



The Patriot

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Your story matters

Kgafela throws Masisi a curveball

- Plead with him to pardon 16 death row inmates to save Molapisi
- Describes hanging as the harshest cruelty that dehumanises society
- 'Commuting death sentences could influence Bangladesh to pardon Molapisi' -Kgafela
- Botswana's plea for clemency in Bangladesh is hypocritical - Observers



Paramount Chief of Bakgatla ba Kgafela, Kgosisigolo Kgafela II

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THE PARAMOUNT CHIEF OF Bakgatla ba Kgafela, Kgosisigolo Kgafela II, has asked President Mokgweetsi Masisi to spare the lives of 16 death row inmates currently held at Gaborone Maximum Security Prison, arguing that such act can help Botswana win clemency for Lesedi Molapisi, a Motswana woman recently sentenced to death in Bangladesh.

In a letter to Masisi, dated 5th June 2024, Kgafela argues against the death penalty on several fronts. "On 23rd May 2024, Thato 'Sametse was sentenced to death. Within 5 days of that sentence announced (27th May 2024) a Motswana young woman (Lesedi Molapisi) was sentenced to death by hanging in

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BDP Elders summon Masisi

- Council of Elders unhappy with 2024 elections readiness
- Masisi, Tsogwane to present elections campaign strategy

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THE BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC Party (BDP) Council of Elders made up of former cabinet ministers and MPs is concerned by the uncertainty surrounding the party's readiness ahead of 2024 general elections and have called President Mokgweetsi Masisi for an urgent meeting next week.

The party elders committee is chaired by former cabinet minister and business mogul, David Magang. The BDP elders are said to be concerned about the level of BDP preparedness with less than four (4) months left before the polls. The BDP is yet to hold primary elections (Bulela Ditswe) to identify candidates for the October elections.

Information reaching this publication is that Masisi and BDP

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President Masisi and Vice President Tsogwane

[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

'Learn from South Africa' -Khama to Masisi

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EXILED FORMER PRESIDENT IAN Khama has challenged President Mokgweetsi Masisi and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to take inspiration from South Africa's management and conduct of the just concluded general elections, describing their approach as 'democracy not only in motion but in full swing'.

In an interview, Khama said he was following not only the electioneering process but the elections and post

- Labels SA elections 'democracy not only in motion but in full swing'
- No political leaders were harassed, IEC demonstrated independence -Khama

elections process. "I followed everything and was highly impressed. I only wished Masisi and his IEC could be watching democracy not only in motion but full swing," he said.

Khama praised the South African electoral process for its "exemplary respect and tolerance towards opposition parties, effective handling of complaints and concerns, and the harmonious interaction among political parties". "Many countries in the region, including

Botswana could benefit significantly by adopting similar practices to enhance its own democratic processes," he added.

"Their respect and tolerance for opposition parties ensure that all voices are heard, and their efficient handling of complaints fosters trust in the electoral system. The harmonious interaction between political parties further solidifies a stable and inclusive political environment," he said.

Recently, the Independent Electoral



Khama

TO PAGE 3

Debswana lose P40 million lawsuit

- Deputy Sheriffs move to attach company property
- Debswana ignored decisions of Dispute Adjudication Board

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DIAMOND MINING GINAT, Debswana on Friday suffered a double blow when the Court of Appeal (CoA) Judge, Singh Walia dismissed its appeal with costs under which it was defending against paying LiftOff Investments around P40 million.

The company was contracted by Debswana for the construction of New Tailings Leg-golf at Plant in Orapa Mine. On Friday just after the judgement was made, the news of Deputy Sheriffs attaching Debswana property such as seven-seater plane and several expensive vehicles broke but Debswana management couldn't confirm or deny developments at press time.

Walia said in this case between the two parties, the exceptional circumstances are glaringly obvious. He said the Dispute Adjudication Board (DAB) was made on 20 January 2023 and there was no arbitrator in place.

"Almost a year and a half later, no arbitrator has been agreed on nor is there an application for the appointment of one. Such delays serve to defeat the very purpose of prompt payment dictated by the contract. In these circumstances application to the court for enforcement of the DAB award, was not in my view ill advised," said Walia.

Furthermore, Walia stated that in a fully reasoned decision, Debswana has been ordered to pay LiftOff Investments a sum of P38 511 246.49 as the applicable payment of LiftOff Investments interim valuation No.14 as submitted to the engineer.

Walia also said it was also ordered that Debswana pay interest at the Bank of Botswana discount rate (3.75%) simple interest on the amounts awarded, from 14 June 2021 to date of payment, adding that the amounts awarded were ordered to be paid within 10 days of 20 January 2023.

"Debswana having refused or failed to comply with the DAB decision, LiftOff Investments lodged a notice of dissatisfaction in terms of clause 20.4 of International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) conditions. Thereafter the two parties engaged in amicable settlement discussions, which are also inconclusive," buttressed Walia.

Late Friday afternoon, Debswana Senior Corporate Affairs Manager, Matshidiso Kamona issued a statement saying they are still studying the judgment to take correct legal steps in response to the decision of the Court of Appeal. The company expressed disappointment with the Court of Appeal decision against them.

NEW SPICY BOX CLUB **FLAVoured WITH**

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Debswana CSI pave Rakops roads

MOGAKOLODI MAOKETSA*

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO thank you all for joining us on this day for the contract signing and road hand-over to the contractor for the commencement of the construction of a paved road here in Rakops. The one (1) kilometre road project that we are initiating its commencement today has been funded through Debswana Corporate Social Investment Programme (CSI) to the tune of BWP4million and it forms part of the larger project implemented both here at Rakops and Letlhakane.

Towards the end of the year 2023, OLDM made a commitment of P12 million for a period of three years (2023- 2025), with a disbursement of P4 million annually to support road infrastructure projects in Letlhakane and Rakops.

In 2023, 4.8kms of road was improved within Letlhakane Village with gravelling undertaken at Phase 1 Extension and Phase 2 Extension to manage the bad road condition during the rainy season.

We are now here to invest another



Debswana Corporate Social Investment Programme (CSI) to the tune of BWP4million and it forms part of the larger project implemented both here at Rakops and Letlhakane P4million for the improvement of roads in Rakops. Through our Building Forever and CSI programme, we endeavor to improve the lives of communities within our mines' zone of influence in-line with our Debswana's purpose of 'Make Life Brilliant'. And it is for this reason that when the Office of the District Commissioner and the Council made a plea to Debswana to support in the area of improvement of



Maoketsa

roads, we swiftly moved in to support in ways we could. It is, therefore, with great excitement, that we are commencing this project here in Rakops, which will go a long way in benefitting not only the community

of Rakops but Batswana and travellers in general.

Debswana is on a journey to make life brilliant. Through our various Social Impact programmes we endeavor to

minimise negative social risks and maximise socio-economic benefits for our communities.

Bagatsho, as always our efforts as Debswana to deliver sustainable and meaningful development cannot be possible without the active support of our key stakeholders being Boteti District Council and Boteti District Administration. While Debswana is the financial sponsor, I am pleased to note that Boteti District Council is the technical sponsor for this particular project.

This joint effort will go a long way in making life brilliant for our communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the team that has been working on this project from both Debswana and Boteti District Council side. Thank you for driving this initiative to be where it is today. It is my hope that it would be delivered on time and on budget.

*Speaking Notes for Orapa, Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines General Manager, Mogakolodi Maoketsa at the Contract Signing Ceremony for the construction of a paved road 23rd May 2024, in Rakops.

No diethylene glycol in Benylin Paediatric syrup

ON 13 APRIL 2024, THE SOUTH African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) initiated a precautionary recall of two batches of Benylin Paediatric Syrup (batch numbers 329303 and 329304), in response to reported high levels of diethylene glycol in an alert by the Nigerian National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC). The recall was implemented as a precaution to protect lives while SAHPRA investigated the reported high levels of diethylene glycol.

As the national regulatory authority for health products in South Africa, SAHPRA implements health product recalls as a crucial measure to address safety concerns or quality issues in the interest of public health.

As part of the investigation of the

reported high levels of diethylene glycol, SAHPRA tested samples of the two affected batches of Benylin Paediatric syrup through an independent laboratory and a method developed by the World Health Organisation for testing products for the presence of diethylene glycol. The tests did not find traces of diethylene glycol in the recalled batches. This indicates that units of batches 329303 and 329304 that were stored at the required temperature would not contain unacceptable levels of diethylene glycol.

SAHPRA also wishes to indicate that there is no record of any adverse drug reactions relating to diethylene glycol for the two recalled batches in South Africa or anywhere else where they were exported to the continent.

SAHPRA is mandated to regulate and

apply due diligence to health products to ensure that products in circulation in South Africa and those exported from SAHPRA-licensed manufacturers are safe for public consumption. SAHPRA applies this due diligence throughout the product life cycle, from registration through to post-market monitoring.

"SAHPRA will continue to closely monitor medical products that have the potential of containing unacceptable levels of diethylene glycol. And we will continue to address safety concerns or quality issues so that the health of the public is protected," says SAHPRA CEO, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotela. Dr Boitumelo Semete CEO: South African Health Products Regulatory Authority boitumelo.semete@sahpra.org.za

Prof Phakeng visits UB



Professor David Norris - Vice Chancellor of UB [L] with Professor Rosina Mamokgethi Phakeng, the former Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Town

PROFESSOR ROSINA MAMOKGETHI Phakeng, the former Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, paid a courtesy visit to the University of Botswana (UB) on the 3rd - 4th June 2024. Professor Phakeng is the former Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Town and a distinguished academic leader. Her visit provides the University of Botswana a valuable opportunity to engage with her and share experiences.

Professor Phakeng's visit will commence at 1400hrs with a meeting of Deans on the 3rd of June 2024, at the Council Chamber and discussions will focus on leadership and administration. On the 4th of June 2024, Professor Phakeng will tour several faculties in the University.

Prof Mbongwe wins Nelson Mandela Award

ASOCIATE PROFESSOR OF Environmental Health at the University of Botswana, Professor Bontle Mbongwe, has been awarded the World Health Organisation (WHO) Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion. Professor Mbongwe who is Head of the School of Public Health, received the prestigious award in Geneva, Switzerland on 31st May 2024.

The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion is awarded to individuals, institutions or organisations that have made significant contributions to the health promotion field. Consequently, Professor Mbongwe has been recognised for her exemplary work as a public health advocate and a passionate tobacco control activist. She played a pivotal role in initiating national consultations during the negotiation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. This led to the amendment of Botswana's Control of Smoking Act in 2004, which restricted smoking in public places, protected children, pregnant women and workers as well as raising the minimum age for purchasing tobacco products from 16 to 18 besides banning tobacco advertising and promotion.

In 2008, Professor Mbongwe's research influenced governmental policies to shift from mercury-containing devices to mercury-free alternatives in healthcare facilities. In 2014, she challenged the tobacco industry by successfully advocating for a 30 percent tobacco levy in Botswana. She also contributed to the creation of the Tobacco Control Act of 2021, aligning



Associate Professor of Environmental Health at the University of Botswana, Professor Bontle Mbongwe, has been awarded the World Health Organisation (WHO) Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion

with WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The Act further raised the minimum age for purchasing tobacco products to 21, banned the sale of single cigarettes and required tobacco products to be sold by licensed individuals only.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Mbongwe successfully advocated for a ban on the sale of tobacco products. As the founder of the first civil society Anti-Tobacco Network in Botswana, Professor Mbongwe has been

instrumental in creating a coalition of media and non-governmental organisations dedicated to tobacco control in Botswana, Africa and beyond. Her research on youth smoking has led to initiatives such as "SKY Girls BW" and the "Most Teens Don't Smoke" campaigns.

For her outstanding leadership in anti-smoking efforts, Professor Mbongwe received the World No Tobacco Day Award and the WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award in 2021.

Prof Ramaologa -Masire awarded 2024 WHO Sasakawa Health Prize

DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, has been awarded the 2024 World Health Organization (WHO) Sasakawa Health Prize. Professor Ramogola-Masire received the award in Geneva, Switzerland on the 31st of May 2024. The Sasakawa Health Prize is awarded for outstanding innovative work in health development to a person or persons, an institution or institutions, or a nongovernmental organization or organizations. Such work includes the promotion of given health programmes or notable advances in primary health care.

Professor Ramogola-Masire received the award following confirmation by the Executive Board after unanimous decision by the Sasakawa Health Prize Selection Panel to award her the prize. Consequently, she received a statuette and US\$30 000. Professor Ramogola-Masire is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Since 2002, she has played an important role in the development and implementation of Botswana's first National Cervical Cancer Prevention Strategy, which was launched in 2012.

Through her role as a member of the National HIV Technical Working Group for the past two decades, she took an active part in developing and updating the National Strategic Framework for HIV. Professor Ramogola-Masire worked to expand the partnerships that had been developed to support the country's HIV/AIDS programme to also support cervical cancer prevention.

Her work initially focused on screening and early treatment of precancerous lesions caused



Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, has been awarded the 2024 World Health Organization (WHO) Sasakawa Health Prize

by human papillomavirus (HPV) infections and then expanded, with HPV vaccination starting in 2015. Thanks to the use of self-collected samples for HPV testing, the cervical cancer screening programme will be accessible to more women in Botswana, including socially and geographically disadvantaged women. In addition, Professor Ramogola-Masire's innovative work in training nurses and medical officers to carry out cervical cancer screening and on treatment procedures using telemedicine as a quality assurance tool, helped Botswana to implement its cervical cancer prevention programme despite an insufficient number of trained gynaecologists. Moreover, she has facilitated the development of an obstetrics and gynaecology specialisation programme at the national level, which will

ensure a supply of well-trained specialists able to lead this work in the future. Her involvement of community and traditional leaders at key stages of the preparation for the programme's launch is expected to be an important factor in ensuring the programme's success.

In her new role as leader of the Strategic Office for Research at the University of Botswana, Professor Ramogola-Masire continues to facilitate and build capacity for collaborative and impactful multidisciplinary health research, with the inclusion of the impact of climate change. Following the award, Professor Ramogola-Masire would like to invest in supporting the qualitative aspect of the development of biomarker triage strategies for women who screen positive for any high-risk HPV.



BANK OF BOTSWANA

07 June 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

Expression Of Interest to Pre-Qualify Bidders for the Upgrade of Electronic Security Systems at Bank of Botswana, Francistown Branch, Plot 9597, Kenneth Nkhwa Interchange, Francistown, Contract BOB/2024/05/21

- The Bank of Botswana seeks submissions of Expression of Interest (EOI) from well-established Companies that are registered with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) under Code 02 Electrical Engineering works, sub code 06 (Fire detection systems) and sub code 07 (security systems installations CCTV, access control, alarms etc)
- Interested bidders may freely view and download the detailed requirements for Expressions of Interest on the Bank's website (www.bankofbotswana.bw) under "Current Tenders from 6 June 2024.
- Those who wish to submit documents must pay a non-refundable fee P350 VAT inclusive upon submission of their offers. The payment can be done by EFT or cash at the Bank's Banking Hall Plot 17938, Khama Crescent in Gaborone OR Plot No 9597 Kenneth Nkhwa interchange in Francistown, from 6 – 20 June 2024, Monday to Friday at 0900 to 1400 hours in Gaborone and from 0900 to 1245 hours in Francistown Branch during weekdays.
- The 50% price preference for purchase of the EOI document will be applied to companies owned by youth, women and people living with disability who should provide proof of the same to qualify.

Bank Details for EFT payments

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

- Enquiries relating to this tender may be addressed to enquiries20240521@bob.bw.
- The Expression of Interest submissions will be closed on 21 June 2024, at 1000 hours. The tender submissions will be opened 25 June 2024, at 1015 hours, or later as the Bank of Botswana may advise.

Nkoane inspires young girls

AS DEBSWANA, DE BEERS ENCOURAGE GIRLS TO TAKE STEM SUBJECTS

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ORAPA COMMUNITY JUNIOR School female student, Mimi Mpape, a beneficiary of the Girls in Engineering program to create awareness on Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) supported by Debswana Orapa, Lethakane and Damtsaha Mines (OLDM) in collaboration with WomEng and Debeers, feels motivated by the initiative to keep pushing despite challenges associated with studying and pursuing engineering careers.

She dreams about pursuing a career in Bio-Medical Engineering, as she would like to bring change and be among the few females to dispel the myth that women cannot excel in engineering jobs. Mpape revealed her ambitions last week, when Debswana's (OLDM) in collaboration with WomEng and Debeers held the annual Girls in Engineering workshop to create awareness about unique opportunities that come with pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) courses.

The workshop, which attracted 150 girls from Lethakane Senior Secondary School and Junior Secondary Schools in Boteti District also gave them an opportunity to engage with professionals in the STEM field. OLDLM Senior Engineering Manager, Keene Nkoane advised the young girls to never allow challenging situations to dictate their future. Nkoane said



Mimi Mpape a beneficiary of the Girls in Engineering program with girls from Lethakane Senior Secondary School and Junior Secondary Schools in Boteti District

family struggles and growing up in a non-conducive environment should not be an excuse for one not to achieve their life goals. "You are the author of your destiny, you are the one that can reshape what you need to be, it is you who need to do that, it is not your mother, your father or anybody, it is you who have to work hard so that you can land in a place you envisioned," she said.

Narrating a short synopsis of her life story, Nkoane mentioned that she went through some complications in life, which among them included losing her mother who was the breadwinner at the time when she was still at primary school. However, Nkoane said this condition did not

deter her from achieving her goals as her mother instilled in her a sense of hard work and a culture of sacrifice which she grew up with and it helped her as she grew up in her career.

Nkoane who is the first female Senior Engineering Manager at Debswana further advised the girls not to waste their time in vying to be popular kids at school as at the end of the day it does not pay. She said she was what they call a nerd at secondary school, because popularity didn't interest her. "One thing I appreciate now is that being a nerd those years at secondary school has brought me real popularity, I believe the fact that I am standing in front of you now and being called the first

lady Senior Engineering Manager in Debswana is popularity that I am actually proud of and it is something that I worked for," she said.

In the meantime, Nkoane said it is imperative for Debswana to keep on hosting workshops to ensure that girls are encouraged to keep on taking STEM subjects and excel on them. She said Debswana is one of the companies that have spearheaded progression in the line of STEM, making sure it encourages diversity and inclusion and ensure women actually make it the boardrooms and are involved into critical decision making. She said though girls meet some challenges along the way, like issues of unconscious bias that

they still have to deal with, they are however in a better place because of opportunities provided by the likes of Debswana. "We are able to tell you the tricks of how you go about it, not just today, even when you have chosen to do engineering courses, or chosen to do mining, we are here to guide you," she said.

For her part, Boteti Sub Region Chief Education Officer, Oratile Thonkga applauded OLDLM for giving the girls an opportunity to have a taste of what the industry holds, an opportunity to interact with female engineers and an opportunity for them to be able to even decide on their career paths. She said as the education sector, they cherish and don't take the opportunity given by Debswana for granted. "We are not oblivious of the fact that most of the schools do not have the opportunity that we have in Boteti District and as a result we really want to appreciate Debswana for giving us the opportunity as Boteti schools," she said.

Thonkga implored Debswana to host the program regularly instead of once and take it straight to schools so that they may be able to reach a wider audience. Further, she encouraged the learners to positively utilize the opportunity given to them by Debswana and work hard to be able to achieve their future goals. "I just want to say my beloved students go and work hard, these people you are interacting with they spoke sacrifice, sacrificing their leisure time, so go and emulate them," she said.

Misbehaving MPs face expulsion

It is tactics copied from Zanu PF dictatorship - Analyst

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THE CONTROVERSIAL Constitutional Amendment Bill, recently considered by Parliament, contains provisions that MPs could be fired for misbehaving, subjecting Botswana democracy to a draconian state and eroding democratic rights of electorates, experts have warned.

The Minister of State Presidency, Kabo Morwaeng tabled the Constitutional Bill that has sparked widespread condemnation and protest, locally and internationally. Political and Administrative Studies lecturer at University of Botswana (UB), Dr Adam Mfundisi said the provision empowering Parliament in Botswana to disqualify MPs is unfortunate and undesirable.

He said the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) leadership is obsessed with political power and behave as if they are omnipotent and omniscient, adding that the current government bromance with ZANU PF in Zimbabwe and its leadership will compromise Botswana's cherished democratic principles and values.

"In Zimbabwe, they amended the Constitution to empower the Parliament dominated by ZANU PF to disqualify opposition MPs from Parliament under dubious pretenses and reasons. Parliament should not be allowed to usurp the powers vested on the people," he warned.

Dr Mfundisi said provisions in the current Constitution on the removal of an MP are sufficient and have been used to disqualify former Serowe West MP, Tshekedi Khama, adding that President Mogkweetsi Masisi and the BDP behave as if they are permanent in office. Tshekedi was disqualified last year after he missed two consecutive meetings of Parliament while living in self-exile in South Africa. The disqualification led to a by-election in Serowe West constituency which was won by Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) after Onalepele Kedikilwe defeated Moemedi Dijeng of BDP.

Dr Mfundisi also said electorates must possess the power to recall delinquent MPs who are in abundance within the BDP bench, adding that this draconian law will lead to instability and violence in Botswana. "How can a minority of citizens undermine the vote of majority of voters who have duly elected and MP? This is unacceptable in a constitutional democracy and a republican form of



Tshekedi Khama

government," he observed.

Code of Conduct

Another political commentator, Kito Morekisi concurred with Dr Mfundisi that according to Parliament to nullify MP's seat would be equal to undermining the democratic right exercised by voters to elect their own preferred leader.

Morekisi said what is important is for Parliament to have a code of conduct for MPs which could speak to more important aspects such as politicians declaring their personal interests to guard against abuse of power that results in corruption and that an independent code of conduct body be set in Parliament.

In other political jurisdictions, the Code of Conduct for politicians in the public office sets out the standards of behaviour expected from the Members of Parliament as they carry out their duties.

In the United Kingdom (UK) for example, code of conduct for parliamentarians contains the rules concerning the additional income, gifts and their personal interests that must be declared by MPs and published in Register of Members' Interests, and there is ministerial code for government ministers too.

Morekisi also said laws such as this one proposed under the constitution amendment in some countries have led to political instability and gives the ruling party more power to threaten the opposition parties.

"It would bring the value and quality of our Parliament down. Obviously, one could suggest that the law would be targeting opposition MPs. They cannot debate freely and would be deemed to be attacking the government whenever some pertinent issues are to be debated. It is a bad law to think about," he said.

Gantsi Farms' brilliant livestock guardian dogs

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LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN DOGS ARE now making a comeback, thanks to a local NGO, Cheetah Conservation Botswana, CCB for promoting this ancient practice which was used thousands of years ago. Complemented by other co-existence measures, the programme will reduce livestock predation by cheetahs, enabling the recovery of the endangered carnivore in Botswana.

Through their programme of farming for conservation, the NGO is allowing farmers around Gantsi district to co exist with predators, improving both biodiversity conservation and profitability of farming.

The Coordinator of Farming for

Conservation, King Modise has explained that the livestock guardian dogs programme has helped hundreds of farmers from Gantsi region to grow their farming enterprises by reducing their livestock losses.

Modise explained that as part of their programme they train LGD puppies to farmers experiencing conflict with cheetahs in the Gantsi district. He further noted that they have a demonstration farm with goats used for training.

He noted that they are not using quality breeds of dogs as they only use the common Tswana puppies breed and bring them into their demo farm so that they bond with livestock. "As time goes this puppies learn from other experienced guardian dogs and after few months of learning these

dogs are placed with farmers who are experiencing conflict with carnivores around the Gantsi district," Modise said.

He added that apart from training dogs they also provide training to farmers on how to build predator proof kraal, noting that this kraal is not expensive as anyone can afford it. He explains that the kraal is built with impenetrable wire and pole kraal, fortified with thorn bushes to help keep carnivores, noting that it should also have a shade on top to create a shade during the night so that carnivores cannot see what's inside the kraal.

Modise also revealed CCB has donated 110 trained dogs to farmers around Gantsi area. A farmer from Gantsi, Rachael Kelelithile has applauded the CCB livestock guardian

dogs programme noting that it has played a significant role in preventing her goats from predators.

She explained that she experienced conflicts with carnivores after she got funded through Youth Development Fund to buy goats in the year 2009. "I met CCB in 2011 through Department of Wildlife and National Parks, I used to frequently visit their offices to report cases of my goats being eaten by predators," she said adding that she was losing more than 15 goats a months.

She further explained that after meeting the CCB, they introduced them to their livestock guardian dogs which she says it has saved her goats from predators.

Kelelithile says since working with CCB, she has never lost her goats and she has now introduced sheep

and cattle in her farm. She hailed the guardian dog programme as a success and encouraged other farmers to also enroll in the programme.

Another farmer, Jeffery Moyo says he has lost close to 40 goats to predators but since using the livestock guardian dog by CCB, the numbers have gone down. Moyo says that he has implemented a farming system introduced by CCB, allowing him to use land for multiple purposes.

He explained that although he has small farm of 5 hectares he has demarcated the farm in many uses as he has cows for dairy farms and another area where he grows crops such as butternuts, maize, watermelons among others and sell to the Gantsi community to supplement his livestock farming.

Moyo also says his farm is also used by as a demonstration farm by Cheetah Conservation Botswana to train other farmers in the district about good farming practices.

'Learn from South Africa' -Khama to Masisi

FROM PAGE 1

Commission (IEC) of Botswana undertook a controversial election management benchmarking trip to Zimbabwe. The sojourn was widely criticized by academics, civil society organizations, and opposition political parties. Critics argued that Zimbabwe's electoral processes have been marred by allegations of irregularities, voter intimidation, and lack of transparency, making it an unsuitable model for Botswana to emulate. The opposition and various watchdog groups expressed concerns that the trip might undermine

Botswana's own democratic standards and electoral integrity, urging the IEC to seek more credible and exemplary sources for election management practices.

Khama highlighted specific aspects of the South African model that he believes could improve Botswana's electoral framework. He pointed out that "in South Africa, election-related grievances are addressed promptly and transparently, ensuring that all stakeholders feel their concerns are taken seriously". This, he noted, contrasts with

instances in Botswana where opposition parties have raised issues about the transparency and fairness of the electoral process but continue to be seen as outsiders. Khama also commended the collaborative spirit among South African political parties during elections. He urged Botswana's political leaders to engage in constructive dialogue and cooperation, which he believes would lead to more peaceful and credible elections. We all know that Botswana opposition leaders and operatives are often harassed and arrested during

elections to destabilise and destruct their campaigns," he said. In his address, Khama also called on the IEC to implement more robust mechanisms for monitoring and managing elections. He suggested that adopting best practices from South Africa could help mitigate election-related disputes and enhance public confidence in the electoral process.

Khama's remarks come at a time when Botswana is preparing for its next general elections, with increasing calls for electoral reforms and greater transparency.

Kgafela throws Masisi a curveball

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh" Kgafela wrote. Kgosi Kgafela II pleaded that the 16 inmates on death row's lives be spared to save Molapisi, saying that gesture could aid her case. "We plead that you pardon them All, Mr President. Simultaneously: Please persuade the authorities in Bangladesh to pardon Molapisi. Your local pardons may assist her case. You all know that we speak the truth that no one loses anything if these Pardons happen," he wrote.

Further, Kgafela II appealed to Masisi's and citizens' sense of humanity and responsibility, urging them to visualise everything that goes on at death row and remember the Sign of Jonah. He believes that the act of commuting death sentences could positively influence the authorities in Bangladesh to show clemency to Molapisi.

The "Sign of the Child" in Kgafela II's plea to Masisi draws on the Biblical story of Moses, whose survival as an infant symbolized divine protection and future deliverance, and the concept of a Child Spirit, representing innocence, purity, and hope.

Kgafela II described the act of hanging and the prolonged wait for execution as "the harshest cruelty" that dehumanizes society and contravenes the principles of decency, or "Botho/uBontho," central to the cultural values of Botswana. According to Kgafela II, his plea emphasizes the universal law

that cruelty begets cruelty, suggesting that acts of state-sanctioned violence inevitably lead to further suffering within the community. "The President may sign the death warrants for any one or more of the death row inmates anytime," Kgafela writes, highlighting the immediate threat to the 16 inmates. He called on Masisi to exercise his powers of pardon, commuting the death sentences to life imprisonment instead.

In the letter, Kgafela II bolsters his plea with historical examples, pointing out a correlation between executions and subsequent tragedies affecting Botswana.

He cites multiple instances where the execution of prisoners in Botswana was followed by fatal accidents and other calamities, which he interprets as manifestations of "cruelty energy" rebounding within the community.

For instance, following the hanging of two prisoners on March 1, 2024, 45 Batswana perished in a bus accident in South Africa in the same month. Similarly, Kgafela recounts the execution of Marietta Bosch in 2001, followed by a deadly stampede at Ellis Park Stadium in South Africa, and other such incidents that illustrate a pattern of death and suffering linked to state executions.

Kgosi Kgafela II also touches upon systemic flaws within the judicial process, suggesting that many on death row have arrived there due to inadequate legal representation and state errors. "The majority of souls in death row should

not have arrived there in the first place. Much depends on the trial lawyer: Some Pro Deo lawyers who offer poor legal representation. Combined with various state errors not apparent in the Appeals Court record. Tlhabologang Macaue is a living witness. Even private lawyers make similar fatal errors," he warned.

Hypocritical plea

Kgafela further stressed that pardoning these inmates would not result in any loss for the community but rather prevent further cruelty and potential tragedies.

Botswana, known for its retributive justice system, has fervently appealed to Bangladesh to spare the life of its citizen, Lesedi Molapisi, who has been sentenced to death after being convicted of possession of illegal drugs. The plea has been met with criticism by many observers who believe it is hypocritical, given Botswana's own stringent stance on capital punishment.

While Botswana seeks clemency abroad, it continues to uphold and execute death sentences within its own borders, highlighting a perceived inconsistency in its approach to justice and mercy. Botswana Institute of Rehabilitation & Reintegration of Offenders (Birro)'s director, Mothei Sejakgomo said Botswana's retributive justice system has failed to provide any meaningful resolution to the complex issue of the death penalty. "It's hypocrisy of the highest order in

our view that a retributive state like Botswana, which steadfastly rejected outside appeals to spare the life of South African citizen Marietta Bosch in 2001, is now urgently appealing to Bangladesh to spare its own citizen for a committed capital offence. Sejakgomo said as they have previously advised, restorative justice stands as the sole solution to addressing the death penalty. Let's prioritize educating our people," he pleaded.

Ditshwanelo concerned

Director for the Centre for Human Rights (Botswana Chapter), Alice Mogwe said indeed, the expressed sympathy and promise of support, by our authorities, to the appeal of the death penalty sentence passed on Ms Lesedi Molapisi, appears to be an anomaly, considering that Botswana has the death penalty and that one of the most recent death sentences was passed on 23 May 2024. "His Excellency President Masisi appears to have noted this when he said 'I must also remind you that, even in our consultation of the constitutional review, Botswana expressed a similar view to the country where she is being sentenced'.

There are some strong sentiments out there about involvement in the drug trade. At the end of the day, from some of the comments which have been seen, Batswana seem concerned about a fellow Botswana who is facing death in a foreign country," said Mogwe.

WE'RE HIRING

Admiral Touch (Pty) Ltd is a progressive farm based in Rasesa that deals with growing of assortment of vegetable crops and rearing of goats and sheep production. We are looking for a qualified **Production Manager**

The suitable candidate will be responsible for the following:

Job Description:

Reporting to the Farm Manager, this full-time position involves coordinating and executing the various tasks necessary to produce and deliver high quality crops to market, including but not limited to: planting, pruning, thinning, spraying, mowing, irrigation, harvesting, packing, and processing (cider) of the various crops.

Responsibilities and Duties:

- Inspect plantations and other units; confer with and advise Farm Manager on problems; requisition, equipment and materials; approve work schedules
- Plan and supervise the planting, cultivating, harvesting, and storing of crops on large and diversified farming operation
- Create reports on time, equipment, materials, costs, and production; keep records and prepare estimates of needs
- Manage and implement crop protection programs
- Perform routine inspections on and direct the repair and maintenance of farm buildings and equipment; coordinate maintenance of trucks, tractors, and farm machinery with Mechanic, supervisors and farm Manager
- Hire, supervise, and train employees as needed and/or assigned
- Coordinate receiving and storage of crops with supervisors to ensure optimal utilization of space and to minimize handling
- Consult with Farm Manager to ensure adequate supply of vegetables in the market and to enable sufficient purchasing from outside suppliers

Education & Experience Requirements:

- At least a certificate in crop production; extensive responsible experience in general farm work involving farm planning, methods, and production; and experience in supervisory farm work, or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
- A minimum of six years' experience.
- Ability to keep records of time, production, and costs, and to make reports and recommendations for improvement in methods and equipment
- Ability to plan and direct large-scale diversified farm activities, to supervise and train groups of farm workers in farm activities, and to direct skilled and unskilled employees in varied farm operations
- Computer Skills: Word Processing, Spreadsheets and email.
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Interested candidates should send their application letters with CV, certified copies of qualifications to the following address not later than the 24th June 2024.

The Farm Manager
Admiral Touch Pty Ltd
Private Bag 00278
Gaborone
Email: hr@sparkcapital.co.bw

Uptake of STEAM subjects in learners with disabilities



LAGAGO TAMOCHA*
EDUCATING THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNER



Westwood International School in Gaborone are examples where STEAM education is actively promoted

STEAM EDUCATION IN BOTSWANA IS progressively being integrated into school curricula, influenced by global educational trends and local initiatives. Schools like Westwood International School in Gaborone are examples where STEAM education is actively promoted. Despite these efforts, broader national uptake, especially in public schools, is limited by resource constraints, including insufficient access to modern laboratories and digital tools, especially in rural areas. Integrating learners with disabilities into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education in Botswana presents both significant challenges and promising opportunities, especially as the country transitions to Outcome-Based Education (OBE).

Challenges

While there are notable challenges with the uptake of STEAM subjects generally, these are especially pronounced for learners with disabilities as evidenced by the struggle to have this already marginalized group access even regular curricula in our classrooms. These include inadequate training for teachers in special education, lack of resources, and the need for more individualized learning programs. Addressing these issues requires continuous investment in teacher training, resource allocation, and the development of inclusive curricula that cater to the diverse needs of all students. Addressing these issues so that it wouldn't be twice as hard for learners

with disabilities to access STEAM subjects curricula is crucial as STEAM education offers numerous benefits for children with disabilities, including enhanced cognitive skills, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. Engaging in STEAM subjects can also improve their social interactions and self-esteem. Research highlights that inclusive STEAM programs can lead to significant improvements in academic performance and personal development. For instance, project-based learning within STEAM encourages children to collaborate and innovate, providing a sense of accomplishment and inclusion.

Resource Limitations- Many schools lack the necessary equipment and materials to fully implement STEAM education. This issue is particularly acute in rural areas where educational infrastructure is often underdeveloped.

Teacher Training- Effective STEAM education requires teachers who are not only knowledgeable in their respective fields but also trained in interactive and innovative teaching methods. However, there is a shortage of such qualified teachers in Botswana.

Student Engagement- Engaging students in STEAM subjects can be challenging due to a lack of exposure and interest, which is compounded by the traditional teaching methods that are still prevalent in many schools.

Opportunities

Outcome-Based Education (OBE)
Botswana's adoption of Outcome-Based Education (OBE) presents a significant opportunity to enhance STEAM education. OBE focuses on what learners are expected to achieve at the end of their educational experience, which aligns well with the practical and skills-based nature of STEAM subjects. This shift can help in structuring curricula that foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.

Policy Support: The adoption of OBE by Botswana's Ministry of Basic Education (MoBE) emphasizes a learner-centric approach and aims to improve learning outcomes for all students. This framework can facilitate more inclusive education practices by focusing on the individual achievements of learners, including those with disabilities.

Inclusive Teaching Strategies: Educators can leverage inclusive teaching strategies that have proven effective in other contexts. For example, structuring group projects in STEAM subjects to include students with diverse abilities can foster collaboration and peer support. Using Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles, such as providing materials in multiple formats (visual, auditory, kinesthetic), can help cater to various learning preferences and abilities.

Technological Integration: Increased use of ICT in teaching and learning, as advocated by the OBE framework, offers significant benefits for students with disabilities. Assistive technologies can help bridge gaps, allowing these students to engage more fully with STEAM content. For instance, text-to-speech software can aid those with reading difficulties, while

interactive simulations can provide hands-on learning experiences that are accessible to all students.

Policy Support

Strong governmental policies and dedicated funding are crucial. Botswana's commitment to inclusive education can be reinforced by specific initiatives aimed at integrating learners with disabilities into mainstream STEAM education, ensuring they receive equal opportunities to participate and excel.

Community and Industry Engagement

Engaging the local community and industries in STEAM initiatives can provide additional support and resources. Collaborations with businesses can lead to internships, mentorship programs, and

the provision of adaptive technologies that can aid learners with disabilities. We have already seen such collaborations where corporate companies doing business in Botswana adopt certain schools to help advance STEAM subjects and their uptake by providing gadgets and technical support.

While there are considerable challenges in implementing STEAM education comprehensively across Botswana, especially for learners with disabilities, the adoption of Outcome-Based Education and the increasing integration of technology and international collaborations present substantial opportunities. Focused efforts on teacher training, resource allocation, and inclusive policies will be key to making STEAM education accessible and effective for all students in Botswana.

BDP Elders summon Masisi

FROM PAGE 1

Chairman, Slumber Tsogwane are facing a lot of pressure from BDP structures in relation to elections preparations and structures have raised concerns with the elders.

Prior to his departure to attend the JCK Trade Show in Las Vegas, United States of America (USA) Masisi announced that Bulela Ditswe would be held end of this month or at the first weekend of next month.

However, some elders told this publication that there is a lot of work to be done for the BDP to win the elections with a convincing majority vote and such would need a solid and clear elections strategy that for now is unclear. "We are concerned by the state of the affairs in the party, and this has never been a situation in the history of the party. We demand urgent and clear election campaign strategy," said one of council members and a former cabinet minister.

Efforts to contact Magang for a

comment proved futile as his mobile was unreachable at press time.

It is also said BDP MPs this week expressed their dissatisfaction to Tsogwane during BDP caucus and demanded that Bulela Ditswe be held in a near time possible so to allow them enough time to campaign.

Also, uncertainty surrounding Bulela Ditswe unfolded this week when a letter written by Tsogwane suggested that those who have intentions to withdraw from Bulela Ditswe race do so and will be rewarded their Bulela Ditswe application fees.

BDP parliamentary candidates for Bulela Ditswe paid P10 000 while councillors paid P5000 application fees.

Some BDP members have raised a concern that a call by the party leadership for members to withdraw their candidacy and be rewarded application fees is a way to dilute the elections campaign ground and that those who are preferred by leadership to win end up going to

primaries without being challenged.

Precarious position

Political analyst Kitso Morekisi said the BDP finds itself in a very precarious situation and such could dent its fortunes to mount a strong campaign, adding that as things stands Bulela Ditswe will cause harm to it.

He said it was unfortunate that some members who had shown interest had been vetted out noting that move will open for fresh factionalism as those disgruntled could opt to run as independent candidates.

"There is a lot at stake. Just like we can say the opposition is fragmented and not ready for elections considering number of issues such as delayed primary elections at Botswana National Front (BNF) of Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) and Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF), the BDP is also enduring tough spell just like them," he said, adding that BDP will retain state power but with a slight margin.



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As an all-round strategic and operations focused individual, we would require you to deliver on (but not limited to) the following:

- Oversee the operations of all stores per assigned region.
- Ensure full compliance with approved current operations standards, laws, health and safety and other statutory regulations relevant in Botswana.
- Ensure suitable staffing at all stores as per the company head count report
- Effective management of all operational costs to within prescribed budgets
- Achievement of approved monthly and annual budgeted sales and profitability targets
- Identify training needs and coordinate activities with the training department to achieve business targets.
- Generating Reports.

REQUIREMENTS/QUALIFICATIONS

- A Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Associate Degree in Retail Management or equivalent. (A Master's Degree would be an added advantage)
- Proven five (5) years' experience in the Retail Industry.
- A valid Class B Driver's License
- Proficient in Microsoft office.
- Great written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong problem solving and prioritization abilities.
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Please forward your applications (Cover letter, CV, Copies of Qualifications) to recruitment@liquorama.co.bw referenced **"REGIONAL MANAGER-LIQUORAMA"** not later than **24th June 2024**.



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- Ensure full compliance with approved current operations standards, laws, health and safety and other statutory regulations relevant in Botswana.
- Ensure suitable staffing at all stores as per the company head count report
- Effective management of all operational costs to within prescribed budgets
- Achievement of approved monthly and annual budgeted sales and profitability targets
- Identify training needs and coordinate activities with the training department to achieve business targets.
- Generating Reports.

REQUIREMENTS/QUALIFICATIONS

- A Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Associate Degree in Retail Management or equivalent. (A Master's Degree would be an added advantage)
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- Great written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong problem solving and prioritization abilities.
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Please forward your applications (Cover letter, CV, Copies of Qualifications) to hr@buildersmart.co.bw referenced **"REGIONAL MANAGER-BUILDERSMART"** not later than **24th June 2024**.

African nations promote joint conservation, tourism

THE KAVANGO ZAMBEZI (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) today launched its transformative new destination brand, "Rivers of Life," during a landmark event at the KAZA Heads of State Summit in Livingstone, Zambia.

The unveiling of the new tourism destination brand marks a pivotal moment in the region's journey towards promoting conservation, sustainable tourism, and community empowerment in the respective TFCA components across the five partner countries – Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Spanning an area of approximately 520,000 square kilometres, the KAZA TFCA is the world's largest terrestrial transfrontier conservation area. The new brand embodies the region's rich biodiversity, iconic wildlife, vibrant cultures, and the life-giving rivers that connect it all.

"Today marks a defining moment for conservation and sustainable tourism in Africa. The 'Rivers of Life' brand embodies our unwavering commitment to preserving the extraordinary natural and cultural heritage of the Kavango Zambezi eco-region. It is an invitation to the world to join us on a transformative journey, where the power of unity and collaboration knows no boundaries," said Dr. Nyambe Nyambe, Executive Director of the KAZA Secretariat.

■ KAZA TFCA unveils Rivers of Life, a bold new tourism destination

The new tourism destination brand, developed by The Journey Tourism Consultant and Management, encapsulates a unique value proposition: The Rivers of Life, rich in natural and cultural diversity to share with all who love wildlife without borders. The visual identity of the new tourism destination brand features a graphic depiction of an elephant, a keystone species whose migratory nature highlights the need for transboundary collaboration among the five KAZA countries.

Encircling the elephant are dynamic brushstrokes in bold colours – yellow, red, blue, and green – representing the rivers, landscapes, and the vibrant cultures of the KAZA eco-region. Each colour has been carefully chosen to convey a specific aspect of Kavango Zambezi – from the warmth and energy of the African sun and its beautiful sunrises and sunsets to the blue lifeblood of the TFCA, the mighty rivers that sustain wildlife and communities, and the lush green vegetation.

Forged through collaboration

The development of the new Kavango Zambezi destination brand has been inclusive and participatory.

The brand launch event was graced by the presence of high-level leadership representatives from all five partner



Dr. Nyambe Nyambe, Executive Director of the KAZA Secretariat

countries, underscoring the strong political commitment to this initiative. Also in attendance were key stakeholders from the tourism industry, conservation

organisations, donor agencies, and local community representatives, reflecting the multi-sectoral and collaborative spirit of partnership that birthed the

Kavango Zambezi "Rivers of Life" tourism destination brand. "The journey to this momentous day has been one of extensive consultation, collaboration, and co-creation. Over the past year, we have engaged with a wide spectrum of stakeholders – from government representatives and conservation experts to tourism operators and local community leaders - across all five partner countries. This inclusive approach has ensured that our new brand is a true reflection of the shared values, aspirations, and unique attributes of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area," explained Dr Nyambe.

The new brand represents a bold vision for the future: To see Kavango Zambezi as a well-known and valued tourism destination actively promoted by the tourism trade and appreciated by local stakeholders who can measurably see the benefits of both conservation and tourism.

To achieve this vision will require the KAZA Secretariat to follow the five governments' lead in implementing strategies for ease of access; Collaborate with the tourism trade both locally and internationally to; Promote awareness of Kavango|Zambezi; Develop special interest products; Design routes that promote cross-border travel and extend duration of visits; Provide easily accessible information; Actively seek to ensure the inclusion of

local communities; Ensure sustainable conservation, including consumptive use of resources, is appreciated; Promote the ideals of eco-tourism and make a conscious contribution to combatting climate change. "Our new brand is an open invitation to the world to experience the wonders of the Kavango Zambezi landscape. By visiting Kavango Zambezi, travellers have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the raw beauty of the African wilderness while contributing directly to conservation efforts and the well-being of the communities who call this landscape home," said Dr. Nyambe

New chapter begins

In the coming months, the Kavango Zambezi "Rivers of Life" brand will be rolled out across various platforms, including brand workshops, social media, and marketing materials. As the KAZA TFCA embarks on this new chapter, the organisation remains committed to its core values of conservation, cooperation, and community empowerment. With its new brand as a catalyst, KAZA TFCA further enhances its stature as a leading model for sustainable development in Africa, demonstrating that thriving wildlife, resilient communities, and responsible tourism can coexist in harmony.

www.kavangozambezi.org and uncoverkaza.com.

Behind the 'Zuma tsunami' in South Africa

NOMSA MASEKO

BBC News, Durban

ELECTED, ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION - fired, accused of rape - acquitted, elected president, accused of corruption again - denied again, ousted, imprisoned for contempt of court - freed, barred from becoming an MP.

For most politicians almost any of these punches would have proved fatal to their career, but not for South Africa's Jacob Zuma.

Like a resolute prize-fighter, the 82-year-old former president may have been knocked down on occasions, but he has never been knocked out.

During the recent election campaign he has been doing his familiar dance and the results of last week's vote show he still wields huge influence.

He is at the helm of a new party that took on the African National Congress (ANC), gaining 15% of the vote.

The results have been humiliating for the ANC, the liberation movement Mr Zuma once led, as it has lost its outright parliamentary majority for the first time in 30 years - and the "Zuma tsunami", as it has been dubbed, is partly responsible.

In the centre of the coastal city of Durban, the main city in KwaZulu-Natal province, Mr Zuma's smiling face beams down from virtually every street lamp on green-and-black election posters of his recently formed party, uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) or Spear of the Nation.

There is no doubting the octogenarian's exalted status here in his heartland, where he is respected for upholding his cultural and traditional Zulu beliefs.

He is also lauded for his role as a peace broker during political violence in the early 1990s, which almost derailed the country's transition to democracy.

And more than 20 years ago, he was credited with bringing voters in KwaZulu-Natal from the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party to the ANC.

This year he was able to take his loyal supporters with him to MK, which is named after the ANC's former armed wing and holds huge political symbolism because of its role in fighting for the end of white-minority rule.

The launch of MK's manifesto, a week before the 29 May election at a packed 40,000-seater stadium, was a clear signal that "uBaba" (father), as Mr Zuma is known, was back.

The sea of his supporters braving the scorching heat chanted: "Zuma! Zuma!"

One shouted: "Uyinsizwa nxamala", which loosely translates from Zulu as "a fearless warrior who never backs down".

On election day, arriving at his polling station, a modestly built primary school



Zuma

without flushing toilets, the MK party leader was greeted by hundreds of people who called out his clan names: "Msholoz, Nxamalala, Maphumèphethe".

The former president waved and smiled at them before entering a classroom to vote.

As he left the polling station, his supporters sang a pro-Zuma song in Zulu made popular several years ago when the former president was accused of corruption.

One refrain they belted out translates as: "What has Zuma done? You're influenced by propaganda from so-called white monopoly capital." Many politicians can rely on a loyal core of backers, but Mr Zuma's ability to genuinely connect with the poor and marginalised is what sets him apart.

And this may explain his enduring popularity despite facing numerous scandals and damning accusations.

Six years ago, it seemed that his luck had finally run out when he was forced from the presidency, following a litany of corruption allegations, which he denied.

Cyril Ramaphosa replaced him as president and Mr Zuma became a political pariah and a damaged brand.

Then three years ago, things got worse: he was sent to jail after being found in contempt of court for failing to give evidence and testify at a judicial investigation into corruption during his nine-year term as president.

His arrest in July 2021 sparked the deadliest riots since the end of white-minority rule in 1994 and led to the deaths of more than 300 people.

He had been sentenced to 15 months, but President Ramaphosa released him after he had served only three, in an attempt to placate him and his angry supporters.

Just a few weeks ago, it seemed Mr Zuma

was dealt another blow after being legally barred from standing as a member of parliament because of his conviction.

But none of that seemed to matter to voters, and his propensity to outsmart his political opponents was evident, which the ANC acknowledged.

"Jacob Zuma is a force to be reckoned with in South African politics... we never underestimated him," admitted ANC secretary-general Fikile Mbalula, as he reflected on his party's dismal performance.

Despite his suspension from the ANC, Mr Zuma remains a member of the party that brought an end to apartheid.

With no formal schooling and a modest upbringing, his anti-apartheid activism eventually saw him jailed for 10 years at the notorious Robben Island prison along with Nelson Mandela.

After the ban against the ANC was lifted by the white government in 1990, Mr Zuma returned from exile and rose through the party's ranks. In 1999 he was appointed deputy president of the country.

He was then implicated in corruption allegations in 2005, which he denied, involving a 1999 arms deal and was fired by then-President Thabo Mbeki. This case continues to drag on - and he still faces charges over the multi-billion dollar scandal.

In December of that year, he was accused of raping the daughter of a party comrade. He admitted to having sex with the woman, who was HIV positive, but said the encounter was consensual.

Mr Zuma invited ridicule when he said he had had a shower after sex to prevent HIV transmission and believed that a healthy man was unlikely to catch HIV from a woman.

The following year, he was acquitted of rape.

He then fought his way back to the top of the ANC and became president in 2009.

Mr Zuma remained in the role until he was forced to resign in 2018 after intense pressure from his own party.

This came after he was accused of being involved in a process known as "state capture", where he allowed a family of wealthy businessmen - the Guptas - to wield massive political influence.

Mr Zuma and the Gupta brothers have dismissed the allegations of corruption as a

fabrication.

The former president and his supporters blame his successor, Mr Ramaphosa, for his downfall.

And now he might want to settle a score with his rival.

With coalition talks under way, the MK party has made it clear that it will only form a partnership with the ANC if the president resigns.

Freshly emboldened by his party's performance, Mr Zuma threw the first punch on Saturday, alleging irregularities. "Nobody must declare results, don't

provoke us, don't start trouble," he said on the eve of the announcement of the final election results. The electoral commission has strongly denied these allegations.

Police are now on alert because of the risk of potential unrest following Mr Zuma's comments.

Yet despite this acrimonious situation and relationship, the ANC has not ruled out a coalition with the MK party. "We are talking to everybody who is prepared to form a government with us," Mr Mbalula said.

It all shows Mr Zuma's remarkable ability to remain in the ring. [BBC]




Youth Business Elevator Challenge

The Local Enterprise Authority is launching the Youth Business Elevator Challenge. This is an African Development Bank funded project, implemented by the Ministry of Entrepreneurship of Botswana. The objective of the project is to grow youth entrepreneurship through training and provision of funding as well as mentorship and coaching, for the scaling up of startups and growth of youth owned enterprises.

Apply to participate for the Youth Business Elevator Challenge to show off your business plan creating skills. You could win a share of **P1 million** to grow your business to become a youth employer.

Training Locations

Training will be done at the following locations:

24 June - 28 June 2024	1 July - 5 July 2024
Kasane	Francistown
Lethakane	Gaborone
Maun	Gantsi
Se rowe	Kanye
Tsabong	Molepolole

Eligibility Criteria

To apply, you need to:

- Be between 18 and 35 years old
- Have a valid Omang
- Running a business for a period not exceeding 5 years
- Have plans to grow within 2 years
- Have a business idea if you don't have an existing/operating business yet
- Must be able and willing to participate in a mandatory 5-days training
- If a company, the shareholding of the applicant(s) should be more than 50% in the company

Deadline for application is the 14th of June 2024.

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/UEV48cVRFI>

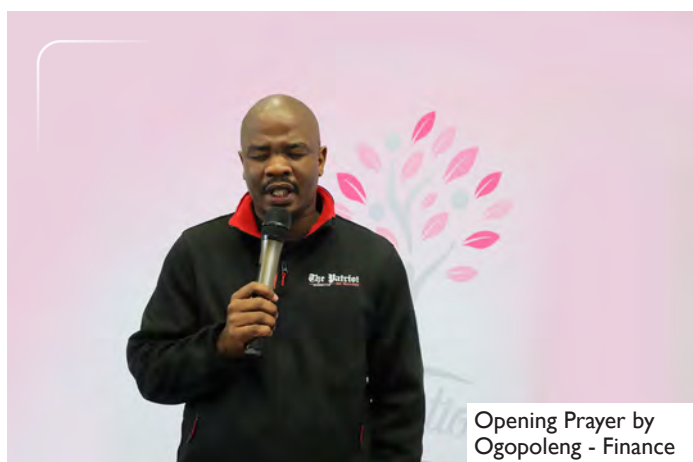
Successful applicants will be enrolled for training by LEA, to begin the challenge, each training will identify the top 10 applicants who will be drawn into the final national business plan pitch.

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Opening Prayer by Ogotleng - Finance Manager



Opening Remarks by Managing Director of The Patriot on Sunday, Mpho Dibeela



MC - Bakang Tiro - Senior Reporter



Training by Wealth Advisor & Managing Director at Ignnytwealth Financial Services, Seatla Ratshosa



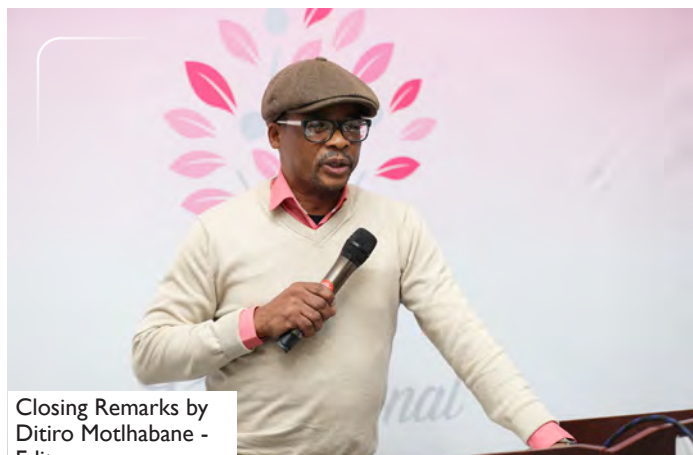
Insurance talk by Kabalano Mojalemotho - Manager Bancassurance - Bank Gaborone



Rothel Funeral Cover by Jason Chengega - Insurance Underwriter - Bank Gaborone



Emergency Assist Team



Closing Remarks by Ditiro Mothabane - Editor



BMI by Emergency Assist 991



The Patriot staff listening attentively



Inskip Investments (Pty) Ltd, the publishers of The Patriot on Sunday newspaper and Patriot Woman magazine hosted a one-day personal finance training and wellness day for staff on Monday, at Cresta Lodge in Gaborone.

The training was provided by experts from IgnnytWealth Financial Services, covering topics under financial management, including principles of wealth creation facilitated. Insurance experts from Bank Gaborone advised employees on different available options to protect their assets and life against unforeseen eventualities. Emergency Assist 991 paramedics were on standby to provide health checks like sugar levels, blood pressure, and Body Mass Index. Welcoming staff to the workshop, Inskip Investments (Pty) Ltd Managing Director, Mpho Dibeela said it is important for the company to train staff how to manage their personal finances, because it takes a lot of discipline for one to understand how to manage their finances in a sustainable manner.

"This is an area that we have chosen to focus on, and we will continue to create more of these platforms for our employees. We want to make our employees happy and that is why we have created this platform. For the past 12 years, we have been keen on newspaper production deadlines, but now we have decided to emphasize staff welfare and development," said Dibeela.

Wealth Creation
Wealth Advisor and Managing Director at IgnnytWealth, Seatla Ratshosa said there are six principles of wealth creation that every employer on salary should thrive to meet to create wealth for themselves. He said the principles are earning (salary, commission, bonus etc.), savings, investing, risk management, giving and estate planning. He emphasized the need for employees to diversify their income streams through venturing into side hustles instead of depending on a salary only.

According to Ratshosa, Botswana's household debt remains very high, mostly dominated by personal loans which either have been taken by beneficiaries to buy cars, go on vacation and less on investing. "Salary in its nature has limitations as it is the one that is used for paying rent, loans and other extra utilities. Furthermore, it is also very important for one to learn and master each principle of wealth creation. There is no way one can invest while he or she hasn't earned or made savings," said Ratshosa.

Ratshosa also said it is important for employees to seek financial advice whenever they feel suppressed by the financial burden of loans repayment, adding that it is important to restructure debt when a need arises.

Insurance
Meanwhile, Bancassurance Manager at Bank Gaborone, Kabalano Mojalemotho said it is important for employees to have insurance schemes, noting that such include insuring personal belongings such as home property, cars, and gadgets such as laptops and cameras that are used in the case of The Patriot on Sunday workplace, like in the newsroom. He advised the employer to also obtain insurance for its assets such as vehicles, office buildings and other equipment owned by the company. For his part, Insurance Underwriter at Bank Gaborone, Jason Chengega presented to the staff on the Rothel funeral cover which he said offers up to P50 000 funeral cover depending on how much one decides to pay out as a premium per month.

Sustainability
Giving closing remarks, The Patriot on Sunday Editor, Ditiro Mothabane appreciated the employer for conducting the workshop and extended a plea that it should not be a once off event as such training is valuable for staff development and wellbeing. Mothabane encouraged staff to continue engaging with the financial experts beyond the workshop, emphasizing that it is very useful because circumstances differ from one person to the next when it comes to financial matters. "Our team is made up of young members who are at entry level of their careers, just beginning and it is very important for them to be abreast with money issues as they look out for financial assistance to better their lives going forward. They should be well informed about when it is appropriate to look for credit, with astute planning that goes with such a decision as the risk of misusing funds obtained through loans is very high," cautioned Mothabane.

Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



ADAM PHETLHE
ON SUNDAY!

IT DOESN'T RAIN PUT POURS THROUGH the shade of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) should news reports be anything to go by. The implosion is brought about by what is happening in different political parties whose presence constitute the umbrella body. At the heart of the implosion is the fact that the political parties are individually and collectively disgruntled by the decisions of the UDC to allocate some parliamentary constituencies and council wards to other parties at the expense of the others.

As a consequence, one of the parties in the name of Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) resigned controversially from the UDC. Another partner, the Alliance for Progressives (AP) is scheduled to meet over the weekend principally on account of the same disgruntlement. There is every chance it will exit the UDC if it doesn't get its way. Almost watching helplessly is the UDC leadership who for all intents and purposes, should have acted proactively to stem the tide. What seems to be the attitude of the leadership is to be reactive when the damage has been allowed and deeply entrenched.

The issue of conflicts and disgruntlement arising out of the allocations of parliamentary constituencies and council wards on one hand and the process to select candidates to represent the party on

UDC imploding under Boko's watch

the other, is a long standing issue across all political parties but which seemingly, a permanent solution has not been found. It is fair to state this problem has not been evident in the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) because no negative reporting in that regard has come forward. It is so pronounced at the Botswana Democratic Party and the UDC partners. The root cause is the circumvented processes and procedures where there is a grounded perception or reality that the party leadership is directly involved to decide who stands and who doesn't.

Causes of implosion

The UDC convened a forum constituted by representatives from its parties who determined which party got allocated which parliamentary constituencies and council wards such that parties choose amongst their members who will in turn, represent the UDC in the 2024 general election through their internal processes. As it is fact that these parties do not command equal political followings in all parliamentary constituencies, this fact would on its own determine which party is allocated the said constituencies.

Any other consideration would inevitably lead to untold conflict and disgruntlement. It is part of the recipe that precipitates the implosion. It would appear the leadership was motivated by the false pretence that has turned fatal that whoever is allocated a constituency would necessarily receive endorsement and support from other parties. I have repeatedly made the point that members of UDC parties first belong to these parties before they become UDC members by virtue of their parties joining UDC. The argument that members of UDC parties will automatically support any member of their cooperating parties is grossly misplaced. Otherwise and if that was



Boko

the case, the current brouhaha would not have emerged.

BNF activists and members in constituencies such as Mmopane-Metsimothabe which has been allocated to AP have reportedly stood their ground that the AP candidate and the party itself do not have a tested footprint in the area. It is reported that a BNF and AP candidates are claiming legitimacy to represent the UDC. Past election results indicate BNF has always posted good numbers in the constituency.

A similar situation has unfolded in Molepolole South constituency with both BNF and AP candidates also claiming legitimacy thereto and using the UDC

banner to campaign. Kgatleng East (parliamentary) and a ward in Tlokweng are also experiencing candidacy standoffs. But one of the most astonishing stories about the BNF candidacy shambles is in the Mahalapye East constituency where a candidate's credentials are being questioned. A letter from a law firm acting on behalf of a well-known member of the BNF in the constituency has been sent to the party demanding to know the circumstances surrounding the bonafide of the preferred candidate with respect to him standing as a BNF candidate of the UDC.

The letter contents 'his name did not even appear in any of the wards in Mahalapye East constituency and he had never participated in any of the party activities in Mahalapye East constituency as per regulation 7.5 of the BNF rules and regulations relating to the selection of parliamentary and local government candidates'. I am not aware whether or not the BNF has responded to the law firm's letter. But whatever the case, the allegations raised in the letter demonstrate just how pathetic the internal processes of identifying candidates has rocked the UDC and its partners.

Reluctant leadership

The point of departure should be that UDC leadership should have proactively acted as soon as disputes raised their ugly heads early this year or thereabout. But surprisingly, the leadership seemingly chose to kick the can down the road while the disputes were gaining accelerated momentum. This is a distinct and telling feature of reluctant leadership. Such leadership always ignores glaring red flags in the hope that disputes will cure themselves. It is reported the UDC has now formed a Task Force to deal with the disputes.

However, it is reasonable to suggest this could be too little too late because reallocations of disputed constituencies and wards will not calm the political fissures currently ravaging the UDC. It will simply result in disputes in the reserve mode. Simply put, partners on the losing end will still feel aggrieved and by extension, stoke the ravaging fires even further. To drive this point home, the AP candidate in Molepolole South for example, will not accept ceding the constituency to the BNF candidate. The horse has effectively bolted. As alluded to earlier, the exiting of the

BPF albeit controversially and the this weekend's AP meeting if it goes ahead, is testament that at the highest echelons of UDC leadership, proactive leadership has fallen below the expected bar in so far as dispute resolution strategies are concerned. If this was not the case, the high levels of political fissures would have not emerged or better still, allowed to emerge because they would have been nipped in the bud. The election stakes are too high for the UDC leadership to behave so lackadaisical.

Prospects of success

With the UDC torn apart from within and which situation doesn't augur well for it whichever way one looks at it, it is difficult to imagine how this situation will be resolved accepting the general election is only four months away. Prospects of success exist where there are demonstrable high levels of stability and camaraderie in the UDC partners and the UDC itself. Political stability is a prerequisite to any political formation for it to do well in the general election. It is clear as day light that such is not the case at the UDC. It is almost a given that members of the UDC partners will be voting for the candidates on a party basis which situation will lead to the fragmentation of votes which ordinarily, would accrue to the UDC as a collective. In the meantime, other political vultures are circling around to see what is left of the UDC for them to salvage something.

All I am saying is that the UDC leadership has dismally failed the 'People's Project' by its sheer reluctance to act proactively and decisively in order to avoid the implosion. On the basis of the failure of the leadership to act when it had ample time under the sun to do so, it will defy simple logic whether it can do so when the horse has bolted. Attitudes have been allowed to harden because a fertile ground was slowly but surely cultivated for such to do so. One can only hope the situation reversed for better outcomes.

But, and it is a big but, things are not looking pretty because attitudes have exceeded boiling point and it looks by each passing day that political fissures will exponentially increase. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

adamphetlhe08@gmail.com



IGNATIUS NJOBVU
HEART OF THE MATTER

IN PERFORMING ITS FUNCTION AS A preventative item for sexually transmitted diseases, a condom plays hindrance to the essence of the sexual intercourse act, which is child bearing through pregnancy. We very much appreciate the effectiveness of a condom, but it pre-empts the law of nature. While acting in good faith, a condom slows down the natural course of reproduction.

Schooling should not play 'condom' in the learning process

In the same vein, some operations and practices in our learning institutions are preventing self-directed learning. The revolutionary dispensation occupying the learning space in 21st century is in many ways contradicting what has for many decades governed the learning protocols. These protocols are developed to ensure predictability and conformity. They exist to ensure that 'law and order' prevail in learning institutions. The motives behind their orchestration is genuine, convenient and understandable. Malice and hindrance to maximizing the learning process has never been the intention for coming up with these institutional protocols. Suffice to say that they have so far served us well, and have directed our social, cultural and economic development in the best way possible. That we regret having had these protocols, not at all but it is time we reviewed them in the context of the new learning environment.

I am referring to rules and regulations found in many learning institutions which in my view are playing hindrance to learning in the 21st century. I am denoting the cultural practices that prevent innovations and change in the manner that would maximize learning in school environments. I am simply trying to raise a discussion on how we view what entails learning and how schools can better facilitate that process without preventing the very essence of their existence. First on mind is the administration of corporal punishment. I am one of those that was brought up through caning in my childhood. I understand fully why corporal punishment was administered on me and somehow I credit it for my being today. In the recent past, I even submitted an opinion through this same platform in support of corporal punishment. But after a reviewing the kind of children we have today, I happen to incline more to a review of this standard. Laws are being developed which seem to prevent such an undertaking. Most parents are not in support of such corrective measures. Mind you, these parents include the very teachers who must administer corporal punishment. Learners of today are exposed to lots of information that they make their own decisions based on that information or what they are able to see in society. Most of them have an idea of what it takes to be successful in the pursuit for their dreams. I feel that all they need is more

guidance from our side than the physical pain as a corrective measure. Corporal punishment is slowly playing hindrance to learning in schools.

In connection to the above, I am undoubtedly for the idea of a learner friendly environment. An environment where teachers are very approachable for all kinds of learning and discussions including the hidden curriculum. It cannot be right that we only stick to teaching the prescribed curriculum with very serious faces. It cannot be right that learners cannot be comfortable enough to have a social conversation with their teachers. Teachers should be friends to their learners. They are the immediate parents readily available for eight hours or more every day. Beyond the need of just being friends, it is important for teachers to guide learners in what the learner aspire to become, including none academic prospects. This is what might even broaden the idea of equity in education. The success of multiple pathways in education can also be broadened by a learner friendly environment in schools.

Schools are now contained in the electronic gadgets. All information and learning can be done through YOUTUBE and many other learning platforms electronically. That is why the Government of Botswana is providing WiFi in densely populated areas, it is because she realises the importance of the internet in increasing the knowledge base of its people. It therefore cannot be right in these times that we remain very strict with the usage of these electronic gadgets by students in the school environments. These gadgets should be complementing that which we are discussing with students in our classes. During break times and other free times in schools, why can't we allow learners to be using their own gadgets? The narrative that they (students) might access illicit sites on the internet should not hold because they do have such access anywhere and elsewhere. Guidance and encouragement to focus on what is important should be crucial as we talk to the students. If it is a question of maturity, responsibility and accountability of learners that we are concerned about then it makes sense. In that case, let's then consider some flexibility at secondary schools. Going forward we need to review some practices in our learning institutions lest they play 'condom' to progressive learning.

SAEF mourns the death of Ronelle Rademeyer

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN EDITORS' Forum (SAEF) has learnt with sadness about the passing away of Namibian veteran journalist and former Secretary General of the Editors' Forum of Namibia (EFN), Ronelle Rademeyer who died last night (20 May 2024) after a long fight with cancer.

Ronelle, 56, served as secretary general of the EFN between 2017 and 2022, when the disease forced her to retire prematurely at the Afrikaans daily, Republikein where she worked as news editor.

Ronelle was instrumental in organising the EFN Journalism Awards from 2018 to 2023 and in stabilizing the finances of the EFN through her persuasion of the Namibian industry executives to support good and ethical journalism by sponsoring cash prizes for the awards and buying tables at the awards' ceremonies.

She also formed part of the team that



Ronelle Rademeyer

revised the current Code of Ethics for the Namibian Print, Broadcast and Online Media launched by the late President Hage Geingob in 2017.

Ronelle started her journalistic work during the late 1990s working for publications in South Africa before ending up at the Republikein where she went on to become the news editor.

She will always be remembered for her dedication to journalism and the EFN which she helped propel into an exemplary self-regulatory chapter in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) of 16 countries and on the African continent.

Ronelle worked closely with the current SAEF SG, Joseph Ailonga when he was chairperson of the EFN.

Issued on behalf of SAEF by:
Willie Mponda
Chairperson
Email: wmponda@gmail.com

UDC on retired soldiers welfare (Pensions)

THE UDC UNRESERVEDLY condemned the manner in which the government seems to be handling a thorny issue of national significance as in resolving pension grievances involving retired members of the BDF. We herein provide support and encouragement to retired soldiers in their demands and quest for payment of their appropriate pensions, a matter dating as far back as 1998 which is currently before the courts.

We understand and appreciate that the retired soldiers are querying amongst others the illegal and unlawful migration of their pensions as provided for in the BDF Act to the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund, of which the latter's conditions of investment fell far short to benefit the military retirees. This has resulted with the retired soldiers failing to generate enough investment that will enabled them to buy an annuity such that they can afford to earn a decent monthly pension. Thus, condemning them to economic hardships

and therefore candidates for employment in IPELENG type programmes post military service.

Soldiers are men and women who provides security, safety to this country and had served with sacrifice, distinction and honour, therefore, deserve to be treated with respect and appreciation. It is regrettable that faced with such a straight forward matter, Government continue to fight retired soldiers through the courts on a matter that could be solved amicably and expeditiously.

The Parliament and the nations by now should have been taken into confidence regarding the nature and the modalities of the settlement. We therefore implore the government commit to its obligations to resolve this matter in a transparent manner and spirit that the president Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi has always articulated while addressing the nation in different fora and as he informed the Parliament that, "we will settle."

Kethalefile FC Motshewwa
UDC SECRETARIAT



Motshewwa



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Please write to us:
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Postal: P.O. Box 404583, Gaborone, Botswana or
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New Sankalps from the Sadhana in Kanniyakumari

NARENDRA MODI*

THE BIGGEST FESTIVAL OF democracy, the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, are concluding today in our nation, the Mother of Democracy. After a three-day spiritual journey in Kanniyakumari, I have just boarded the plane for Delhi. Throughout the day, Kashi and numerous other seats have been in the midst of voting. My mind is filled with so many experiences and emotions. I feel a boundless flow of energy within myself. The 2024 Lok Sabha elections are the first in the Amrit Kaal. I began my campaign a few months ago from Meerut, the land of the First War of Independence of 1857. Since then, I have traversed across the length and breadth of our great nation. The final rally of these elections took me to Hoshiarpur in Punjab, the land of the great Gurus and a land associated with Sant Ravidas Ji. After that, I came to Kanniyakumari, at the feet of Maa Bharti.

It is natural that the fervour of the elections was echoing in my heart and mind. The multitude of faces seen in rallies and road shows came in front of my eyes. The blessings from our Nari Shakti...the trust, the affection, all of this was a very humbling experience. My eyes were getting moist... I entered into a 'sadhana' (meditative state). And then, the heated political debates, the attacks and counter-attacks, the voices and words of accusations which are so characteristic of an election...they all vanished into a void. A sense of detachment came to grow within me...my mind became completely detached from the external world.

Meditation becomes challenging amidst such huge responsibilities, but the land of Kanniyakumari and the inspiration of Swami Vivekananda made it effortless. As a candidate myself, I left my campaign in the hands of my beloved people of Kashi and came here.

I am also grateful God for instilling me with these values from birth

which I have cherished and tried to live up to. I was also thinking about what Swami Vivekananda must have experienced during his meditation at this very place in Kanniyakumari! A part of my meditation was spent in a similar stream of thoughts.

Amidst this detachment, amidst the peace and silence, my mind was constantly thinking about the bright future of Bharat, the goals of Bharat. The rising sun at Kanniyakumari gave new heights to my thoughts, the vastness of the ocean expanded my ideas, and the expanse of the horizon continuously made me realize the unity, the Oneness, embedded in the depths of the universe. It seemed as if the observations and experiences undertaken in the lap of the Himalayas decades ago were being revived.

Friends, Kanniyakumari has always been very close to my heart. The Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanniyakumari was built under the leadership of Shri Eknath Ranade ji. I had the opportunity to travel extensively with Eknath ji. During the construction of this Memorial, I had the opportunity to spend some time in Kanniyakumari as well.

From Kashmir to Kanniyakumari... this is a common identity that is deeply ingrained in the heart of every citizen of the country. This is the 'Shakti Peeth' (seat of Shakti) where Maa Shakti incarnated as Kanya Kumari. At this Southern tip, Maa Shakti performed penance and waited for Bhagwan Shiva, who was residing in the Himalayas at the northernmost parts of Bharat.

Kanniyakumari is the land of confluences. The sacred rivers of our country flow into different seas, and here, those very seas converge. And here, we witness another great confluence—the ideological confluence of Bharat! Here, we find the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, a grand statue of Saint Thiruvalluvar, Gandhi Mandapam, and Kamarajar Mani Mandapam. These streams of thought from these stalwarts converge here to form a confluence of national thought.



Modi

This gives rise to great inspirations for nation-building. This land of Kanniyakumari gives an indelible message of unity, especially to any person who doubts Bharat's nationhood and the sense of unity.

The grand statue of Saint Thiruvalluvar in Kanniyakumari seems to be looking at the expanse of Maa Bharati from the sea. His work Thirukkural is one of the crown jewels of the beautiful Tamil language. It covers every aspect of life, inspiring us to give our best for ourselves and for the nation. It was my great fortune to pay my respects to such a great figure.

Friends, Swami Vivekananda once said, 'Every nation has a message to deliver, a mission to fulfil, a destiny to reach.'

For thousands of years, Bharat has been moving forward with this sense of meaningful purpose. Bharat has been a cradle of ideas for thousands of years. We have never considered what we have acquired as our personal wealth or measured

it purely by economic or material parameters. Therefore, 'Idam-nama-mama' (this is not mine) has become an inherent and natural part of the character of Bharat.

Bharat's welfare benefits our planet's journey to progress as well. Take the freedom movement as an example. Bharat gained independence on August 15, 1947. At that time, many countries around the world were under colonial rule. Bharat's independence journey inspired and empowered many of those countries to achieve their own freedom. That same spirit was seen decades later when the world came face to face with the once in a century COVID-19 pandemic. When concerns were raised about the poor and developing countries, Bharat's successful efforts provided courage and assistance to many nations.

Today, Bharat's governance model has become an example for many countries around the world. Empowering 25 crore people to rise above poverty in just 10 years is unprecedented. Innovative

practices such as Pro-People Good Governance, aspirational districts, and aspirational blocks are being discussed globally today. Our efforts, from empowering the poor to last-mile delivery, have inspired the world by prioritizing individuals standing at the last rung of society. Bharat's Digital India campaign is now an example for the entire world, showing how we can use technology to empower the poor, bring transparency, and ensure their rights. Inexpensive data in Bharat is becoming a means of social equality by ensuring the reach of information and services to the poor. The whole world is witnessing and studying the democratization of technology, and major global institutions are advising many countries to adopt elements from our model.

Today, Bharat's progress and rise are not just a significant opportunity for Bharat alone, but also a historic opportunity for all our partner countries around the world. Since the success of the G-20, the world has been increasingly envisioning

a bigger role for Bharat. Today, Bharat is being acknowledged as a strong and important voice of the Global South. The African Union has become a part of the G-20 group at the initiative of Bharat. This is going to be a crucial turning point for the future of African countries.

Friends, The development trajectory of Bharat fills us with pride and glory, but at the same time, it also reminds the 140 crore citizens of their responsibilities. Now, without wasting a single moment, we must step forward towards greater duties and larger goals. We need to dream new dreams, convert them into reality and begin living those dreams.

We must see Bharat's development in a global context, and for this, it is essential that we understand Bharat's internal capabilities. We must acknowledge Bharat's strengths, nurture them, and utilize them for the benefit of the world. In today's global scenario, Bharat's strength as a youthful nation is an opportunity from which we must not look back.

The world of the 21st century is looking towards Bharat with many hopes. And we will need to make several changes to move forward in the global scenario. We also need to change our traditional thinking regarding reform. Bharat cannot limit reform to just economic reforms. We must move forward in every aspect of life towards the direction of reform. Our reforms should also align with the aspirations of a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) by 2047.

We must also understand that reform can never be a unidimensional process for any country. Therefore, I have laid out the vision of reform, perform, and transform for the country. The responsibility of reform lies with leadership. Based on that, our bureaucracy performs, and when the people join in with the spirit of Jan Bhagidari, we witness a transformation taking place.

We must make excellence the fundamental principle to make our country a 'Viksit Bharat'. We need to work quickly in all four directions:

Speed, Scale, Scope, and Standards. Alongside manufacturing, we must also focus on quality and adhere to the mantra of 'zero defect-zero effect'.

Friends, We should take pride in every moment that God has blessed us with birth in the land of Bharat. God has chosen us to serve Bharat and fulfil our role in our country's journey towards excellence.

We must redefine our heritage in a modern way while embracing ancient values in a modern context.

As a nation, we also need to reassess outdated thinking and beliefs. We need to free our society from the pressure of professional pessimists. We must remember that freedom from negativity is the first step towards achieving success. Success blossoms in the lap of positivity.

My faith, devotion, and belief in the infinite and eternal power of Bharat are growing day by day. Over the past 10 years, I have seen this capability of Bharat grow even more and have experienced it first-hand.

Just as we utilized the fourth and fifth decades of the 20th century to impart a new momentum to the freedom movement, we must lay the foundation for a 'Visit Bharat' in these 25 years of the 21st century. The freedom struggle was a time that called for great sacrifices. The present times call for great and sustained contributions from everyone.

Swami Vivekananda had said in 1897 that we must dedicate the next 50 years solely for the nation. Exactly 50 years after this call, Bharat gained independence in 1947.

Today, we have the same golden opportunity. Let's dedicate the next 25 years solely for the nation. Our efforts will create a strong foundation for the coming generations and the coming centuries, taking Bharat to new heights. Looking at the energy and enthusiasm of the country, I can say that the goal is not far away now. Let us take swift steps...let us come together and create a Viksit Bharat.

*Prime Minister of India, on 1st June between during his return flight from Kanniyakumari to Delhi.

Whose legal advice carries the day in Parliament? -Parliamentary Legal Counsel or Attorney General?

DURING THE DEBATE ON THE Constitution (Amendment) Bill this week, a question was

posed: Whether the Bill's life ends with the dissolution of parliament in the event it is not concluded. There have

been different answers to this question with some saying the Bill dies with the dissolution while some said that is

not so. One of those who believes the Bill does not die with the dissolution of parliament is the mover of the Bill Minister Morwaeng. A good number of opposition MPs who had spoken on the matter believed the Bill dies with dissolution. The Parliamentary Legal Counsel (PLC) was asked to give a legal opinion following his interpretation of the relevant Constitutional provisions. It is worth mentioning that LPC is an extension of the Attorney General (AG) because he is seconded from the latter. In essence, it is the same institution providing different legal opinions on the same matter.

In a nutshell, the PLC's opinion was that the Bill dies with dissolution. Minister Morwaeng differed with the PLC on the ground that he had consulted with the government chief legal advisor in the person of the Attorney General (AG). By extension, he verily believes the advice tendered that the Bill will survive the death of the 12th parliament. What stands out for me is the collision of legal opinions from the executive and the legislature. On one hand, the AG advises the executive while on the other, the PLC advises the legislature.

My little understanding is that the PLC is an authority duly placed to provide sound legal advice to the House on the interpretation of the law and the Constitution. On that score I believe, his legal advice must carry the day. Otherwise, there will be no purpose to have PLC in the House. This does mean however and in my view, that the PLC's legal opinion and advice cannot be legally challenged. Minister Morwaeng is wearing two heads in the House: that of a member of the Executive whose legal advisor in that capacity is the AG and that of an MP whose legal advisor is the PLC. Minister Morwaeng is pursuing a dual undertaking of a Bill which is political and legal and would naturally rely on any advice that says it will be alive post the dissolution. It is the Minister's wish and intention to have the Bill passed and signed into law as quickly as possible. When all is said and done, whose legal advice carries the day? I believe it will make a fascinating legal argument in a court of law were it to be so challenged. I am prepared to be persuaded as always. Judge for Yourself! adampheth08@gmail.com

On the eve of voter registration closure

TIGEO MPHO*

BECAUSE TOMORROW, IEC'S FINAL supplementary registration ends, I went on a walk about town today: greeting and talking to strangers, wanting to know whether they had registered to vote or not and if not, why so? An unsettling conclusion emerges.

1. A significantly high number of eligible voters are still yet to register, especially amongst youth.

2. A vast majority of these people are angry and deeply frustrated with their quality of life, are despondent and have lost trust and faith in politics. They feel

they are not actors in life and instead are helplessly acted upon by the relentless drift of events and decisions by extant "repertoires of domination" to borrow one academic's phrase.

They are completely unaware that in the grand scheme of things, their apathy means nothing. That choosing not to vote is equivalent to voting in Domkrag. The very power responsible for their miserable existence in the first place.

How does one help them to understand that, in a neo-liberal democratic framework, the only language heard and heeded by those in power is:

a. Actively organizing for change

b. Protesting
C. Demonstrating
And all these as precursors to VOTING! So, if you happen to read this, please tell atleast two people in your sphere of influence that have not registered to vote to get up and go register tomorrow without fail. If you have to, please take them to the polling station yourself to make sure they register. That is part of your civic duty as a patriot. It is part of our collective organizing for change.

*UDC Parliamentary Candidate, Maun West

ATAF publish 2023 annual report

THE AFRICAN TAX Administration Forum (ATAF) has published its 2023 annual report, highlighting the substantial progress and key milestones achieved in the first year of its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. The ATAF Strategic plan aims to bolster tax administration, enhance regional collaboration, provide crucial data for evidence based decision-making, amplify Africa's voice in global tax policy, and ensure financial sustainability for the organisation to support its membership in tax efficiency.

ATAF's initiatives in 2023 led to enhancements in Africa's tax landscape, increased revenue assessment and collections, and strengthened collaboration with stakeholders globally and continentally, contributing to long-term economic development through legislative, structural, procedural, and administrative reforms among its members.

The key highlights include the execution of 20 training programs that attracted 2,053 participants from 47 countries, alongside conducting 180 technical assistance missions in 35 countries. This support enabled its members to issue new tax assessments worth USD 1.41 billion, with USD 620 million collected through audits. This success builds on the cumulative efforts since 2016, bringing total tax assessments to-date to USD 4.75 billion and collections to USD 1.92 billion.

To better protect their tax bases, six countries revised their international tax and transfer pricing policies based on ATAF's recommendations, leading to significant legislative changes. In addition, nine member countries underscored an increase in the tax-to-GDP, which attests to ATAF's efforts in advancing tax administration

and revenue mobilization across the continent. The organization's success in 2023 owes much to fruitful partnerships and innovative collaborations with regional and international organizations, and a receptive membership.

ATAF continued to lead in addressing gender inequality in taxation by hosting the second gender leadership conference in Mozambique. The event, titled "The role of tax policy and leadership in addressing gender inequality in Africa," drew over 379 participants, underscoring the importance of inclusive tax policies. Furthering this commitment, ATAF launched the second ATAF Women in Tax (AWITN) mentorship programme, pairing 45 mentors and mentees from 13 African countries and various segments of the tax industry, including tax administration, the private sector, and academia.

ATAF continued to play a pivotal role in providing valuable insights for its members in data, statistics, and analysis. The release of the 2022 African Tax Outlook on 26 July 2023 was a significant milestone. This comprehensive publication included contributions from 37 countries, compiling extensive macroeconomic, customs, and tax administration data from 2010 to 2022.

At the global level, ATAF's visibility continues to grow through its role in articulating the key priorities for African countries. The organization's active participation in international tax standard-setting meetings significantly contributed to the global conversation on critical issues both at the UN and OECD led reforms. To address various tax administration and policy standards, ATAF developed nine technical notes, guidelines, and toolkits adopted by nine member countries. Notable examples include the implementation

of the Domestic Minimum Top-up Tax (DMTT) in Eswatini, demonstrating the organization's global influence and significance.

Moreover, ATAF's active participation in the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) meeting of the African Union and the second STC Subcommittee on Tax and Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) highlighted its strategic partnership with the AUC which is firmly leading tax policy on the continent, while ATAF remains its technical adviser. Working closely with the African Union Commission (AUC) and other key partners like TJNA and UNECA, ATAF continued to actively support drafting the UN work in the promotion of international tax cooperation.

"The 2023 Annual Report showcases ATAF's achievements, successes, and impact across its member countries and reaffirms our steadfast commitment to strengthening Africa's tax landscape," remarked Mr. Logan Wort, Executive Secretary of ATAF. "In navigating the complexities of taxation, this report serves as a testament to our unwavering dedication to collaborative solutions and our resolute drive to foster sustainable economic growth across the continent. ATAF remains resolute in its mission, pioneering innovative initiatives, shaping progressive policies, and propelling Africa towards a future defined by prosperity and equitable development," he affirmed.

About ATAF The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) is a platform that brings together African tax administrations to engage in mutually beneficial discussions and capacity-building initiatives. ATAF works towards promoting efficient and effective tax systems that contribute to the sustainable development of African nations.

Intention to Change Marriage Property Regime

(In Terms of Section (1) (f) of Married Persons Property Act, 2014)

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTE THAT:

- KEEMENAO KELEBOGILE and ITUMELENG KELEBOGILE (nee BARUTI)**, married in community of property on the 17th day of August 2023, at Gaborone, wish to change their property regime to out of community of property.
- The parties intend to apply to the High Court of Botswana after the expiration of the three (3) weeks statutory notice from the date of first publication hereof.
- Any person, creditor or debtor, who may have an interest in the assets and/or liabilities of the parties' estate are to inform the parties' Attorneys should they have objections to the parties' changing their property regime, being Piyush Sharma Attorneys & Co.
- Such notice should be before the expiration of the said three (3) weeks period or else such objectors should make representation before the High Court of Botswana once the contemplated application is lodged.

DATED at Gaborone this 22nd day of May, 2024.
PIYUSH SHARMA ATTORNEYS & CO, Plot 14456, Kamushongo Road, Gaborone West, Gaborone, P.O. Box Ad 34 Ac, Gaborone, **BOTSWANA.**
Tel: (+ 267) 3161922

H/W KHUTO

IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE HELD AT BROADHURST

CASE NO: CCMBR-002257-22

In the matter between:

JUSTICE NDWAKULE **PLAINTIFF**

And

NANDASORA NDJARAKANA **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: NANDASORA NDJARAKA, an adult male of full legal capacity whose address for purposes of this suit is P O Box 6, SEHITWA and whose full and better particulars are to the Plaintiff unknown.

TAKE NOTICE that a Summons has been issued against you in this Court by **JUSTICE NDWAKULE** whose address for purposes of this suit are c/o **NOGA AND COMPANY**, Attorneys, Notaries and Conveyancers, **PLOT 8884, AFRICAN MALL, RIZKA HOUSE, UNIT 7, P O BOX 1777 AAD, POSO HOUSE, GABORONE** for the following orders:

Payment in the sum of P30, 000.00;
 Payment of interest at 10 % per annum tempore morae;
 Cost of suit;
 Further and/or alternative relief.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that an Order has been made that the publication of notice of such Summons shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the Summons on you. You are required to enter an Appearance to Defend to the Summons within seven (7) days of this publication and, if you do not do so, Judgment may be given against you in your absence.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to give such notice, Judgment may be granted against you without further reference to you.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 5TH DAY OF JUNE 2024.

NOGA AND COMPANY
 Plot 8884, African Mall
 Rizka House, Unit 7
 P O Box 1777 AAD, Poso House
 GABORONE

Business

P806 million: SCBB net interest income

BAKANG TIRO

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STANDARD CHARTERED BANK Botswana (SCBB) has defied the 2023 economic turbulence, posting an impressive 38% growth on its Net Interest Income, which increased to P806 million with average interest earning assets growing by 10%.

SCBB Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Tapiwa Butale revealed in the 2023 annual report that growth in NII was also supported by strengthening margins, resulting in net margin improvement to 4.0% from 3.2% in the previous year. She said total loans and advances to customers increased by 10% to P8.6 billion, largely driven by facility utilization within the Corporate, Commercial Institutional Banking (CCIB) segment.

According to Butale, Consumer, Private and Business Banking (CPBB) assets remained relatively flat year-on-year, with marginal growth in Personal loans. Also, she said the Group's strategic intention to drive short term loans is expected to maintain a resilient asset book, adding that the strategic funding plan remains robust, despite marginal growth on customer deposits. Delving into business performance, Butale said the Bank delivered on its key financial objectives for 2023, achieving 29% Return on Tangible Equity (RoTE), ahead of schedule to reach 25% by 2025. She said the splendid performance was driven by the deliberate focus on high-returning products thus delivering magnificent top line growth.



Standard Chartered Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mpho Masupe

[PIC: PINO KILANO]

Non-Funded Income (NFI) declined by 26% year-on-year to close at P236m. The year-on-year drop was largely attributed to lower margins on Foreign Exchange (FX)

and subdued transactional volume. Butale further noted that good cost discipline has enabled the Bank to generate positive income-to-cost jaws of 6% for the year, even with

continued underlying investment. SCBB saw its operating expenses increase by 9% year-on-year, due to staff costs, reflective of the Group's strategic intent to invest in quality

and sustainable human capital. "The Bank maintained a strong liquidity position over the period, with a strategic focus on the optimal deposit mix. Low-cost deposits mobilisation

yielded positive results allowing the Bank to end the year with a reduced holding of volatile term deposits," Butale highlighted. She said Capital ratios remain

within regulatory limits with Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) ending the year at 19.3%, up 230 basis points from the previous financial year.

In addition, she said the bank continuously embarks on initiatives to optimize deployment of capital for maximum return to shareholders.

Confidence

Standard Chartered Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mpho Masupe said the significant year-on-year growth trend gives them confidence that they are making great progress on strategic priorities and are on track to achieve medium-term objectives. He said the broad-based revenue growth resulted in both business segments recording positive year-on-year growth.

Consumer, Private & Business Banking (CPBB) continued to be the highest revenue contributor with 62% whilst Corporate, Commercial, & Institutional Banking (CCIB) contributed 38%. According to Masupe, the bank delivered a positive top line growth of 15% over the previous year to P1 billion, consistent with SCBB growth trends for the past three years. He said costs increased from P607 million to P664 million reflecting necessary investment on staff, a higher bonus pay out and salary adjustments.

"The strong income momentum particularly in CCIB and the Loan Impairment (LI) net release resulted in a remarkable profit before tax of P403 million, 59% growth over 2022. Our solid 2023 performance and increasing profitability are a reflection of the success of our strategy, even as we navigate the current climate of uncertainty and geopolitical tensions," said Masupe.

P4.5 billion growth in exports revenue

- Strong diamonds performance anchors March 2024 growth
- SACU market main source of Botswana imports at 78 percent
- Economist worried by diamonds dominance on exports basket



Diamond sorters

BAKANG TIRO

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BOTSWANA RECORDED A significant feat on her exports value which realised a tremendous growth of 30.2 percent reaching P4.5 billion in March 2024 from the revised February 2024 value of P3.47 billion.

According to Statistics Botswana (SB) on its International Merchandise Trade Statistics report for March 2024, diamonds and copper led the total exports with contributions of 67.1 percent and 17.0 percent respectively.

Commenting on the figures, independent economist Lame Bothata said it is motivating for the country to be able to record significant increase in export revenue but said it was still worrying that diamonds dominate.

He said Botswana should strive to diversify her export basket so that the government revenues do not depend on diamonds revenue,

adding that a sector like agriculture should be a leading contributor.

"The economy remains way less diversified if the minerals sector continues to be the largest contributing indicator to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). There are efforts with policies and initiatives being availed by government to diversify economy, but implementation is the biggest issue," he added.

Statistics Botswana said exported merchandise amounting to P4, 518.5 million in March 2024 with diamonds leading export commodity group with a contribution of 67.1 percent (P3, 030.7 million), followed by copper with contributions of 17.0 percent (P766.7 million).

Experts have consistently noted that Botswana is stuck in being a middle-income country status for the past 30 years or so due to failure to effectively diversify the economy away from diamonds domination. Botswana wishes to be a high-income country by 2036 as enshrined in the

national Vision 2036 agenda.

Imports

Meanwhile, Statistics Botswana further said Botswana imported goods worth P6, 991.0 million, with the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) region contributing the largest at 78.2 percent (P5, 466.5 million) to the total, during the period under review.

Fuel and Food, Beverages & Tobacco were the most imported commodity groups from the customs union accounting for 22.6 percent (P1, 237.2 million) and 18.7 percent (P1, 022.4 million), respectively.

The national statistics agency said Diamonds and Chemicals & Rubber Products contributed 14.1 percent (P595.6 million) to total imports from the union respectively.

Among the SACU member states, South Africa was the largest source at 62.8 percent (P4, 393.0 million) of total imports, followed by Namibia with 15.0 percent (P1, 049.7 million) of total imports.

Botswana received imports from the EU valued at P279.2 million, contributing 4.0 percent of the total imports. "Machinery and Electrical Equipment and Chemicals and Rubber Products were the key commodity groups imported from the Union at 29.4 percent (P82.0 million) and 26.8 percent (P74.7 million) respectively. Germany made contribution of 1.6 percent (P112.8 million) to the total imports," SB highlighted.

Moreover, Statistics Botswana said SACU was the main source of imports at 78.2 percent with Asia and the European Union (EU) accounting for 7.2 percent and 4.0 percent of total imports, respectively.

On the other hand, South Africa, Namibia and Canada supplied imports accounting for 62.8 percent, 15.0 percent, and 5.5 percent respectively.

We want to keep the bad boys out – Masisi

ROB BATES

AT THE JCK SHOW IN LAS Vegas, Botswana's president, Mokgweetsi Masisi, sat for an interview with JCK news director Rob Bates last Saturday, following a fireside chat with JCK editor-in-chief Victoria Gomelsky the night before. The Q&A below includes excerpts from both conversations.

Botswana's government brought a 50-person team, headed by you, to JCK. What was its objective?

At a time of challenge...we wanted to assure people that Botswana will responsibly manage its diamond business, even with the demerger and re-modeling of the new De Beers.

Let's talk about the De Beers sale. Botswana owns 15% of the company. Who would be your ideal owner for De Beers?

We are very clear about that, in the same way we are clear about who should not [own it]. We are going to keep the bad guys out. We want entities to come in who are aligned with our vision of how to do business. We will inevitably partner with them, and we will invariably regulate them. They would need to tolerate us as a partner, in the same way as we tolerate them. So it's all incentivised, and we're aligned, and we move forward.

Who would be a "bad" owner?

One of the characteristics of a bad owner is someone who has impatient capital. This industry requires somebody who is in it for the long haul, because it has its ups and downs.

Were you disappointed in Anglo's decision to sell De Beers?

We are very happy about it. It's the best thing.

Why? Anglo is under threat of being taken over by others. [Diamonds] are not in [those companies'] forte. Diamonds are our forte.

Could Botswana up its share in De Beers from the current 15%?



Masisi

Sure, if it's attractive to.

Do you think other producer nations, like Namibia, might also take a stake?

They could. Depends on the negotiations. They have skin in the game too.

You still haven't signed a final contract with De Beers. When do you expect that?

We had planned to sign by the end of June. But there are small sticking points that I think we'll overcome in the coming weeks. That might push it to July... The deal is coming. It's just dotting the i's and crossing the t's.

Can you take us inside the negotiations? Were they tense at times?

Of course there were tensions. How could there not be? When you tell your partner—the only partner that you've known, who has opened you up to the world, and found the biggest discovery you've ever had—that they grew at such a rate, and you didn't grow at a commensurate rate and you are not happy, it is not easy. But we had to do it. I represent my people. We were not going to tolerate anything less than what we got.

That is why I was willing to walk out. If we did that, our economy would go through a massive

recession, and I would probably lose the election. But I would have saved my country, and I was confident that De Beers would not survive.

At the 10th year of the proposed new contract, De Beers would sell 50% of Debswana's production, and state-owned Okavango Diamond Company (ODC) would sell the other 50%. [ODC currently sells 25%, which would rise to 30% when the new contract is signed.] Could there be price competition among the partners?

We are not out to compete. We are out to grow the pie. When you are out to grow the pie, there shouldn't be competition. There should be synergy.

ODC will not just sell through auctions, as it does currently, correct?

Yes. We wish to diversify.

What other changes will happen as a result of the new contract?

We get to be known. And we get to grow the market. Buyers will come to us. Cutting factories will increase. [Botswana currently has 48 diamond factories, employing 4,800 people.] We will build our skill base, our investment.

ODC has joined the Natural Diamond Council. Do you expect to

keep supporting industry marketing?

Yes, we will do what it takes to grow value. If we take greater responsibility, we will play a greater role in the marketing, the thinking behind it, the conceptualization of it. It's a learning curve for us.

Do you plan a Botswana brand?

Botswana has everything it takes to meet the critical needs of developing its own brand. We are a value proposition as a country, in the way we govern it. We are a value proposition as a country in the way we utilize the revenue from diamonds. Therefore, diamonds from Botswana should be identified uniquely for what they do and what they are.

When you wear a diamond from Botswana, you should feel different about it, and that is what we want to pack into a brand.

What did you think of De Beers' presentation at JCK? Are you aligned with De Beers' new strategy, as well as some of its recent moves, like Lightbox?

We are happy with some of the strategic moves. As you know, we didn't buy into Lightbox. We feel very strongly that when a company that is so invested in diamonds buys into [synthetics], then you give them legitimacy. There was a counterargument—and this is when the decision was taken by Anglo and De Beers—that you want to get in there, so you can discover what they do and help to moderate that. That worked in some ways.

Overall, do you think creating Lightbox turned out to be a good or bad decision?

Bad decision. I didn't like it.

Has the industry been too slow to react to lab-grown diamonds?

You should never underestimate anyone that attempts to scratch you and do you harm. But they may have been underestimated, to our detriment.

Have lab-grown diamond sales

LetsGo Digital Mastery Programme first cohort graduate

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

PAN AFRICAN MICROLENDER, Letshego Holdings Limited has affirmed its commitment to develop the skills of its employees and members

of the public in the 11 African markets it operates at after it graduated the first cohort from its flagship leadership development initiatives, LetsGo Digital Mastery and Leadership Development Programmes. The ceremony celebrated the achievements of 11 Digital Mastery

Letshego pledge more investment going forward

Associates and close to 200 leaders who completed Letshego's comprehensive, tiered development programmes, spanning from senior executives to emerging leaders.

Letshego Group Chief Executive Aupa Monyatsi while officiating at the graduation ceremony in Gaborone on Thursday said Letshego as pan African financial services company is committed to grow African economy.

Monyatsi said as part of Letshego People's Culture values, the Group believes in its talent and investing not just only for Letshego employees but for other members of the community to bring about impact.

He said while launching the programme two years ago, he saw young talented young women and men who had bright future ahead of them and after the graduation he sees potential CEOs and corporate leaders in different aspect of economy.

"Our leadership development programmes stemmed from our learning and development framework, ensuring our initiatives supported career advancement and built the skills necessary for our Transformation Strategy," said Monyatsi. Monyatsi also said this investment not



Monyatsi [PIC: PINO KILANO]

only enhanced customer and employee experience but also empowered our employees to significantly contribute to the Group's success. It ensured Letshego Africa remained at the forefront of digital change,

positioning us for long-term benefits. For her part, Kamogelo Chiusiwa, Letshego Africa's Group Chief People & Culture Officer, said the programme extended intensive skills and innovation ideas to the participants and therefore are expected to be accelerators of economy.

Chiusiwa said their Digital Associates gained first-hand insights from international operations and benefited from strategic external partnerships within Letshego's 11-country Africa footprint.

The 18-month LetsGo Digital Mastery included a practical learning sponsorship worth over P500,000 per candidate to develop a digital business idea through training and practical learning.

The candidates also gained expertise and become confident digital leaders with international exposure.

Also, at the end of the programme, the candidates will be enabled to grow innovative digital ideas from the sandbox and ideation phase to a minimum viable product and to grow and scale existing business ideas by harnessing digital technologies.

Know Your Corporate Leader

Full Name: Sefalana Mophuting
Position: Head of Sales
Institution: Liquid Intelligent Technologies
Date Started: September 2018
Nature of business: Telecommunication



Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology
Partnership

Botswana hosts 1st Research and Data conference - People + Data Africa 2024

Meet the Speakers



Ogone Mothoagae
Chief Executive Officer
Stencil Technologies



Rhuks Ako
Co-Founder
The Africa Foundation for Peace and Security



Lebogang George
Data Privacy Attorney



Mona-Lisa Danieli Mungure
Director
Molao Matters



Judith Ogochukwu Ekwueme
Executive Director
Unicon Group of Companies



Nomsa Makgabanyana
Co-Founder and CEO
Seipone.ai



Francis Bahene Tumwekwasize
Founder and CEO
TechTalk Africa



Dr. Kagonya Awori
User Experience Research Lead
Google Sub-Saharan Africa



Senwelo Modise
Head of Technology, Cyber and Data Protection
Bookbinder Business Law



Njeri Mwangiri
Senior Futurist
Institute for Futures Research (IFR) at Stellenbosch University Business School



Dr. Talifhani Banks
Group CEO
AnalyticsX



Huguette Diakabana
The Luminous Agency



Doosu(gh)un Takur
Chief of Programmes
Clean Technology Hub

26th - 27th June 2024

Gaborone Botswana

for more information

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+267 71 662 363

Event Partners



SCAN TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKET

ODC joins Natural Diamond Council

Okavango Diamond Company Unites with NDC in Effort to Support the Natural Diamond Industry and Spread Awareness of Botswana Diamond Industry

NATURAL DIAMOND COUNCIL (NDC) IS A not-for-profit organisation that's committed to inspiring and educating consumers on the real, rare, and responsible values of natural diamonds and the positive global impact of the industry. NDC is pleased to announce its newest member, Okavango Diamond Company (ODC). The Botswana government-owned rough natural diamond marketing company joins the likes of De Beers and other responsible mining companies.

ODC is the first non-mining diamond company to be admitted as a member of NDC, recognizing ODC's importance in the upstream distribution of natural diamonds, and the importance that Botswana puts on inspiring consumer demand as a driver of future prosperity for the natural diamond industry.

ODC sells over 6M carats of rough natural diamonds a year, all sourced from Debswana, Botswana's flagship diamond mining company that accounts for 98% of Botswana's diamond production. In addition to offering their global customer base open access to scale supply of the full range of rough diamonds sourced from Botswana, ODC is also home to the famed Okavango Blue diamond, a 20.46 carat VVS1 oval brilliant, fancy, deep blue diamond.

NDC is thrilled to have ODC Managing Director, Mmetla Masire, join its board of directors. "We are very excited to announce our support of Natural Diamond Council," shared Masire. "ODC believes strongly in building customer confidence which we feel blends very seamlessly with NDC's mission to expand consumer awareness across the market.



Masire

We look forward to working with NDC to further our mission to provide the Botswana Government with a direct route to market for its rough diamonds and to support the ongoing transformation of Botswana into a leading rough natural diamond sourcing destination."

"Botswana is a leading nation in setting the standards for the responsible management of its natural resources," shared David Kellie, CEO of NDC. "Okavango Diamond Company's membership of NDC allows us to share the story of the Botswana natural diamond industry more widely with the world. I'm excited by the leadership Mr. Masire and Okavango Diamond Company have shown in contributing to the future prosperity of the industry through their membership of NDC. We look forward to inspiring more consumers with the incredible story of Botswana's diamonds and the positive impact that they have for the Botswana. It's a story that consumers around the world are responding strongly to," adds Kellie.

Kapeko is Stanbic Head of Personal & Private Banking

STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA HAS PROUDLY welcomed Mosetsana Kapeko to its cadre of professional depth, appointing her as the Bank's new Head of Personal and Private Banking (PPB), and a member of its Country Leadership Committee (CLC). This appointment is effective 1 June 2024, with all regulatory requirements having been met.

"We are excited to welcome Mosetsana to our collective of Changemakers, adding further depth of capacity and experience to our team. Her experience in this sector will no doubt bring greater focus and progress to our Personal and Private Banking (PPB) as part of an ambitious strategy to drive greater growth and scale for the Bank and, crucially, for our clients," said Stanbic Bank Chief Executive, Chose Modise.

As Head of Personal and Private Banking, Mosetsana will drive the PPB portfolio, looking to ensure growth and scale in this space, whilst balancing the constant need for superior client experiences, as per the Bank's Letsema2025 strategy and with a firm underpinning of the Bank's Social, Economic and Environmental (SEE) agenda.

Mosetsana wields over 15 years of experience in the banking sector, she holds a Master of Science degree in Strategic Management from



Kapeko

the University of Derby and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from University of Botswana, and has undertaken the Standard Bank Global Leadership Programme conducted by the Gordon School of Business in Johannesburg. Mosetsana also has qualifications in Long Term Insurance and Wealth Management.

She joins Stanbic Bank Botswana from Standard Chartered Bank, where she held such roles as Acting Head of CPBB and Head, Shared Distribution, Branch & Proximity Operations. She has also held roles at Botswana Life and STANLIB Investments prior.

UNGC, Green Loop engage on sustainability

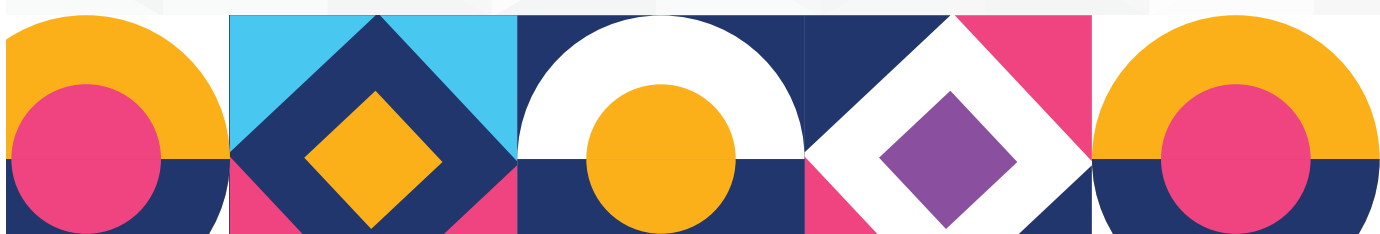
GREEN LOOP ESG CONSULTANTS AND UNGC's narrative was to engage with the media, public relations and sustainability experts to stimulate dialogue on the importance of the media reporting on Environmental, Social, and governance (ESG) and sustainability activities across Botswana.

UN Resident Coordinator (RCO) Zia Choudry mentioned that the role of UN is to bring communities together to discuss and integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to encourage debate and discussion, provide tools and information to enable the Media to drive the sustainability issues deeply, make connections to access climate financing and resources for Botswana. The UN RCO continued to share that the UN has been writing about renewable energy and they observed active misalignment with information shared with the communities of Botswana which he terms as dis information and encouraged the Media to ensure they engage with the rightful expertise to gain credible content to share with Botswana.

Lindiwe Modise, Managing Director of Green Loop shared that they do hope the Media can

identify sustainability issues, their solutions to enable sustainable journalism as we continue to mitigate and navigate sustainability challenges in Botswana. Modise highlighted the urgent need for Sustainability Journalism Partnerships for Green Loop and Botswana's media houses. Great insights were shared, more to continue being shared as we continue on this Sustainable Journalism journey.

Green Loop and its partners, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, United Nations Global Compact and European Union Delegation to SADC and Botswana, shall be hosting two Sessions in the Loop as a buildup towards the upcoming Botswana Sustainability Week 2024, to be hosted 8-10th July in Gaborone, Botswana. The theme of the second Sustainability Week shall be focused on 'Investing in ESG & Sustainability: Aligning profitability with positive environmental and social impact. Green Loop welcomes all local and international stakeholders to join in on the Hot Topic of Sustainability from various parts of the globe to share and exchange international case studies for a better and more sustainable tomorrow.



Debswana celebrates 55 years of impact

ON 23RD JUNE 2024, DEBSWANA DIAMOND Company will proudly commemorate Debswana Day, marking 55 years of pioneering contributions to Botswana's development under the theme "More Than Diamond Mining". As per custom at Debswana, the month of June is termed "Debswana Month" as the company reflects and commemorates great milestones; also noting that Debswana is one of the most successful private-public partnerships in Africa and the world. This 55-year milestone not only showcases Debswana's rich history and success in diamond mining, it also showcases unwavering dedication to economic development, growth and prosperity of the nation.

From humble beginnings in 1969, Debswana has been at the heart of Botswana's economic transformation. Over the past five and a half decades, its journey has been one of resilience, uncovering Botswana's limitless potential and creating timeless and tangible legacy of undeniable impact. The 55th anniversary theme, "More Than Diamond Mining," encapsulates Debswana's broader mission; to transcend the extraction of precious gems and positively contribute and impact

various areas of importance in the economy and lives of Batswana. The organisation has been instrumental in fostering infrastructure development, enhancing healthcare, creating employment opportunities, and advancing positive education outcomes, amongst others. Debswana is indeed a pioneer in various areas, other than mining. The company founded entities such as Botswana Accountancy College, Pula Medical Aid, Broadhurst Primary School, three schools in Orapa and Jwaneng, hospitals in Orapa and Jwaneng, Debswana Pension Fund, Sesiro Insurance Company. Through the then Peo Venture Capital, its partnership with De Beers, it also funded the establishment of Ba Isago University, Solahart Botswana, Sunday Standard newspaper, Massyn Moves in Botswana, Landscape Solutions, Transport Holdings, NTR Technologies and many others. To date, Debswana runs two hospitals in Jwaneng and Orapa, which serve over 200,000 patients annually, at a cost of P160 million per annum. At our mines, the organisation also ensures that for every one hectare of land mined, five and more hectares remain reserved for conservation purposes. With regard to human resource development Debswana has since the



Debswana Managing Director, Andrew Maatla Motsomi (PIC: RICARDO KANONO)

early '70s, trained over 1,160 Batswana through its scholarship programme in various fields, including geology, engineering, metallurgy, medicine, physiotherapy, dentistry, human

resources, etc. Many Debswana scholarship beneficiaries studied at the top universities in the world and work in various areas in Botswana and across the world. Debswana has trained, not only

for Debswana and Botswana, but for the world. Debswana is Botswana's largest private sector employer with close to 12,000 employees and contractor employees. In stimulated job creation, Debswana has generated over 18,000 jobs through its Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP) and Corporate Social Investment Programme, and is working towards having created and supported 20,000 jobs in Botswana by the end of 2024. These are a few ways Debswana has worked to ensure growth and development across the country.

"The story of Debswana is a story of transformation. We have substantially contributed to enriching and developing the national economy while also intentionally ensuring that we continuously invest in uplifting the lives of Batswana. Through our operational efforts, we have unearthed not just diamonds, but revenues to Government to develop the country and positively impact education opportunities, community development initiatives and health services. As we reflect on our journey, we are filled with nostalgia and pride. Each milestone reached and every diamond unearthed has been a step towards shaping a brighter future for Botswana. Our story is one of shared success, built on the collective

efforts of our dedicated employees, supportive communities, and steadfast partners. As one of Botswana's largest employers, we take pride in providing meaningful employment to thousands, supporting livelihoods and boosting the national economy. We understand the responsibility we hold in this regard," said Debswana Managing Director, Andrew Maatla Motsomi.

Debswana's commitment to excellence remains unwavering we look forward to the future. We are poised to continue driving positive change, championing responsible mining practices, and enhancing our social impact.

"As we continue to mine diamonds safely, optimally and responsibly and reflect on over 5 decades of "More than Diamond Mining", we will not only celebrate our operational successes; we will shine a bright light on the human stories that reflect the impact Debswana has had on the lives of Batswana. Each Motswana has a diamond story to tell - from receiving free education, free health services, benefiting from the infrastructure we have across the country and many more. Together, we will continue to create a legacy that is truly more than diamond mining. Our vision for the next 55 years is clear: to remain a beacon of progress and a catalyst for sustainable development," Motsomi added.

BBS Bank appoints two directors



Mogotsi



Rakhudu

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT BBS BANK has appointed Ms. Ewetshe Tata Rakhudu and Mr. Mmoloki Waboraro Mogotsi respectively, as independent Non-Executive Directors. The Directors were appointed by the Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 23 May 2024, following regulatory approvals.

Ms. Rakhudu is a legal professional and sought after prudential banker. Her wealth of experience includes private practice, judiciary, central bank and various governance and board leadership roles. Her career started at the Attorney Generals Chambers before joining private practice and then becoming a magistrate. She held various roles within the Bank of Botswana including those of Assistant Manager, Board Secretariat Manager, Deputy Director-Board Secretariat, Director Human Resources, Director Payments and Settlements and General Manager.

She retired in May 2023 as General Counsel, a position she held since March 2018. In

addition to her extensive experience in banking, prudential regulation and corporate governance, Ms. Rakhudu has held numerous board positions across different industries including the United Nations Electoral Observer Mission in Mozambique, member of the National Advisory Board on HIV/AIDS in the Workplace, board member at BOMAID, Deputy Chairperson of the National Advisory Board, Board Member and Chairperson of Botswana Power Corporation (BPC).

Mr. Mogotsi is a chartered accountant with international and local experience in the mining and manufacturing distribution space. He is a Finance Director at a fast-moving consumer goods and retailer and has held several finance related positions within the Cummins group of companies such as Financial Director at Cummins Botswana, Financial Planning & Analysis Manager at Cummins Southern Africa, Financial Analyst-Middle East and Financial Controller at Cummins Morocco. [bse.co.bw]

Keikotlhae appointed IPRA Golden World Awards Judge

THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY Authority (PPRA) Public Relations and Education Manager Mr. Charles Keikotlhae has been appointed into a panel of judges for the International Public Relations Association (IPRA) Golden World Awards (GWA); the only judge from Southern Africa.

The Annual IPRA GWA initiative, established in 1990, recognizes excellence in public relations practice worldwide in a variety of categories. Recipients of the award take particular pride in the recognition granted to their entry as meeting international standards of excellence in public relations. The Global Contribution Awards recognizes a campaign with an objective of meeting one of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The overall IPRA Grand Prix for Excellence is presented to the entry judged as representing the highest standards that year. While there are many national and regional PR awards, there is only one truly global scheme: the GWA.

IPRA, the International Public Relations Association, was established in 1955, and is the leading global network for PR professionals in their personal capacity. IPRA aims to advance trusted communication and the ethical practice of public relations. We do this through networking, our code of conduct and intellectual leadership of the profession.

IPRA is the organiser of public relations' annual global competition, the Golden World Awards for Excellence (GWA). IPRA's services enable PR professionals to collaborate and be recognised. Members create content via our Thought Leadership essays and webinars, social media and our consultative status with the United Nations. GWA winners demonstrate PR excellence. IPRA welcomes all those who share our aims and who wish to be part of the IPRA worldwide fellowship.

Mr. Keikotlhae has an MSc. Strategic Management from University of Derby, United Kingdom, Bachelor of Arts (BA) Honours Degree in Media Theory and Practice from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Humanities (BA HUM) majoring English and History both from the University of Botswana, Diploma in Environmental Journalism from University of Kalmar, Sweden, Marketing Management, Principles and Practices (University of Stellenbosch), a Public Relations Management Professional qualification with Provox Centre



Keikotlhae

for Public Relations, and a Management Development Programme from University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.

He also has several professional and management/leadership courses amongst others; Corporate Brand Communications and Media Relations; Stakeholder Relations Analysis and Management; Advanced Customer Care and Public Relations; Change Management; Project Management; Techniques and Processes as well as Microsoft Projects; Effective Public Speaking; Management and Leadership; Executive Development; Corporate Governance; and Finance for Non-Finance Managers.

Mr. Keikotlhae is also a member and past immediate chairperson of the Public Relations and Communications Management Institute of Southern Africa (PRISA) Botswana after serving as the Vice Chairperson of the same body. PRISA exists to ensure adherence to the articles of the Code of Ethics and Professional Standards for the Practice of Public Relations and Communication Management in Southern Africa and to adhere to the principles of the Global protocol on Ethics in Public Relations and Communication Management.

Nationally, Mr. Keikotlhae was part of the Change Management and Communications Team, representing Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) that prepared for the transformation and launch of both Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) and Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) after they changed from Botswana Training Authority (BOTA) and Tertiary Education Council (TEC) respectively.

Before joining PPRA, he was also part of the BEC Transformation Team and that of the Botswana Educational Achievement Monitor (BEAM) project. He has also served in the structures of the then Ministry of Education and Skills Development such as Education and Training Strategic Sector Plan.

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Fostering SME Growth and Financial Inclusion



KELETSO SETIMELA
HEAD OF BUSINESS BANKING,
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMEs) form the backbone of Botswana's economy, driving innovation, employment, and economic growth. Recognising the critical role SMEs play in the nation's development, at Absa Bank Botswana we are committed to fostering their growth through innovative financial solutions and comprehensive support programs.

Our business banking services are structured to cater to the diverse needs of our clients, divided into three segments: Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Commercial Banking, and Agricultural Business. Each segment is defined by annual turnover thresholds, ensuring tailored support for businesses at different stages of their growth journey. SME Banking serves businesses with annual turnovers of up to P25 million. Small businesses have turnovers up to P10 million, while medium businesses range from P10 million to P25 million. Commercial Banking caters to businesses with turnovers between P25 million and P250 million. Agricultural Business supports primary and secondary agricultural enterprises with turnovers up to P230 million, covering a wide range of agricultural activities and industries.

Our journey to support SMEs began in 2017, driven by a desire to challenge traditional banking models and address the unique challenges faced by SMEs in Botswana. This led to the creation of the Enterprise and Supply Chain Development (ESD) program, designed to leverage our

expertise and resources to provide effective solutions. The ESD program aims to transition SMEs from their current state to potentially becoming mid-corporate entities, ultimately contributing significantly to Botswana's economy. Key features of the program include reduced security requirements by utilizing deeds of cession over payments for contracts and purchase orders, special dispensation for processing loan requests for customers with adverse credit ratings and waiving the need for three years of historical financial performance, funding considerations for start-ups with less than a year's trading history, and offering competitive pricing for customers within the ESD program.

Our support for SMEs extends beyond financial assistance. Through the ESD program, we offer access to markets, connecting SMEs with potential customers, and providing workshops and training sessions to enhance business skills. We also broaden the stakeholder network for SMEs, offer free meeting rooms, and subsidize fees for business club members to attend

conferences and summits. Additionally, we partner with strategic entities like Debswana for comprehensive project support and collaborate with organisations such as LEA, Tokafala, and BURS to provide mentoring and training.

SMEs in Botswana face several challenges, including lack of record-keeping, limited access to finance, inadequate security, and limited technology adoption. We address these challenges by providing flexible lending solutions with reduced collateral requirements and special considerations for businesses with limited financial histories. We also offer capacity-building programs to improve business management skills and technology adoption, along with innovative financial products that cater specifically to the needs of SMEs.

Since the inception of the ESD program, we have funded SMEs with over P1 billion, many without traditional securities but backed by deeds of cession. These businesses, particularly in partnership with Debswana Mining through the Citizen Economic Empowerment Program (CEEP),

have created significant employment opportunities and driven economic growth.

As Absa Bank Botswana we are committed to enhancing financial literacy among SME owners and entrepreneurs. In partnership with corporates and stakeholders, we provide platforms for developing sustainable business practices and ensuring consistent quality in supply chains. Our collaborations with government agencies and other organizations are crucial for fostering SME growth. Through memorandums of understanding with the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Partnerships with entities like BURS, CIPA, LEA, and Tokafala, we work towards developing sustainable SMEs and creating employment opportunities.

Looking ahead, we are dedicated to expanding tailored financial products and

business development services, increasing access to finance through innovative lending solutions, leveraging digital technologies to promote financial inclusion, and enhancing financial literacy through workshops and educational materials. We aim to collaborate with various stakeholders to create a supportive ecosystem for SMEs, invest in community development projects that support economic growth, and foster innovation and support start-ups through incubation programs and mentorship.

Through these strategic initiatives, we aim to drive sustainable economic growth, support SME development, and ensure financial services are accessible to all segments of Botswana's population. Together, we can create a thriving environment for SMEs, paving the way for a prosperous future for Botswana.

PostNet expands into Botswana

-A Golden Opportunity for Aspiring Entrepreneurs



POSTNET, SOUTH AFRICA'S PREMIER copy & print, courier, and digital services franchise, proudly announces its expansion into Botswana. This monumental step marks the brand's entry into a new and promising market, offering unparalleled business opportunities for local entrepreneurs.

A Legacy of Success
Established in 1994, PostNet has grown to become a household name in South Africa, boasting over 470 outlets and counting. The brand's remarkable growth and enduring success are a testament to its robust business model. PostNet's franchisees frequently expand their operations, with many owning multiple stores.

Unparalleled Business Model
PostNet's franchise model is designed for success, providing a comprehensive support system that ensures franchisees thrive. The nationwide presence of PostNet has been instrumental in building a strong brand identity and customer loyalty. Franchisees benefit from extensive training, cutting-edge technology, and ongoing operational support, which collectively drive their businesses towards exceptional profitability.

Botswana: A New Horizon
Chris Wheeler, CEO of PostNet Southern Africa, who has been with the company for 30 years, expressed his enthusiasm for the expansion: "We are excited about the launch of PostNet into Botswana, and we are confident that our range and personal

service, such as copy and print, courier, digital, and stationery, will meet the market needs in these times." Botswana's vibrant economy and growing demand for business services make it an ideal market for PostNet's expansion.

Strategic Growth Plan
PostNet plans to establish a strong presence in Botswana by targeting key areas: Gaborone, Francistown, and Maun. The initial strategy includes opening three stores in Gaborone and one each in Francistown and Maun. This strategic positioning will ensure that PostNet's services are accessible to a broad customer base, fostering growth and market penetration.

Competitive Investment Opportunity
Each PostNet store in Botswana will be competitively priced, with setup costs ranging between R850,000 and R950,000. This investment provides franchisees with a comprehensive package, including equipment, training, and ongoing support. The ideal franchisee candidate should possess the experience and capabilities to operate the business effectively under PostNet's established guidelines.

Join the PostNet Family
PostNet's expansion into Botswana offers a golden opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs to join a successful and growing franchise network. Whether you are a potential franchisee, landlord, or commercial property broker, PostNet invites you to be part of this exciting venture.

Masisi's jck interview

FROM PAGE 9

hurt your economy?

Sure. If you have less sales, it hurts your economy. In Botswana, diamonds mean livelihood.... In Botswana, every diamond, every carat means a road. They mean drugs for our hospitals. Education. Telecommunications. Security. Energy. Clean air.

So, would you say the lab-grown diamond boom has done harm to your citizenry?

Of course. It means reduced sales. It means reduced revenue. And like a wounded buffalo, you fight back.

Do you want a Botswana "rough node" in conjunction with G7 sanctions on Russian diamonds?

We insist on it. The [original sanctions plan] was developed without consulting those who would be most affected.

Do you see the G7 sanctions as a possible opportunity? You will have the world's largest diamond market, the U.S., largely to yourself.

Barriers to trade, in whatever form they take, can easily cause you to slumber, and

be caught napping. We will always be agile. There may be a temporary convenience in that respect, but sanctions can come off in the same way that they came on.

Botswana's deal to buy 24% of HB Antwerp also hasn't been signed. Is that contingent on a new De Beers contract?

No, it isn't. We are still doing due process and valuation. You know they had a little trouble internally. Happily, that is over with. That required enhanced due diligence. We are a very frugal government.

What do you want to say to JCK readers?

Our delegation will only be bigger and better next year. We are stepping up.

And do you want to see more industry people come to Botswana?

Of course. Our relationship is predicated on reciprocity. We invite you all to come to Botswana. See for yourself. Feel for yourself. And be part of this story. We have been reliably informed by recent studies in paleontology that [all humans] come from Botswana. It's about time you all get home.

[jckonline.com]



ACCREDITATION: EMPOWERING TOMORROW AND SHAPING THE FUTURE



Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Honourable Thulagano Merafe Segogole delightfully received an accreditation certificate for National Dosimetry Lab (NDL) of the Radiation Protection Inspectorate (RPI) from Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa (March 2023) in Gaborone, Botswana.

Today is World Accreditation Day, celebrated on the 9th of June every year, this is a global initiative by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness about the crucial role that accreditation plays in various aspects of life.

This year's theme, Accreditation: Empowering Tomorrow and Shaping the Future, highlights the role that accreditation plays in shaping various aspects of life, from technology to transportation, sustainability to security, and inclusivity to innovation as digitalization, new technologies and growing sustainability concerns continue to change our world. What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is the process of providing recognition to an organization for its competence in performing specific tasks. It involves the assessment of the technical competence of organizations in providing conformity assessment service such as testing, certification (management systems/ product/ personnel) and inspection. Accreditation also underpins the competence of medical testing laboratories, organisations providing Proficiency Testing (PT) and Reference Material Producers (RMP).

Need and Importance of Accreditation

Accreditation provides solutions to the problems arising from the dynamic changes affecting global trade, in recognising the importance of adopting new technologies and moving with accreditation trends. SADCAS is set to introduce new scopes such as Proficiency Testing, Medical Imaging, etc in response to the needs of the market.

As part of the growth in the scope of health sector, laboratory diagnosis, health research, health inspectorate all have gained tremendous importance in today's practices. Health research and laboratory diagnosis all contribute towards improving the care and treatment of patients worldwide.

Sustainable Development remains the cornerstone of the modern world, hence accreditation can also help consumers and businesses make informed decisions regarding goods and services that protect the environment.

Furthermore, accreditation plays a pivotal role by supporting global trade in terms of removing technical barriers to trade (TBTs). Quality infrastructure provides businesses with access to a wider international marketplace as well as improving the quality and safety of imports from those economies.

2024 World Accreditation theme relates to many of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



ABOUT SADCAS

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is a multi-economy accreditation body established in terms of Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade with the primary purpose of ensuring that conformity assessment (CA) service providers operating in those SADC Member States (MS) which do not have national accreditation bodies are subject to oversight by an authoritative body. SADCAS services the accreditation needs of 14 SADC Member States namely: Angola; Botswana; Comoros; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Eswatini; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; Tanzania; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

SADCAS is now in its sixteen (16th) year of operation, the first multi-economy accreditation body in the world and has proved to be a viable, cost-effective and sustainable model that optimizes limited financial and human resources. Several other regions in the world such as the Gulf region, West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Caribbean Islands etc, have benchmarked on the "home grown" SADCAS model, a concept developed by a group of experts from the SADC region.

SADCAS accreditations continues to grow both in terms of field and scope of accreditation as well as sectorial coverage. By 31 March 2024, a total of 354 accreditation certificates to 286 accredited facilities in 13 SADC Member States and two non-SADC countries Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire had been issued. This demonstrates the demand of SADCAS services in the region and its relevance in supporting industry and facilitating global trade. SADCAS has cumulatively conducted 274 training courses (as of 31 March 2024) in most SADC Member States as part of its efforts to develop the capacity of conformity assessment bodies to integrate accreditation in improving performance of their conformity assessment bodies. In addition, SADCAS has been spearheading efforts to capacitate member states by training and mentoring Technical Assessors so



In January 2024, SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa (dressed in a white suit) handed nine (9) accreditation certificates to the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) in a grand ceremony held Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

as to build a large pool of competent registered SADCAS assessors to make accreditation more accessible and affordable at local level.

Benefits of Accreditation to Governments, Regulators, Manufacturers, Exporters, Traders, SMEs

- When using an accredited service, industry players can be assured that they will receive the level of high-quality test reports from credible laboratories that they can trust.
- High value goods that are traded locally or destined for foreign markets need to have credibility based on acceptability of test reports.
- Poor quality products are a cost to the producers because there is a high chance of the goods being rejected due to non-compliance.
- Accreditation therefore gives assurance to users of laboratories that the results are safe and reliable.
- Results from accredited laboratories, medical laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies do not need to be retested thus saving the business owner lots of money and increasing competitiveness on the global market.

SADCAS continues to evolve with the dynamic changes in the accreditation landscape, hence its ability to process applications and offer training in the three official languages of SADC i.e., English, French and Portuguese. Recently, the SADCAS team conducted training on ISO 15189:2022 in Mozambique in December 2023. Consequently, five (5) facilities have already undergone accreditation assessment to ISO 15189:2022. This is a major milestone for SADCAS, as the organisation strives to broaden its geographical footprint in the SADC Region.

For more information about SADCAS visit www.sadcas.org
OR
Contact our Communications and Public Relations Office at +267 3132909/ +267 72232858

Debswana, Stanbic launch P1million SMME grant

DEBSWANA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Stanbic Bank Botswana yesterday in the town of Jwaneng launched the Small Medium Micro Enterprises (SMME) grant that will see the bank availing P1 million grant each year to Jwaneng over the next five years to small businesses.

The launch followed a Memorandum of Association (MoA) signed by the two entities to collaborate in the new initiative. Stanbic has an existing partnership with Debswana for Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme, where it avails funding for citizen companies contracted to Debswana. However, as part of casting its net wider, Stanbic will support Debswana's efforts to empower the marginalised with the grant.

The new SMME grant by Stanbic Bank is a contribution towards development of small businesses, and it targets informal sector, small businesses, differently abled individuals, women and youth owned businesses.

Speaking at the launch, Acting General Manager for Debswana Jwaneng Mine, Goitseone Gadifele said the main purpose of this grant is to advance the lives of local entrepreneurs and ignite dreams for startups and existing businesses. He said partnerships and initiatives such as this one are pivotal to fostering inclusion of all citizens to meaningfully participate in economic activities that create solutions to present challenges and create much needed employment in mining communities.

The Debswana Jwaneng Mine operations has over the years invested in comprehensive Socio-Economic Development and Citizen Economic Empowerment Plans with a view to leave a positive lasting impact in its Area of Influence. Gadifele said through CEEP Debswana has made great progress in cultivating an environment conducive to SMME growth, through strengthening citizen entities, and prioritising procurement from local sources. He stated that by doing so, they have generated



Chilisa

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

employment opportunities and promoted economic diversification within the region.

"Today marks the beginning of a new journey as we partner with Stanbic Bank Botswana. This partnership reaffirms our dedication to our core values. I anticipate that we will see even more positive results in the months and years ahead. These results will serve as a testament to our commitment to Botswana's social fabric and our unwavering determination to foster economic growth in our nation," said Gadifele.

Keynote speaker, Orenile Padipadi, Director, Entrepreneurial Mindset and Culture who was representing the Minister of Entrepreneurship, Hon Karabo Gare, applauded Debswana and Stanbic for their partnership stating that one of the key priorities identified to transform Botswana's economy from an upper-middle income to a high-income status is Value Chain and Cluster Development. He said this entails the development and strengthening

of linkages between different stages in the production and retail continuum of goods and services.

Stanbic Bank of Botswana was represented by Head of Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme, Kushatha Chilisa, who said part of the grant will include training and mentoring, a key aspect to ensuring that beneficiaries are able to run sustainable businesses.

"We want to help often seemingly forgotten small and micro businesses in the community by providing them grants. In addition to the grant, we will be giving them capacity building in form of mentorships. We will be handholding them. It is not a case of giving them money and walking away. We will work together with Debswana and other stakeholders to ensure the success of these businesses."

Orapa Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines (OLDM) will next launch the partnership with Stanbic Bank for its area of influence.

Source: The Projects Magazine

UAE commits \$6.26billion in industrial offtakes



His Excellency Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology

GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND private companies in the UAE committed an additional \$6.26 billion to local manufacturing during the Make it in the Emirates (MIITE) Forum, which concluded on Tuesday. Organized by the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT), the forum witnessed a series of announcements, including a \$820 million commitment to buy locally produced medical equipment. The local procurement announcements build on offtakes generated by the two previous editions of the forum, raising the total value to \$38.93 billion representing 2,000 products for local manufacturing.

These commitments a part of a series of multi-billion-dollar agreements and initiatives announced at MIITE aimed at promoting economic self-sufficiency and attracting investment to the UAE. Eighty-two agreements were signed during MIITE, supporting Operation 300bn, a strategy aimed at increasing manufacturing value added to \$81 billion by 2031.

Industrial projects and investments worth more than \$5.44 billion were announced during MIITE, including a \$12 million investment to launch UAE's first microalgae producer. UK-based Levidian announced a \$100 million investment in a new Regional Delivery Centre in Abu Dhabi, targeting \$2 billion in revenues by 2030 and promising to

create hundreds of jobs.

MoIAT launched the AI Innovation Program to help industrial companies integrate AI in their operations. The program is backed by \$100 million of financing from Emirates Development Bank (EDB). EDB partnered with commercial banks to provide \$272 million worth of co-lending to support industrial companies. Another initiative, Transform 4.0, was launched with the aim of creating 100 Industry 4.0 lighthouses over the next three-to-five years.

His Excellency Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, said: "The third edition of the Make it in the Emirates Forum marks a significant gathering of pace and momentum for the UAE's industrial sector. In just three years, since the establishment of the ministry, the industrial sector's contribution to GDP has grown 49% to AED 197 billion (\$53.64). The country has emerged as a truly global hub for industrial investment and innovation, attracting some of the world's biggest names and best talents."

"The announcements made this week will enhance national resilience in key sectors such as energy, healthcare and food, but also create strong investment opportunities for companies seeking to unlock the new wave of value being created by Operation 300bn."

*Source: AETOSWire

Talent acquisition platform to bridge Islamic Finance Industry's skill gap

ALHUDA CIBE UAE, A LEADING Islamic Finance Advisory, consultancy, research, capacity building and Shariah services provider institution, today announced the establishment of a dedicated Talent Acquisition Platform. This initiative aims to address the growing demand for qualified and Shariah-compliant human resources within the global Islamic finance industry.

The Islamic finance industry has witnessed significant growth in recent years, driven by rising demand for ethical and Shariah-compliant financial solutions. However, this rapid expansion has exposed a critical gap in the talent pool. There's a shortage of qualified professionals who possess both the technical expertise and the requisite understanding of Islamic finance principles (Shariah).

The lack of readily available and qualified human resources hinders the industry's potential. Filling this gap is crucial for ensuring the smooth development and continued success of Islamic finance globally. AlHuda CIBE's Talent Acquisition Platform addresses this challenge by connecting the right talent with the right opportunities across the Islamic finance spectrum.

This platform's reach extends beyond Islamic banking. It encompasses the entire Islamic finance industry, including Takaful (Islamic insurance), Ijarah (Islamic leasing), Sukuk (Islamic bonds), Islamic indices,

Islamic mutual funds, and Mudarabah funds (profit-sharing investment partnerships). By focusing on the broader industry, AlHuda CIBE aims to foster a more robust and interconnected Islamic finance talent pool.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair, CEO of AlHuda CIBE said, "we recognize the significant demand-supply gap in the Islamic finance industry when it comes to qualified human resources and Shariah-compliant talent". He further said, "we often see a situation where valuable expertise isn't being utilized in the most effective way. This platform will ensure that the right qualified individuals, with both technical and Shariah knowledge, are placed in the right positions."

AlHuda CIBE's Talent Acquisition Platform serves as a bridge between employers seeking qualified Islamic finance professionals and individuals with the necessary skills and experience. This initiative will empower organizations to build strong teams equipped to navigate the complexities of the Islamic finance landscape.

By addressing the human resource needs of the Islamic finance industry, AlHuda CIBE positions itself as a key driver of the sector's continued growth and global impact. This platform fosters a more efficient and effective talent market, allowing the industry to reach its full potential and deliver innovative Shariah-compliant financial solutions to a wider audience.

Savings, Investments, Lending and Foreign Currency Rates effective from 1st June 2024

Savings and Investments Rates

Description	Normal Interest Rate (%) (Lowest-Highest)	Actual Interest Rate (%) (Lowest-Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (Pula)
Current	0.00% - 3.00%	0.00% - 3.00%	100
Call	0.00% - 3.00%	0.00% - 3.00%	10,000
Ipeelee	0.25% - 2.05%	0.00% - 2.05%	1,000
SureSave 12 Months	3.50%	3.56%	100
SureSave 24 Months	5.00%	5.13%	100
SureSave 36 Months	4.85%	4.97%	100
Lebandla	2.10% - 2.60%	2.12% - 2.63%	1,000
EasySave	2.25% - 4.25%	2.27% - 4.34%	100
Fixed Deposit 91 Days	2.00% - 4.50%	2.02% - 4.60%	1,000
Fixed Deposit 6 Months	3.05% - 4.75%	3.10% - 4.86%	1,000
Fixed Deposit 12 Months	4.50% - 5.25%	4.50% - 5.39%	1,000
Fixed Deposit 24 Months	5.25%	5.25% - 5.39%	1,000

Lending Rates

Description	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)
Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR)	2.40%	
Bank Gaborone Prime Lending Rate	6.51%	
Mortgage Rate	Prime - Prime +8%	9.13%
Overdraft Rate (revolving credit lines)	Prime - Prime +13.50%	13.58%
Credit Card Rate	Prime+10% - Prime+15%	17.92%
Lease loans	N/A	N/A
Personal loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage, and credit cards)	Prime + 3% - Prime + 25.49%	14.60%
Other long term loan rates (Commercial loans)	Prime+4% - Prime+13.5%	10.43%

Foreign Currency Rates

USD rates

Description	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Min)	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Max)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Min)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Max)	Minimum Opening Balance (Business)	Minimum Opening Balance (Business)
1 month	0.00%	1.50%	0.00%	1.51%	200	500
3 months	0.60%	2.10%	0.60%	2.12%	200	500
6 months	0.80%	2.30%	0.80%	2.31%	200	500
9 months	1.00%	2.50%	1.00%	2.51%	200	500
12 months	1.25%	2.75%	1.25%	2.75%	200	500
Call	0.00%	1.00%	0.00%	1.00%	200	500

*Rates apply to amounts from USD10K to USD1M. All rates for USD1M and above are negotiable

For more information contact our branches:

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Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

ZAR rates

Description	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Min)	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Max)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Min)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Max)	Minimum Opening Balance (Individuals)	Minimum Opening Balance (Business)
1 month	0.75%	3.75%	0.75%	3.82%	2000	5000
3 months	1.00%	5.00%	1.00%	5.09%	2000	5000
6 months	1.50%	6.00%	1.51%	6.09%	2000	5000
9 months	2.00%	6.25%	2.00%	6.30%	2000	5000
12 months	2.25%	6.50%	2.25%	6.50%	2000	5000
Call	0.00%	1.75%	0.00%	3.25%	2000	5000

*Rates apply to amounts from ZAR50K to ZAR1M. All rates for ZAR1M and above are negotiable

GBP rates

Months	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Min)	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Max)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Min)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Max)	Minimum Opening Balance (Individuals)	Minimum Opening Balance (Business)
1	0.20%	0.75%	0.20%	0.75%	200	500
3	0.50%	1.10%	0.50%	1.10%	200	500
6	0.75%	1.90%	0.75%	1.91%	200	500
9	1.15%	2.15%	1.15%	2.16%	200	500
12	1.20%	2.20%	1.20%	2.20%	200	500
Call	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	200	500

*Rates apply to amounts from GBP10K to GBP1M. All rates for GBP1M and above are negotiable

EUR rates

Months	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Min)	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Max)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Min)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Max)	Minimum Opening Balance (Individuals)	Minimum Opening Balance (Business)
1	0.20%	0.75%	0.20%	0.75%	200	500
3	0.25%	1.25%	0.25%	1.26%	200	500
6	0.50%	1.75%	0.50%	1.76%	200	500
9	0.75%	2.00%	0.75%	2.00%	200	500
12	1.00%	2.25%	1.00%	2.25%	200	500
Call	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	200	500

*Rates apply to amounts from EUR10K to EUR1M. All rates for EUR1M and above are negotiable

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Broken worship heals souls

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IN A WORLD FULL OF unpredictable tragedies and life uncertainties, 'broken worship' has healed many of traumas and heart breaks, yet also bringing them closer to God. The trending song by Thato Makumbe, commonly known by stage name Tinah IAM, is a gospel ministration which talks about the unending mercies of God.

As shared by the song writer, the birth of her song can be drawn from way back when she started singing as a praise and worshiper at a tender age in church. Her inspiration became clearer through the guidance and counsel of her mentors Apostle David Grace and his wife Esther Grace, who also happen to be recognized singers and song writers among other hats they wear. With time she eventually got the courage to officially release her song on April 2024, recorded on the 16th March 2024 at Morula studios in Gaborone.

Revealing how personal the song really is to her, the songstress mentioned that broken worship is more than just a song but a ministration derived from her life story which depicts a young girl who went through a lot in her childhood, but grew up to find comfort and mercy in the Lord. Through the song, she paints a picture which presents brokenness as a bridge to becoming, with the aim to specially reach out to those walking in the same path she went through.

"By this song I wish to reach out to anyone who feels and thinks that they don't deserve a second chance, anyone who wants to give up on themselves and life and anyone who thinks nothing good can come out of themselves" she explained. The songbird shared that the feedback she has been getting both locally and internationally regarding the impact of the song is nothing short of amazing. "Honestly it has all been mind blowing and humbling.



Tinah IAM

People who have for the longest time struggled to relate with God because of their personal mistakes and errors are now coming out to actually say the song has restored them and they can now pray and talk to God without feeling ashamed and judged."

With society often throwing stones at random people without understanding their inner struggles and insecurities, broken worship brings healing, hope and deliverance to the bound and those going through emotional turmoil, with a promise that you can worship God even in your most imperfect state. Tinah expressed how grateful

she is to her mentors and her husband who have equally played a fundamental role in the release of her song, having offered great support from the onset. Most importantly she stands grateful to God for having given her the inspiration to write a song many people can relate to, which in fact turned out to be far much more than she expected. "I encourage everyone to approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that they may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Broken worship is freely available on various music platforms inclusive of YouTube, Spotify and Cdbaby.

Groot Constantia harvest National Wine Challenge Awards



GROOT CONSTANTIA, THE oldest and most iconic working winery in South Africa, scooped 14 top awards at this year's prestigious National Wine Awards - including three Grand Cru Awards, a phenomenal six Top 100 and Double Platinum Awards, as well as two Double Gold Awards, and three Double Silver

The Grand Cru Award category recognises exceptional wines that are considered the cream of the crop in South Africa. The three Groot Constantia wines that were awarded are the 2020 Merlot, the 2020 Gouverneurs Reserve Red, and the 2022 Gouverneurs Reserve White.

Double Platinum wines, and Top 100 Wines winners, are outstanding wines that have achieved exceptional scores of between 91 and 95 out of 100 and represent the pinnacle of achievement in South African winemaking. The Groot Constantia wines that were recognised in this category are the 2020 Merlot, 2020 Gouverneurs Reserve Red, 2022 Gouverneurs Reserve White, 2023 Chardonnay, 2021 Shiraz, and 2022

Cabernet Sauvignon.

The two Double Gold winners, an award given to wines that perform at a very high standard, are the 2019 Grand Constance and the 2020 Lady Of Abundance.

The three Double Silvers were awarded to Groot Constantia's 2021 Lady Of Abundance, the 2023 Sauvignon Blanc, and the 2022 Pinotage.

"We are overjoyed to have achieved these accolades in the 2024 National Wine Challenge Top 100 wines. These awards once again confirm the incredible quality of Groot Constantia's wines across a range of varieties. We celebrate the success and efforts of our whole team in achieving these awards," says Daniel Keulder winemaker for Groot Constantia. A sentiment shared by Floricius Beukes, Viticulturist and Estate Manager for Groot Constantia, who says they are so thankful for these accolades, which are a testament to the dedication and hard work of the entire Groot Constantia team.

The National Wine Challenge

(NWC) is one of South Africa's premier wine contests, created to highlight the excellence of our local wines while providing an expert reference point for wine lovers internationally. With arguably one of the best possible panels of high-profile, well-respected wine judges. An esteemed panel of high-profile judges, featuring Master of Wines (MWs), global connoisseurs, Cape Wine Masters (CWMs), and seasoned winemakers, evaluate each wine "blind" to ensure fairness and eliminate bias.

"When the SA Top 100 Wine Show started Groot Constantia had only one wine under the Top 100. This has consistently increased year on year - a fitting tribute to Groot Constantia's heritage and terroir," says Jean Naudé, CEO of Groot Constantia. "These awards, and multiple others achieved by Groot Constantia's wines at local and international wine competitions, are a compliment and a reward for the massive effort that our production teams have put in over many years."

www.grootconstantia.co.za

Mrs Botswana for Mrs Universe

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REIGNING MRS BOTSWANA Oampata Faith Leroy Mosepidi is getting ready to compete internationally this year following being crowned queen on the 1st June 2024, with runner ups Gosego Rose Jamieson as first princess and Keatletse Tebbeth Molefe having taken third position as second princess. Mosepidi is excitedly looking forward to joining 109 other married women from across the universe as contestant number 110 at Incheon South Korea in October 2nd for Mrs Universe.

Elated, the queen shared that becoming Mrs Botswana was a win quite unexpected. "I can't even put it into words. I am still recovering from what feels like a dream. Having secured this crown and this title means a lot to me because all the hardwork that I have put in has finally paid off," she said. With intense preparations for Mrs Universe stage about to begin, Mosepidi looks forward to representing the country well by performing to the best of her ability. "I am excited about finally having to representing my country Botswana at the upcoming Mrs Universe competition in South Korea. This is quite a milestone and a lifetime opportunity I want to utilize to the fullest."

As one who has effortlessly been committed to the success of her project, Mrs Botswana has been encouraged by the prospect of collaborating with different stakeholders to inspire and enact change in the lives of Botswana through her project. Mosepidi's recently launched project Letsibogo, is an initiative created with the aim to cushion and remedy the effects of gender based violence in the lives of families.

"Letsibogo is a holistic mentorship program, segregated into three key areas which include educational support, entrepreneurial and social empowerment as well as leadership development. It targets children and youth that hail from households just like mine, that were affected by Gender Based Violence (GBV), that is both active victims and survivors," the queen explained.

Further deliberating on the project, she said by this initiative they have so far been able to take back seven children to school this year, all of who had failed their form 5 due to circumstances related to GBV. Adding further she highlighted that she hopes the project mushrooms all over the country so that they can offer more solutions to more families. "We have aspirations to clench the Mrs Universe crown and we know



Reigning Mrs Botswana Oampata Faith Leroy Mosepidi

we can only achieve this through the support of Botswana. You have rallied behind me before so I humbly ask that you do the same once again. This is a call to corporates, individuals as well as big and small companies."

According to the Founder and National Director of Mrs Botswana

Brand Kgalalelo Lesetedi, as an organisation, Mrs Botswana is eager about contributing towards the success of contestants especially at international stage, also sharing that they are doing all in their power to ensure that Mrs Universe crown comes home. "We are assisting our queen with all the support possible

including mentorship to empower and encourage her to bring the crown home.

We are intentionally working with her to make sure that her representation is excellently top tier. We therefore invite Botswana to join hands with us in supporting our queen."

Queen Seeiso at Desert Bush Walk 2024

CSI-CONCEPTS FOUNDATION, in conjunction with The Desert Bush Walk Local Organizing Committee (LOC), has confirmed that Her Majesty, Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso, wife of King Letsie III of Lesotho, will be one of the Guest Walkers at the Desert Bush Walk - Winter 2024. The event is scheduled for July 27th, 2024, in Jwaneng, Botswana.

As previously communicated, the Queen will be joined by the Vice President of Botswana, Slumber Tsogwane, as well as high-ranking government and non-government officials, and representatives from private and public sectors from both Botswana and Lesotho.

Hosting Her Majesty, Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso, is a



Her Majesty, Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso

significant honor for the event. Her participation highlights her commitment to charitable work in both Lesotho and now in Botswana.

Her visit also strengthens the historic bonds of friendship between Botswana and Lesotho, which are rooted in shared history and values. CSI-Concepts FOUNDATION would like to thank all those who facilitated this visit.

We assure the hiking community and the nation that we value this opportunity.

Together with our key stakeholders, we will do our utmost to provide Her Majesty and her entourage with Botswana's renowned hospitality, which reflects the country's values of warmth, generosity, and community spirit.

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Sport



Marobela

Marobela wins IPN Tennis tour

BOTSWANA NATIONAL TENNIS PLAYER, Batsomi Klaus Marobela, was crowned champion of the inaugural IPN Tennis Tour Men's tournament, which took place last week in Gaborone. His path to victory included wins over Raymond Jasi (South-Africa) 6:2, 6:2; Best Ndebele (Botswana) 6:1, 6:3 and a straight set win over Yarona Morule (South Africa) 6:1, 6:2 in the Final.

Fans watching the match admired Marobela's clean, precise and intelligent playing style, which left Morule not much choice to counter. Marobela also won the Double's format of the tournament ('Dingles') together with his young partner Reagile Diraditsile with a win over Best Ndebele and Precious German 12:8 and 12:6 in the Final.

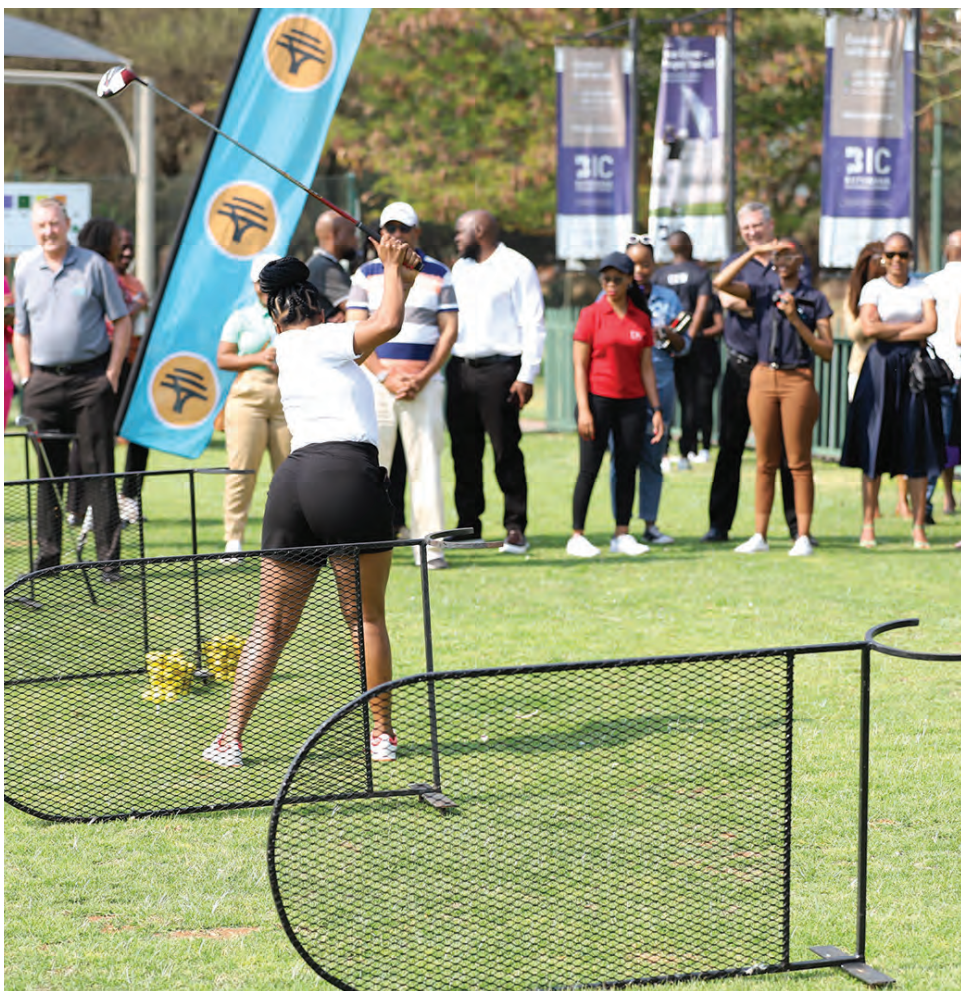
According to their website, the IPN Tennis Tour is a new format to highlight the rising talent in Southern Africa and

Japan through promoting inclusive and competitive tennis for men and women all year round. The tour provides US\$8000 of prize money for each tournament with the winner receiving US\$1500 in the Singles competition and US\$144 in the 'Dingles' competition. Previously, IPN Tennis tournaments were successfully held in Cape Town (South Africa) and Windhoek (Namibia).

Marobela is currently based at Ashland University in Ohio, USA where he pursues a degree in Exercise Science for which he obtained a Botswana Elite Sports Scholarship.

Botswana tennis fans can look forward to more competitive tennis action, as Botswana Open Tournament will take place end of June and Davis Cup in July this year. Another IPN Tennis tournament is scheduled for the 1 September 2024 in Gaborone. We are looking forward to see Marobela in action again.

FNBB trains sport journos



limited media coverage may be attributable to limited understanding of the sport by media personnel.

FNB World of Golf @Blue Tree is a proudly 100% Citizen owned facility operating a Golf Driving Range, whose goal is to make it as easy as possible for people to try out the game. For the past two years, among its initiatives, our organization has been at the forefront of nurturing junior golf talent through the Delta Junior Golf Championship. This annual series of tournaments proved to be instrumental in promoting golf among young athletes, allowing them to develop skills that are competitive on a global stage.

On 26th June 2024, the 3rd Season of Delta Junior Golf Championship will be launched. To further promote the sport, which includes improving media coverage, we will be conducting a "Reporting With Confidence: Golf Principles for Journalists" workshop on Wednesday 5th June 2024. The program is specifically designed to provide sports journalists with the essential knowledge and enthusiasm required for precise and spirited reporting on golf.

FNB World of Golf @Blue Tree recognizes The Patriot on Sunday as a key stakeholder in this initiative. It is against this background that we invite you to partner with us and nominate a member of your organization responsible for sports coverage, to participate in the workshop.

Date: Wednesday 5 June 2024

GLOBALLY, SOCIETY RECOGNIZES THE social and economic importance of Golf. In Botswana, though Golf has been in existence for a long time, it has remained a sport known to only a few. Contributing to this limited knowledge of the sport is inadequate media coverage. The

BHC staff at 2024 Comrades



Botswana Housing Corporation Chief Executive Officer, Nkaelang Matenge with Thero Moroka, Kopano Barungwi, Oketsang Mabutho and Ogaufi Keipeile

BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION Chief Executive Officer, Nkaelang Matenge and Deputy CEO Corporate Services Pascaline Sefawe on Wednesday hosted a send-off for staff participating at the 2024 Comrades Marathon which takes place today (Sunday, 09th June 2024). The marathon will transverse the beautiful landscape between Durban and Pietermaritzburg in South Africa covering a total distance of 85.91km.

BHC has provided the team with running gear and financial support for necessary logistics to facilitate their participation at the marathon. The team is made of Thero Moroka, Kopano Barungwi, Oketsang Mabutho and Ogaufi Keipeile who share a passion for running and have participated in several marathons in preparation for the

race ahead of the 2024 race.

Matenge wished the participants good luck and reminded them that they are not only representing themselves but represent the BHC brand. He encouraged them to have fun and most importantly ensure that they finish the race. He reassured the team that BHC is proud of them and will be rooting for them throughout their race.



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