communication from the Management and not be unsettled by the daily social media reports, most of which are just speculating for now. Please remain calm and await the right information at the right time. The right information on the team status and way forward will be shared at the right time, through the right platforms with all relevant stakeholders.

The National Executive Committee has the best interest of the club at heart in everything they engage on with any party. Thank you MaPalastina for your support, prayers, well wishes, patience and words of encouragement as we navigate this new path.

*\*TRFC Chairman*



Township Rollers team

[PIC.PRESSPHOTO]



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