

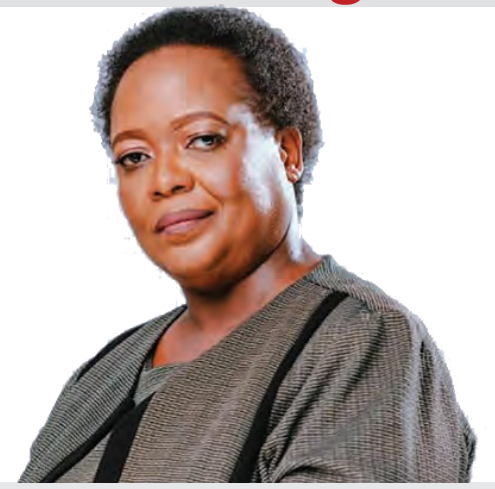
The Patriot

on Sunday

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Domkrag drama unfolds

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- Bulela Ditswe delays put Masisi, NEC under pressure
- 'We will conclude all election preparations within a month' -BDP

BAKANG TIRO
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THE CONTROVERSY OVER PENDING BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY (BDP)'s primary elections, commonly known as Bulela Ditswe, is far from over as a new method to select Parliamentary candidates in some constituencies is under discussion with suggestions to subject some contestants to oral interviews to trim the numbers, The Patriot on Sunday has learnt.

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AP snubs UDC

- AP withdraws its candidates from UDC manifesto workshops
- Demand UDC to first prioritise conclusion of wards allocation
- Butale affirms AP commitment to UDC despite snubbing them

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Bosigo, Motshegare, re tshware!

19777

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BUAN, ISAGO Foundation sign MOU

TUESDAY, 28TH MAY 2024 MARKED another momentous day as BUAN signed an MOU with ISAGO Road to Recovery foundation. The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Research, Prof Justin Chepete welcomed attendants to witness the signing of the MOU by the two parties, saying the MOU resonates well with the welfare of staff and students and will go a long way in touching lives and ensuring sustainable growth. "It is quite an interesting MOU particularly as ISAGO is an NGO with support services to people living with disabilities, and BUAN has people living with disabilities and embraces everyone," said Prof Chepete.

For his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Prof Ketlathogile Mosepele started by quoting Martin Luther King's maxim that, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. Accept the things to which fate binds you and love the people with whom fate brings you together but do so with all your heart. We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools". He, therefore, in that spirit of Dr King, urged all to celebrate, cherish and enshrine the moment.

The Isago Road to Recovery is a foundation for People Living With Disabilities (PLWDs), whose founder is Benson Kuhlman, who is a person

living with disability. It was through Self-actualization, Self-motivation and Self-awareness that Kuhlman realized that the sky is the limit regardless of his disability. Therefore, he founded the organisation to give hope to People Living With Disabilities. To him, there are limitless possibilities and opportunities out there

In the strategic drive towards sustainability, BUAN intends to be a university that values social inclusion. "Therefore, we can't as a university have impact if we don't embrace People Living with Disabilities; We can't be an impactful University if we don't engage People Living With Disabilities; We can't be an inclusive



Vice Chancellor, Prof Ketlathogile Mosepele with people Living With Disabilities (PLWDs), whose founder is Benson Kuhlman

University if we don't interact with People Living With Disabilities; We can't be a comprehensive University until we live with People Living With Disabilities", emphasized the Vice Chancellor.

Through the MoU, BUAN will engage ISAGO to create an enabling environment, where People Living With Disabilities will

have opportunities to learn and develop key life skills. Agriculture and Natural resources present a meaningful pathway for training and employment. "This MoU signifies our commitment to work with ISAGO towards creating a Sustainable Botswana.

A Botswana where everyone has an equal opportunity to attain wealth, as enshrined

in the Transformation Agenda", said Prof Mosepele.

Benson Kuhlman, the Founder and Director of ISAGO Road to Recovery Foundation thanked God for the special occasion and thanked BUAN management for the opportunity to forge the partnership and implement the objectives of the MOU.

DEWA leads UAE in sustainability perceptions

BRAND FINANCE, THE LEADING international brand valuation consultancy, has revealed that Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) is recognised to have the strongest commitment to environmental sustainability of any UAE brand. Brand Finance's report also indicates that in the utility sector, DEWA is the most valuable utility brand in the UAE, and second in the region, with a 3% increase in brand value to USD1.1 billion.

The report emphasised DEWA's exceptional commitment to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, securing its position as the leading entity in the UAE for environmental sustainability perceptions.

"We are honoured to be recognised as the leading entity in environmental sustainability perceptions in the UAE.

The vision and directives of our wise leadership guides our efforts to adopt and advance sustainability,

as it serves as the cornerstone of all social, economic, and environmental development plans.

This important achievement reflects public acknowledgement of our unwavering commitment to sustainable practices and our salient role in driving Dubai's vision for a greener future.

At DEWA, we continue to integrate sustainability into all aspects of our operations, ensuring we contribute positively to the economy, environment and society," said HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA.

"DEWA operates in a tough environment – providing essential utilities in a water-scarce, resource-hungry environment, to a rapidly growing population with high expectations. Ensuring the sustainability of its operations and managing its reputation in that context is a significant

challenge, but one that DEWA is clearly managing adeptly," said David Haigh, Chairman and CEO of Brand Finance.

Brand Finance report also highlights DEWA's comprehensive initiatives aimed at enhancing sustainability across all its operations.

Key projects contributing to this recognition include the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest single-site solar park in the world, with a planned production capacity of over 5,000MW by 2030. DEWA's vast portfolio of innovative projects, such as the Green Hydrogen Project, the EV Green Charger initiative, and the Smart Grid, reflect its commitment to utilising advanced technologies to improve energy and water efficiency and drive the energy transition in the UAE. Source: AETOSWire



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The University is looking for qualified and experienced individual for the below stated position:

The position is based at BIUST Campus, Palapye and are offered fixed term contract.

SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

To teach, supervise and educate undergraduate and postgraduate students in academic discipline and to build the knowledge base of the discipline through research and publication. To administer teaching and research activities within the discipline of Molecular Biology. To give academic leadership in the University, the School, and the Department and developing the next generation of academics. To play a leading role in improving the teaching and research infrastructure of the Department, School, and University. To establish a national reputation in the chosen discipline. To be active in professional service related to the chosen discipline.

Qualifications

PhD in Molecular Biology or in a related area with a strong focus on Molecular Biology from a recognized Institution.

Experience

A minimum of six (6) years post-doctoral experience in either teaching/research or industry experience in Molecular Biology

- Research and teaching experience in undergraduate/postgraduate Molecular Biology, preferably with a speciality in Plant Virology and evidence of building and leading a research team in this field of study.
- A record of recent and continuing publications of at least sixteen (16) original scientific articles in reputable, peer-reviewed journals.
- Evidence of attracting research grants and managing research projects.
- Evidence of experience of successful supervision of postgraduate students.
- Evidence of accreditation as assessor and moderator from a recognized Qualification Authority (e.g. BQA).
- Evidence of engagement in university, professional, and community services.
- Evidence of involvement in academic leadership and management.

Competencies requirements

- Ability to prepare and submit proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and accreditation purposes.
- Computer proficiency.
- Good knowledge of the academic discipline environment.
- Involvement in professional activities where applicable.
- Knowledge of Research Methodology.
- Understanding of Higher Education environment.
- Ability to be a team player and ability to work independently.
- Ability to facilitate student learning.
- Ability to coach and mentor students and staff.

Professional Certification

- Registration with the appropriate professional body where applicable

Remuneration

The University offers an attractive package, commensurate with qualification and experience.

If you meet the requirements of the above stated position, please send your application letter and a detailed Curriculum Vitae including at least two (2) recent professional referees to:

Director, Human Resources at the email address below.

recruitment.biosci@biust.ac.bw

For any further enquiries, you may call Ms. Taolo @ 4931 305/Ms Mosinyi @ 4931 317

CLOSING DATE: July 20th, 2024



Mafoko-A-Kgotla Batswana Talk Democracy



Thomas Nkhoma - MISA Botswana Interim Chair

THE LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN MEDIA Barometer Botswana 2023: An Analysis of Botswana's Media Landscape."

MISA Botswana Chapter, Botswana Council of NGOs, Botswana Editors Forum, Campaign for Free Expression and the United Nations in Botswana supported by FES Botswana, gladly invite you to the Launch of the African Media Barometer Botswana 2023: An Analysis of Botswana's Media Landscape at Protea Hotel from 17:30.

The African Media Barometer is a comprehensive description system that assesses the effectiveness of the media in African nations and offers suggestions for development. It has played a significant role in advancing media professionalism and independence throughout the continent by organizing events, training courses, and journalist networking opportunities.

The media is vital to a democracy because it keeps the general public informed about developments and activities, which helps to establish a closer relationship between the people and their government. It is against this background that the media also needs to be assessed in ensuring the advancement of democracy.

Concern over ill-treatment of patients Marina

IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT A serious incident involving the maltreatment of a client has occurred within Princess Marina Hospital (PMH) premises. The Nursing and Midwifery Council of Botswana (NMCB) is deeply concerned about this matter and has initiated a thorough investigation to ascertain the facts and ensure accountability.

The safety, well-being, and dignity of clients are paramount, and any breach of trust in this regard is unacceptable. We are committed to upholding the highest standards of care and service, and we take any allegations of maltreatment very seriously.

We assure all stakeholders that this incident is being addressed with the utmost seriousness. Our commitment to safeguarding the rights and welfare of clients remains steadfast, and we will take all necessary steps to restore trust and ensure such an incident does not occur again.

NMCB exists to regulate nursing and midwifery education and practice to ensure



Princess Marina Hospital Main entrance

provision of quality services to the public through enforcement of set standards. We therefore call upon the public to inform the NMCB if they experience some form of

maltreatment by nurses or midwives. Ms Mpona Manthe Chairman - NMCB nursingcouncilbotswana@gmail.com

Industrial Court mourns Judge Makgato

IT IS WITH DEEP AND PROFOUND sorrow that the Industrial Court informs stakeholders and the public of the passing of Judge of the Industrial Court, Honourable Judge Gaedupe Lengoko Makgato on the 15th June 2024 in Gaborone.

Judge Gaedupe Lengoko Makgato was appointed Judge of the Industrial Court on the 1st August 2017 and has been with the Court until his untimely demise. Prior to joining the Industrial Court bench, Judge Makgato had a distinguished legal career as a Magistrate in different Magistrates Courts

across the country. A memorial service in his honour was held on Thursday 20th June 2024 at 1400hrs. He was laid to rest on the 22nd June 2024 at Machaneng. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Domkrag drama unfolds

BAKANG TIRO
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THE CONTROVERSY OVER pending Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)'s primary elections, commonly known as Bulela Ditswe, is far from over as a new method to select Parliamentary candidates in some constituencies is under discussion with suggestions to subject some contestants to oral interviews to trim the numbers, The Patriot on Sunday has learnt.

This is after scores of BDP members who had been vetted to contest for Bulela Ditswe ignored the call made by BDP Chairman Slumber Tsogwane recently for them voluntarily withdraw from contesting and that they will be refunded their application fees. BDP sought to reduce the numbers through that plan.

Information reaching this publication is that the party president Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi and his central committee are toying with the idea of approaching BDP structures on how to best select the candidates.

According to the impeccable sources, the plan that is being discussed behind the scenes is that the BDP's Political Education and Elections Committee (PEEC) select the candidates by interviewing some of them.

However, it is said the proposal has caused divisions between NEC and the PEEC, with the PEEC being reluctant to thumb up such plans with fears being that it could result in backlash from the members.

It is said Masisi, and the central committee are under huge pressure as BDP primaries remain a pie in the sky, amidst democrats losing

- BDP NEC, PEEC differ over plans to interview candidates
- Bulela Ditswe delays put Masisi, NEC under pressure
- 'We will conclude all election preparations within a month'-BDP



BDP Party President Masisi addressing democrats

patience implying that delay signals that BDP isn't ready for 2024 elections.

Kario

Contacted for a comment about suggestions/ plans to interview some Bulela Ditswe candidates, BDP Secretary General (SG) Kavis Kario was cagey with details, but said the BDP is not intending to adopt any method other than the method of candidate selection (elections) as dictated by BDP Constitution, Rules

and Regulations.

At the beginning of the year, the BDP central committee attempted but in vain to lobby the party branch committees and regions to opt for consensus candidates in different constituencies where possible with the intention of consensus candidates being based on speeding up the process of candidates' selection.

Traditionally, BDP conducts its primary elections a year before general elections and normally

starts with constituencies that are under the incumbency of opposition and proceed to those under its incumbency.

However, to date with just less than four months behind elections scheduled for October, BDP hasn't begun the process of fielding candidates, a move which observers suggest it shows BDP is under siege.

Meanwhile, Kario also said the party has received requests for withdrawal by some candidates from

contesting Bulela Ditswe as per the memo issued by Tsogwane, adding the requests will be processed and actual numbers of those candidates who withdrew will be determined by the end of this week.

Grand Plan

He also bashed claims and criticism raised by some within and outside the party that the BDP is not ready for elections given the delays in conducting Bulela Ditswe with that leading to a slow start for campaigns as well as the release of the 2024 elections manifesto, but Kario is adamant BDP is ready.

"We are very ready for elections on terms of our preparedness to be assessed by voters on the delivery of our electoral promises. We have done a great job in this regard," said Kario confident of BDP victory.

Furthermore, Kario said all process related to elections at BDP level will be done in one and half months and that include primary elections, manifesto launch and issuance of campaign to both candidates and the campaign teams across the country. BDP is yet to identify candidates for the Maun East constituency.

Masisi recently hinted that BDP primary elections could be held either at the end of this month or the first week of July but as things stand, some democrats are doubtful on dates that Masisi have outlined that elections will be held more so that some of constituencies are behind in finalising the voters rolls.

He also emphasizes to those who will lose primary elections that there will be no time for the party to listen to their appeals and therefore whoever suffer defeat must prepare to rally behind the winners.

AP snubs UDC

- AP withdraws its candidates from UDC manifesto workshops
- Demand UDC to first prioritize conclusion of wards allocation
- Butale affirms AP commitment to UDC despite snubbing them



Dr Butale

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THE ALLIANCE FOR Progressives (AP) has broken ranks with the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) coalition and instructed its candidates not to participate in a series of manifesto workshops for candidates.

The first UDC manifesto workshop was scheduled for Palapye yesterday (Saturday). It is said the AP's boycott of UDC elections preparations emanate from a number of disapprovals that had been raised and put forward before UDC central committee but were not addressed as AP had expected.

AP Secretary General (SG) Dr Pheno Butale on Friday issued a statement to AP regional chairpersons and secretaries, the branch chairpersons and secretaries and parliamentary and council candidates informing them of the party's decision not to participate in the UDC manifesto candidates' workshops. Dr Butale said the party has received a number of complaints from many council candidates about recent developments regarding ward allocations. UDC partners are still at loggerheads over wards. "Taking into consideration the fact that ward allocations have not been concluded, the AP Central Committee has decided that the party's candidates will not participate in the trainings pending the conclusion of all outstanding ward allocation issues," Dr Butale said in letter to the AP structures.

In addition, Dr Butale said the AP candidates are therefore informed not to attend the workshop in Palapye, a development which observers say shows that UDC internal wranglings are intensifying.

Contacted further for a comment, Dr Butale confirmed the AP decision but said the memo issued was internal and not for public consumption including the media hence its leaking was very

unfortunate, adding that AP has informed UDC over its decision of AP candidates not partaking in the workshop.

UDC Head of Communications, Moeti Mohwasa did not respond to enquiries sent to him.

Meanwhile, a UDC statement dated 20th June noted that over the weekend UDC will hold two-day workshop for its candidates in constituencies North of Dibete and will be followed by another in Jwaneng on the 29th and 30th June for parliamentary candidates in the South of Dibete.

BNF Radicals

Some of the paramount complaints that have been raised by AP is the continuous disregarding of UDC constituencies allocation decisions by some of Botswana National Front (BNF) members who have also since launched parallel campaigns in constituencies and wards that had been allocated to AP by UDC.

BNF member and former Molepolole South MP Dr Tlamele Mmatli has been campaigning together with Shima Monageng of AP while at Mmopane-Metsimothabe BNF cadre Gilbert Watshiphi squared off against AP's Pushie Manyaneng.

The argument by both Dr Mmatli and Watshiphi are that both Molepolole South and Mmopane-Metsimothabe are BNF strongholds hence AP is not deserving to contest for them.

Dr Mmatli and Watshiphi were UDC parliamentary candidates during the 2019 general elections.

Dr Butale said the issue of Molepolole South and Mmopane-Metsimothabe has been attended to and those who were campaigning unlawfully have been informed to stop because the constituencies have been allocated to AP.

"We are committed to the UDC project as AP hence our call for pending issues to be concluded expeditiously," said Butale in an interview on Friday

POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Game Changer or a Curse!

- 30% of P2 million funding for women candidates
- BCWP hopeful funding can boost women participation
- Women representation remains low across parties

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BOTSWANA WOMEN CAUCUS in Politics (BWCP) has expressed concern over the low numbers of women contesting Parliamentary seats in the 2024 general elections and is hopeful that political party funding will change the fortune of female candidates to win more seats.

In an interview on Thursday, the acting president of BWCP, Rhoda Sekgororoane said if approved, the political party funding bill will attract more women candidates. She said one of the findings of a research conducted by Emang Basadi titled Mme Okae revealed that women are not contesting political office because of lack of funds, because the exercise is currently expensive.

Sekgororoane said BCWP has for many years been preparing women candidates for elections by bringing them together and training them on how to best sell themselves to the electorates. "The following are the numbers of some women candidates who are standing for Parliament:

BDP 20 women BCP 6, BNF 1, BMD 0, BPF 0. And mind you, some of these women are still to go through primaries which might not favor them. So, it's still difficult for women to ascend to these positions of power and the Caucus intends to lobby President Mokgweetsi Masisi to allocate the newly increased specially elected MPs seats to women," she said.

She explains that BWCP objectives are to provide a forum to exchange ideas and chart a way forward for the political empowerment of women in Botswana and to forge strategic alliance with internal and external organizations and individuals.

Parties

Meanwhile, Botswana Congress Party (BCP) Publicity Secretary, Dr Mpho Pheko said out of 54 Parliamentary candidates, only six of them are women. She said the constituencies that women are contesting are Gaborone Central, Mochudi West, Boteti East, Mogoditshane West, Lobatse and Mahalapye East.

"Our women numbers situation is worrisome, but women are deterred to contest by broader structural

issues like Cultural barriers, cost of family care which culture imposes on women, all these impacting women's confidence," said Dr Pheko.

In addition, she said the bigger challenge is the First- Past -The -Post (FPTP) electoral system, adding that the system is rigged against women and youth as the system is designed for men with money. "Look at all countries that are having more than 30% rep in parliament they use Mixed promotional representation or promotional representation. Rwanda, Ethiopia, Namibia, South Africa. Rwanda has a constitutional mandate of minimum 30% women," she said.

For her part, Botswana National Front Women's League president (BNFWL). Katlego Morolong said they set aside 30% quota for women contesting elections but said the resolutions were that consideration will be given for women candidates who won 2019 elections, those who won by-elections and consensus candidates.

Morolong said they are still to compile information and see how many women who will be contesting for general elections and that will be finalized once primary elections are



Sekgororoane
Chief Operations Officer at GA, Mopati Rammekwa

concluded in all constituencies.

Funding formula
The Minister of State President, Kabo Morwaeng is expected to table the political party funding bill before the upcoming July Parliament session where political parties will share views on budgeted P34 million.

A government white paper proposes funding formula of 20% of P2 million for a seat won by a male candidate and 30% of P2 million for a seat won by a female candidate, with P2 million being the maximum election expense amount specified under Section 81 of the Electoral Act.

Delivering the 2024/25 budget in February, the Minister of Finance, Peggy Serame announced that government will set aside P34

million to finance political parties to improve Botswana's democratic credentials by levelling the campaign field. The government political party funding dispensation comes after submissions in support of public funding of political parties were raised to the presidential commission on constitutional review that was led by former Chief Justice Maruping Dibotelo.

Submitting its final report, the commission then recommended that "Political party funding be introduced based on parliamentary seats won by parties in the immediate past general election at the rate of not less than P50,000 or such amount as may be determined by Parliament from time to time per Member of Parliament."

The commission also recommended that political parties, which received public funding should account for the use of such funds to the Office of the Auditor General following general elections.

During 2019 general elections, the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) won 38 parliamentary seats, UDC coalition comprising BCP, Botswana National Front (BNF) and Botswana Peoples Party (BPP) respectively garnered 15 seats.

On the other hand, Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) won three (3) seats and Alliance for Progressives (AP) one (1).

Gambling Authority upbeat

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THE GAMBLING AUTHORITY (GA) of Botswana has adopted an aggressive digitisation approach by launching applications for hosting Short Message Service (SMS) Competitions, Games, and Quizzes across Digital, Virtual, and Interactive platforms, to revolutionise entertainment.

Commenting on the new developments, Chief Operations Officer (COO) at GA, Mopati Rammekwa said this pioneering project aligns with Botswana's Vision 2036, aiming to transition the nation towards a knowledge-based, high-income economy. She said by

- Roll out robust digitization, launch online SMS competitions, games, quizzes etc

embracing digital technologies and modern gaming trends, they are positioning Botswana as a leader in the digital economy, adding that this will not only entertain but also empower people, economically.

Rammekwa explained that the initiative is about more than just games but it's about changing the mindset towards modern entertainment forms and leveraging them for economic benefits.

"It is an opportunity for us to showcase our creativity and entrepreneurial spirit on digital platforms. Our goal is to build a dynamic and sustainable gaming industry that truly benefits our people," she affirmed.



Chief Operations Officer at GA, Mopati Rammekwa

Entrepreneurship

Meanwhile, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GA, Emolemo Kesitlwe said this initiative signifies a significant leap forward in diversifying entertainment avenues within Botswana while simultaneously fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

According to Kesitlwe, the new application process aims to be inclusive, welcoming all citizens interested in operating these gaming platforms, thereby opening doors to new economic opportunities and job creation within the gaming and technology sectors.

He said some of the economic

benefits that it comes with it are economic diversification, job creation, innovation and technology promotion and mindset change towards modern forms of entertainment.

"By encouraging the use of digital technologies and aligning with global gaming trends, Botswana aims to stimulate its digital economy while fostering a progressive and innovative mindset among its citizens," said Kesitlwe.

In addition, Kesitlwe said GA's vision is to cultivate a dynamic and sustainable gaming industry that not only entertains but also empowers Botswana economically. GA is

working towards issuing the first license for a National lottery, betting, Limited Payout Machines, and Bingo and has been benchmarking a lot from the diversified and highly advanced South African market.

The authority has reiterated that when considering an application for a Gambling Establishment License, it shall consider both the economic and social development made by the applicants as they need to state clearly what they will be doing to promote citizen participation, skills transfer and employment creation to mention but just a few benefits.

Engaging learners in an electoral process



LAGAGO TAMOCHA*

EDUCATING THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNER

AS BOTSWANA GEARS UP FOR elections in October 2024, the spotlight is not only on the candidates but also on the future voters—our middle and high school students. In an era where information is at our fingertips and civic engagement is paramount, educating the 21st-century learner about the electoral process and political participation is crucial. This engagement starts with understanding the role of youth wings in political parties and the importance of early involvement in democratic processes.

Importance of Political Engagement in Youth

Political engagement in youth is essential for fostering informed and active citizens. Middle and high school students, although not yet eligible to vote, are at a critical age where their understanding of democracy and civic responsibilities is taking shape. This is the time to educate them about the electoral process, the significance of their vote, and the broader impact of their political participation.

The Role of Youth Wings in Political Parties

In Botswana, major political parties have established youth wings aimed at mobilizing and educating young people about political and social issues. These youth wings play a pivotal role in:

Political Education: Youth wings organize

seminars, workshops, and discussions that help young people understand party policies, governance structures, and the electoral process. This knowledge empowers them to make informed decisions and contribute to political discourse.

Leadership Development: By participating in youth wings, students develop leadership skills. They learn to organize events, lead discussions, and advocate for issues important to their communities. This experience is invaluable as it prepares them for future roles in leadership and governance.

Policy Advocacy: Youth wings provide a platform for young people to voice their concerns and influence party policies. This involvement ensures that the perspectives and needs of the younger generation are considered in the political agenda.

Encouraging Civic Responsibility: Active participation in youth wings instills a sense of civic duty in students. They learn the importance of voting, staying informed about political developments, and participating in community service.

Integrating Political Education into the Curriculum

To truly prepare students for active citizenship, schools must integrate political education into their curricula. This can be achieved through:

Civics and Government Classes: Offering dedicated courses that cover the fundamentals of democracy, the electoral process, and the structure of government.

Debate and Discussion Forums: Encouraging students to engage in debates and discussions on current political issues fosters critical thinking and informed opinions.

Extracurricular Activities: Supporting student participation in mock elections, student councils, and youth wings of political parties helps them gain practical experience.

Community Engagement Projects: Involving students in community service and local governance projects teaches them the value of civic responsibility and community involvement.

Youth wings of political parties can play a crucial role in preparing school-aged youths for their future civic duties. Here are several

ways they can help:

Civic Education and Awareness Programs

Youth wings can organize workshops, seminars, and school visits to educate students about the importance of civic engagement, the electoral process, and their roles as future voters. These programs can cover topics such as the structure of government, the functions of different branches of government, and the importance of participating in elections.

Mock Elections and Debates

Conducting mock elections and debates in schools can provide practical experience in the democratic process.

These activities allow students to understand how elections work, the importance of informed voting, and the skills needed to engage in political discourse. By simulating the election process, students can learn about candidate evaluation, policy analysis, and the significance of their vote.

Youth Leadership Programs

Youth wings often offer leadership training programs that help students develop skills such as public speaking, critical thinking, and organizational abilities. These programs can prepare students for leadership roles within their communities and encourage them to take active parts in civic activities. Leadership training can also instill confidence and a sense of responsibility towards community service and governance.

Policy Advocacy and Engagement

Youth wings can involve young people in policy advocacy, giving them a platform to voice their concerns and suggestions on issues affecting their generation. Engaging students in policy discussions and advocacy campaigns can help them understand the policymaking process and the importance of active participation in shaping public policies.

Political Mentorship Programs

Youth wings can establish mentorship programs where experienced political leaders and activists mentor young people. This guidance can provide valuable insights into political processes, campaign strategies, and effective community organizing. Mentorship can inspire students to pursue

careers in public service and prepare them for active participation in political life.

Promotion of Political Literacy

Youth wings can distribute educational materials, create informative social media content, and host online forums to promote political literacy among young people. By providing accessible information on political issues, party platforms, and current events, youth wings can help students stay informed and engaged.

Encouraging Participation in Student Government

MLGRD pays P3m to save assets

- Settles subcontractors and Deputy Sheriff fees pending appeal
- AG fights P40 million award to Lamworld Technologies

BAKWADI LEKOPANE

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

AFTER ALMOST TWO MONTHS OF battling for the return of government property worth over P40 million seized by deputy sheriffs, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) has finally managed to strike a temporary deal.

This deal involves a settlement payment of over P3 million, pending the appeal of the matter. Under the terms of the agreement, the Ministry will immediately pay P3,147,316.40 to Lamworld Technologies, covering retention fees and interest due for a works contract involving the construction of water treatment plants and evaporation points at New Xade and Radisele.

A portion of the settlement will also be allocated to the deputy sheriff. Upon receipt of the payment, the deputy sheriff will restore the attached movable property to the Ministry's premises. Additionally, Lamworld and the sheriff have undertaken not to attach or remove any further property from the Ministry pending the appeal hearing brought by the Ministry.

A savingram from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry sent to the Attorney General, seen by The Patriot on Sunday shows that the ministry was initially worried on whether striking a deal with Lamworld Technologies will not compromise their chances of success in the appeal which they have launched, a concern

Youth wings can support and encourage participation in student government and other school-based leadership roles. This experience can provide a microcosm of larger political systems, helping students understand governance, representation, and the importance of their voice in decision-making processes.

As Botswana prepares for its upcoming elections, it is imperative that we focus on educating our middle and high school students about the political process and the importance of their future participation.

By leveraging the resources and platforms provided by political party youth wings and integrating political education into our school curricula, we can nurture informed, engaged, and responsible citizens. The future of our democracy depends on the active involvement of our youth, and it is our responsibility to guide them on this journey.

Educating the 21st-century learner about politics is not just about preparing them to vote; it's about empowering them to shape the future of our nation.

the Attorney General answered saying "settlement will not in any way prejudice the Ministry's right with respect to the appeal".

The Ministry's legal troubles began in April when the High Court granted a writ of execution against them for failing to fulfill payment obligations to Lamworld Technologies. The court order followed a prolonged dispute over contractual issues between the Ministry and Lamworld, which was contracted to construct water treatment plants and evaporation ponds in New Xade and Radisele.

Despite the High Court's ruling in September 2022, ordering the Ministry to settle its dues to Lamworld Technologies, the Ministry failed to comply, prompting Lamworld to seek further legal recourse. After successfully applying for a writ of execution to recover the outstanding sum of P39,873,718.03, Lamworld wasted no time enforcing the court order.

During the enforcement of the order, the Ministry officials initially resisted but eventually relented and vacated their offices to allow the execution of the court order. The seized assets included vehicles, computers, office furniture, and other properties owned by the ministry.

PS seeks freedom

The temporary settlement deal sets free the Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Gabatlotane Mogapi, who is facing a contempt of court order that almost committed her to 30 days in jail.

In Mogapi's court papers' plea for liberty, she said after Lamworld cited her in their counter application against AG and sought for her arrest for contempt of court, arguing that "It is beyond any doubt that I have a substantial interest in any matter in which my constitutional right to liberty is being threatened and any party seeks to interfere with it."

Mogapi explained that she was applying to be joined in the counter application as a party to enable her to defend her constitutional right to her liberty. She pointed out that it was incumbent on Lamworld, who sought reliefs affecting her personal liberty, to have joined her to the proceedings before it sought and obtained an order potentially taking away her liberty.

"I therefore, humbly pray that I be joined as a necessary, affected and material party to the counter application launched by the company," the PS said. Mogapi said she was seeking that should she be successful in the joinder application; she wishes to move for the rescission of the court order granted to Lamworld on March 25, 2024 on the basis that an order prejudicially affecting her liberty has been sought and obtained by the company without citing her as a party.

"The company sought and obtained an order for my personal attachment without notice to me. They also did not serve its counter application for my committal to prison for contempt of court without having served me with a copy of the application personally," she said.

Windhoek hosts Global African Hydrogen Summit

THE INAUGURAL GLOBAL AFRICAN Hydrogen Summit, themed "From Ambition To Action: Fuelling Africa's Green Industrial Revolution", will take place from 3 - 5 September 2024 in Windhoek, Namibia, and will focus on the role Africa expects to play in the global hydrogen economy.

A recent report co-authored by McKinsey & Company and the Hydrogen Council highlights how Africa enjoys world-class renewable resources, with capacity factors up to 69% for wind power and 25% for solar power. The continent also has excellent geothermal and hydro resources, coupled with abundant land area. Consequently, the continent is strongly positioned to become a renewable hydrogen and derivatives producer and exporter.

Indeed, Africa holds the key to decarbonising the global energy system and can become a leading player in hydrogen produced from renewables. Several African countries, including Angola, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Namibia and South Africa, are actively pursuing clean hydrogen production goals. But Africa cannot do it alone. There are many challenges to overcome to establish a sustainable and economically viable hydrogen economy. The most fundamental and urgent obstacles to overcome as a priority include financing, investment, infrastructure development, policy, regulation, standards, technology, demand generation and a fragmented financial market to trade.

Therefore, the Global African Hydrogen Summit has been borne out of a critical need to address these challenges, with the



Nangolo Mbumba, President of the Republic of Namibia

aim to foster, forge and further partnerships and collaboration across borders and across continents to drive progress.

From September 3 - 5, heads of state, ministers, policy makers, developers, investors, technologists, industrialists and off-takers, will convene at this dynamic Summit to facilitate public-private dialogue, influence policy, define real-world solutions, accelerate project financing, and broker deal closure.

On a recent mission to the Netherlands, His Excellency Nangolo Mbumba, President of the Republic of Namibia shared that:

"As we look to host the Global African Hydrogen Summit, we shall look to not only showcase what Namibia has delivered in

terms of our green hydrogen eco-system, but also the efforts of our peer nations on the continent." Reflecting on how the Summit will play a key part in overcoming industry hurdles, His Excellency went on to state that: "Furthermore, we shall zero in on key policy interventions needed to give birth to a burgeoning sector and also showcase key financial models and tools needed to close the gap between the price of grey and green molecules." Whilst Africa has enormous potential to meet the growing demand for energy that will map a sustainable path to a net zero future, the key to scaling up a competitive green hydrogen economy will be stimulating domestic demand and foreign offtake. To overcome trade, infrastructure and technology barriers to maximise hydrogen utilisation in sectors like power, agriculture, mining, steel, cement, transportation and maritime will be significant.

The Summit will also look to solve the pressing issue of how to de-risk investments and financing for hydrogen projects. Africa faces hurdles in reducing hydrogen production costs, as attracting international investment necessitates robust legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks. The Summit will showcase bankable project criteria, green financing mechanisms, and country-specific instruments that will accelerate green energy transactions.

The Global African Hydrogen Summit will therefore uphold the promise of igniting a new era of energy innovation across Africa and beyond. By confronting challenges head-on and fostering collaboration, stakeholders across the continent can pave the way towards a sustainable and prosperous future.

Creating Belonging in the Workplace

UNDER THE THEME "CREATING Belonging in the Workspace,"

Learn2Lead recently hosted a fully self-sponsored conference for approximately 200 participants who registered via an open call made to the public. The session featured keynote speakers, a panel discussion, and video content aimed at exploring how the workplace can serve as a "safe space" from the outside world for people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, races and minority groups. Discussions underscored the importance of embracing DEI principles (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) to foster a sense of belonging for all in the communities within which they live and/or serve.

DEI is defined as follows:
Diversity: Involves the presence and engagement of individuals with diverse backgrounds and perspectives, including those traditionally underrepresented. It goes beyond

mere tolerance to embracing and celebrating the unique dimensions of each individual.

Equity: Ensures equal access to opportunities and fair treatment, while striving to identify and remove barriers that hinder full participation. Equity acknowledges diverse circumstances and allocates resources to achieve equal outcomes.

Inclusion: Cultivates an environment where all feel welcomed, accepted, and respected. It recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of every individual, fostering a participatory and empowered community.

Ms. Lesego Bannalothle, alongside Mr. Luke Woodford, co-founders of Learn2Lead, stated, "We organized this conference to promote DEI education and foster workplace belonging. As a 'leadership readiness' oriented non-profit organization dedicated to equipping leaders with essential skills and toolkits, we are committed to providing leaders with

the knowledge and tools needed to cultivate inclusive work environments."

The panel discussion featured industry leaders sharing insights, experiences and opportunities; including Mr. Boiki Tema - Managing Director of Crossroads Distribution, Ms. Olebile Makhupe - Managing Director of Bank Gaborone, Captain Kgomo Phatsima - Founder and CEO of Dare to Dream, Ms. Eunice Mpoloka - Chairperson and Majority Shareholder of Hoisting Solutions Botswana, Mr. Chris Mbochwa (The Deaf Scientist), and Mr. James Marumo Kgabanyane - co-founder of Inclusive Talent Solutions. This event also had live sign language translation facilitated by Mr. Pheny Makaba, demonstrating that we can all foster a culture of inclusivity.

The session was closed with a call for commitments by all in attendance, to drive a greater sense of belonging for all they lead in their respective communities and workspaces.

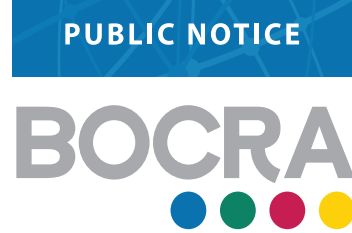
INVITATION TO APPLY (ITA) NOTICE

ITA NO: BOCRA/ITA/001/2024.2025

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM LICENSES

- Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA/ the Authority) hereby invites reputable, well established, and prospective radio spectrum users/applicants for the use of radio frequency spectrum, intended for the purpose of providing International Mobile Telecommunication Services in Botswana. The Invitation to Apply (ITA) covers frequency bands 700 MHz, 2 300 MHz, and 2 600 MHz
 - Applicants are expected to pay a non-refundable Licence Application Fee of **Eleven Thousand Pula (P11 000.00)** to BOCRA on submission of the application for each licence applied for.
 - Applications should be submitted not later than 10:00 Hours on **Friday 23 August 2024** or such other later date as the BOCRA may advise in writing at the **Tender Box** located at the following BOCRA physical address:
- Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority**
Plot 50671
Independence Avenue
Gaborone
- Applications will be opened at **10:05 Hours on Friday 23 August 2024** at the BOCRA physical address indicated above. Representatives of the applicants and the public may attend the opening unless otherwise advised in writing by the Authority.
 - Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, the Authority is not bound to accept any application offer.

For any further information regarding the ITA, please contact Procurement Office at tenders@bcra.org.bw



PUBLIC NOTICE

BOCRA



BOTSWANA COMMUNICATIONS
REGULATORY AUTHORITY
PLOT 50671 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE
PRIVATE BAG 00495 GABORONE, BOTSWANA
TEL: +267 3957755 FAX: +267 3957976
info@bcra.org.bw | www.bcra.org.bw

Botswana hosts media, pre-elections summit

BOTSWANA WILL ON MONDAY AND Tuesday (24th - 25th June 2024) host a summit on strengthening freedom of expression and access to information to enhance electoral integrity.

The two-day event is organised by Campaign for Free Expression (CFE) which has partnered with United Nations Botswana, Botswana Editors Forum (BEF), Frederick Ebert Stiftung (FES), Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (BOCONGO), and the University of Botswana, to host this Freedom of Expression Summit in preparation for Botswana's 2024 general elections. The summit is anticipated to attract freedom of expression enthusiasts, policymakers, academia and civil society in unpacking the freedom of expression debate pre and post the 2024 elections. The summit will offer an opportunity for collaboration, knowledge exchange meant to ensure transparent elections in Botswana.

During the summit, panelists will zoom into a plethora of pressing media topics

such as an overview of the current state of freedom of expression in Botswana, legal frameworks and regulations governing or impacting freedom of expression and access to information during elections, freedom of expression in the context of elections, and regulatory frameworks enabling free and fair coverage of elections to mention but a few.

According to Botswana Editors Forum Secretary General, Keikantse Shumba, the role of the media in a democracy is primarily to inform, educate and of course to hold power to account. She said the media should inform so that citizens make informed decisions as opposed to making decisions out of ignorance, misinformation, disinformation, or even propaganda.

"During an election, an independent media must, over and above just providing coverage to political parties, set the agenda to discuss issues such as freedom of expression and how it affects the electoral process, which is exactly what this summit has set out to do by bringing together



shumba

stakeholders under one roof to talk about; strengthening freedom of expression and access to information in order to enhance electoral integrity," she said.

In 2023, Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index ranked Botswana 65/180. The indicators are; legislative framework, economic, socio cultural and political. Despite that, pundits still argued that more had to be done especially from a legal perspective. However, in 2024, Botswana dropped 14 places to the rank of 79/180.

"The law on access to information has yet to see the light of day," stated the report. It added: "The 2008 Media Practitioners Act was repealed in 2022 and replaced by the Media Practitioners' Association Act, in order to better protect the media's freedom and independence. But it contains a provision making it obligatory for a journalist or media to be affiliated with a local organisation, which is seen as discriminatory."

Amidst weak legislative frameworks regarding freedom of expression, President

Mokgweetsi Masisi has on the occasion of this year's World Press Freedom Day promised that the bill will be tabled in the winter session of Parliament. Botswana has been called to devise laws that enable for the free role of media which has been pivotal to the sustenance of democracy since attainment of independence. In the past, security organs like the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DIS) have proved to be a stumbling block to the operations of the media and other freedom of expression activists. The DIS has been accused of harassing, intimidating and arresting journalists. Journalists also face online threats through doxxing (an act where their private/personal information is published on the internet for malicious intent). This is done by politicians, and their followers in some instances.

Consequently, the summit will seek to bring such issues to the fore and how they can be countered during and beyond elections.

AI Pest Detection tool wins Prize for Engineering Innovation

ESTHER KIMANI WAS NAMED WINNER of Africa's biggest engineering prize, the Royal Academy of Engineering's Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation, in Nairobi on 13 June 2024. Her early crop pest and disease detection device was selected as the winning innovation for its ability to swiftly detect and identify agricultural pests and diseases, reducing crop losses for smallholder farmers by up to 30% while increasing yields by as much as 40%.

Five million smallholder farmers in Kenya lose on average 33% of their crops to pests and diseases. Kimani's innovation not only provides real-time alerts within five seconds of an infestation, offering tailored intervention suggestions, but also alerts government agricultural officers to the presence of diseases or pests, contributing to broader agricultural management efforts.

The solar-powered tool uses computer vision algorithms and advanced machine learning to detect and identify crop pests, pathogens or diseases, as well as the nature of the infection or infestation. The device then notifies the farmer via SMS. This affordable alternative to traditional detection methods leases for just \$3 per month, significantly cheaper than hiring drones or agricultural inspectors.

The annual Africa Prize was founded by the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2014 to support innovators developing sustainable and scalable engineering solutions to local challenges in Africa. This year has seen the Africa Prize alumni community grow to almost 150 entrepreneurs from 23 countries, who together have generated more than 28,000 jobs and benefitted more than 10 million people through their innovative products and services.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Prize, the Royal Academy of Engineering hosted the Africa Prize Alumni Reunion, bringing together 100 innovators



Esther Kimani

from the past decade for a three-day programme ahead of the final ceremony. This momentous occasion showcased the strength of the community united by the Prize.

Esther said: "My parents would lose up to 40% of their crops each farming season, which affected our standard of living. We are empowering smallholder farmers, many of whom are women, to increase their income. We aim to scale to one million farmers in the next five years."

Malcolm Brinded said: "These awards form part of the Royal Academy of Engineering's investment of over £1 million to African innovators through grants, prizes and accelerator programmes during the tenth anniversary year of the Africa Prize."

Esther received KSh 8.3 million to further develop the device. This is the largest amount awarded to a winner, in honour of

the 10th Anniversary of the Prize. The four finalists delivered their final business pitch to the Academy judges and an in-person audience of approximately 700.

The three runners up that were each awarded KSh 2.5 million to develop their innovations, were:

Eco Tiles, Kevin Maina, Kenya: An environmentally friendly roofing material made from recycled plastic. Stronger and lighter than clay or concrete tiles, the innovation is a dual solution to plastic pollution and high building costs.

The innovative manufacturing process involves a custom-made extrusion machine that blends different plastics at varying temperatures, eliminating the need for energy-intensive processes like kiln-burning and reducing carbon emissions. The tiles are enhanced with UV stabilisation chemicals and construction sand to improve durability and sturdiness.

La Ruche Health, Rory Assandey, Côte d'Ivoire:

La Ruche Health connects communities to vital health information, advice, and services through "Kiko", an AI chatbot tool available on WhatsApp and mobile apps, and a digital backend solution to streamline documentation, billing, and data sharing for practitioners.

By May 2024, the AI has facilitated over 150,000 user interactions and 189 in-home and teleconsultation appointments, processing over \$18,000 in medical billings, illustrating its effectiveness and scalability.

Yo-Waste, Martin Tumusiime, Uganda: Addressing Uganda's mounting waste crisis, Yo-Waste is a location-based

mobile application that connects homes and businesses to independent agents for efficient on-demand rubbish collection and disposal.

Yo-Waste currently serves over 1,500 customers including homes, businesses, and waste collection agents, with a goal to reach 20,000 users by 2026.

A separate 'One to Watch' award was also awarded to Dr Abubakari Zorouk Imoro for his innovation, Myco-Substitutes, on the night for their innovation's impact on local communities. Voted for by live and online audiences, Dr Imoro receives \$5,000, conferred in 2024 in honour of Martin Bruce, a late Ghanaian alumnus of the Africa Prize.

The 2025 Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation, launched at the 2024 final, is now open for entries. The Academy is looking for scalable engineering solutions designed to solve local challenges, and individuals and small teams living and working in sub-Saharan Africa are invited to enter. The deadline for entries is 15 October. Visit the 'How to Apply' guide on the Africa Prize website.

The Africa Prize presents a unique opportunity to support the brightest minds in tackling the greatest global challenges while improving economic prosperity and sustainable development for Africa through engineering. development.team@raeng.org.uk.

The rise of BRICS Alliance: A global economic shift

Exploring the Growing Influence of BRICS Economies and Their Impact on Global Dynamics

THE BRICS ECONOMIC ALLIANCE IS ON A trajectory of significant growth, with a projected GDP surpassing \$34 trillion in the next four years. This bloc, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, is strengthening its position in the global economy, with GDP projections for 2024 outpacing that of the United States. The IMF's World Outlook indicates a positive trend in global GDP growth, with key BRICS countries like India, China, and Russia leading the way. The shift in economic power is evident, raising questions about the potential for BRICS countries to overtake the US in GDP and global influence.

The Growing Economic Power of BRICS Countries:

The BRICS nations are expected to achieve robust GDP growth, with forecasts indicating a collective GDP exceeding that of the US in the near future. Countries like China, India, and Russia are driving this growth, challenging the traditional dominance of Western economies.

De-dollarization and Shifting Global Dynamics:

BRICS countries are actively working towards reducing reliance on the US dollar, signaling a shift in global financial dynamics. This move could have far-reaching implications, potentially impacting the stability of the US GDP and leading to a realignment of economic power on a global scale.

The Future of Economic Influence and Geopolitics:

Forecasts suggest that China's GDP may surpass that of the US by the early 2030s, further reshaping the global economic

landscape. As BRICS countries seek greater influence and power, the traditional geopolitical order could undergo significant changes, with implications for trade, diplomacy, and international relations.

In conclusion, the rise of the BRICS alliance signifies a shift in global economic power dynamics, with emerging economies challenging the traditional dominance of Western nations. The trend towards de-dollarization and the projected GDP growth of BRICS countries highlight the evolving landscape of international finance and geopolitics. As these nations continue to gain strength and influence, the balance of power in the global economy is likely to undergo significant transformations, shaping the future of international relations and economic policies.

<https://africa24.it/en/2024/06/08/the-rise-of-brics-alliance-a-global-economic-shift/>

Challenges in UK's Rwanda Asylum Scheme: Recent developments in the UK's immigration policy have brought to light unexpected hurdles in the government's efforts to detain and relocate asylum seekers to Rwanda. The British Home Office's actions have sparked controversy and raised concerns about the treatment of vulnerable individuals seeking refuge.

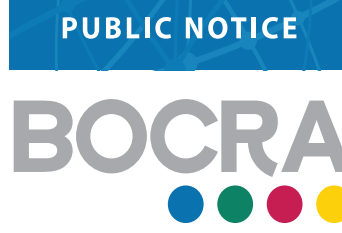
The high-profile roundups of asylum seekers, intended for relocation to Rwanda, have resulted in a backlash as some individuals have gone into hiding, while others have crossed the border to Ireland in a bid to evade detention. The situation has escalated, with reports of hunger strikes and threats of suicide among the affected individuals.

Despite the government's publicized intentions to detain asylum seekers for the Rwanda scheme, the emergence of asylum seekers going underground and seeking refuge in neighboring countries like Ireland has caught officials off guard. The unforeseen consequences of these actions have triggered alarm among advocacy groups, highlighting the risks of destitution and exploitation faced by those affected.

Lou Calvey, the director of Asylum Matters, has emphasized the concerns raised by frontline asylum charities regarding the escalating challenges faced by asylum seekers. Reports indicate a sense of fear and uncertainty among individuals attending reporting sessions, reflecting a shift in the atmosphere and a growing sense of apprehension. As the situation continues to unfold, it is crucial for authorities to address the underlying issues and ensure the protection and well-being of asylum seekers caught in the midst of these developments. The need for a comprehensive and humane approach to immigration policy is paramount, particularly in safeguarding the rights and dignity of vulnerable individuals seeking asylum.

These recent events serve as a reminder of the complexities and moral responsibilities associated with managing asylum processes effectively. The implications of the UK's Rwanda asylum scheme reverberate not only within the borders of the UK but also resonate globally, emphasizing the importance of upholding human rights and providing support to those in need.

<https://africa24.it/en/2024/06/11/unforeseen-challenges-in-uks-rwanda-asylum-scheme/>



PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE

UASF/PT/001/2024.2025

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF INTERGRATED FM TRANSMITTER SYSTEMS AT SEKAKANGWE, TSHESIBE, AND TUTUME SITES IN THE NORTH EAST DISTRICT

Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF/the Fund) hereby invites companies with substantial experience to tender for the Supply, Installation, and Maintenance of Integrated FM Transmitter Systems at Sekakangwe, Tshesebe, and Tutume Sites in the North-East District.

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

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

Site	Date	Time
Sekakangwe	04 July 2024	1000 HRS
Tutume	04 July 2024	1430 HRS
Tshesebe	05 July 2024	1000 HRS

Bids and all supporting documents should be submitted not later than 10:00hrs on 19 July 2024 or such other later date as the Fund may advise in writing, at the Tender Box located at the following UASF Secretariat address:

Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority
Plot 50671
Independence Avenue
Gaborone

Bids will be opened at 10:05 HRS on 19 July 2024 at the UASF Secretariat offices. Bidders and the general public are invited to attend the tender opening.

Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, the Fund is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer.

For any further information regarding the tender, please contact Procurement Office at tenders@bocra.org.bw

Bank Name: First National Bank Botswana Ltd
Branch Name: Mall
Branch Code: 28-28-67
Account Name: Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority

Bank Account No: 62011115088
Swift Code: FIRNBWGX
Reference: BTA0001
Payment From: COMPANY NAME

The Patriot

BALANCED & FAIR

on Sunday

Newspaper outlets 2024

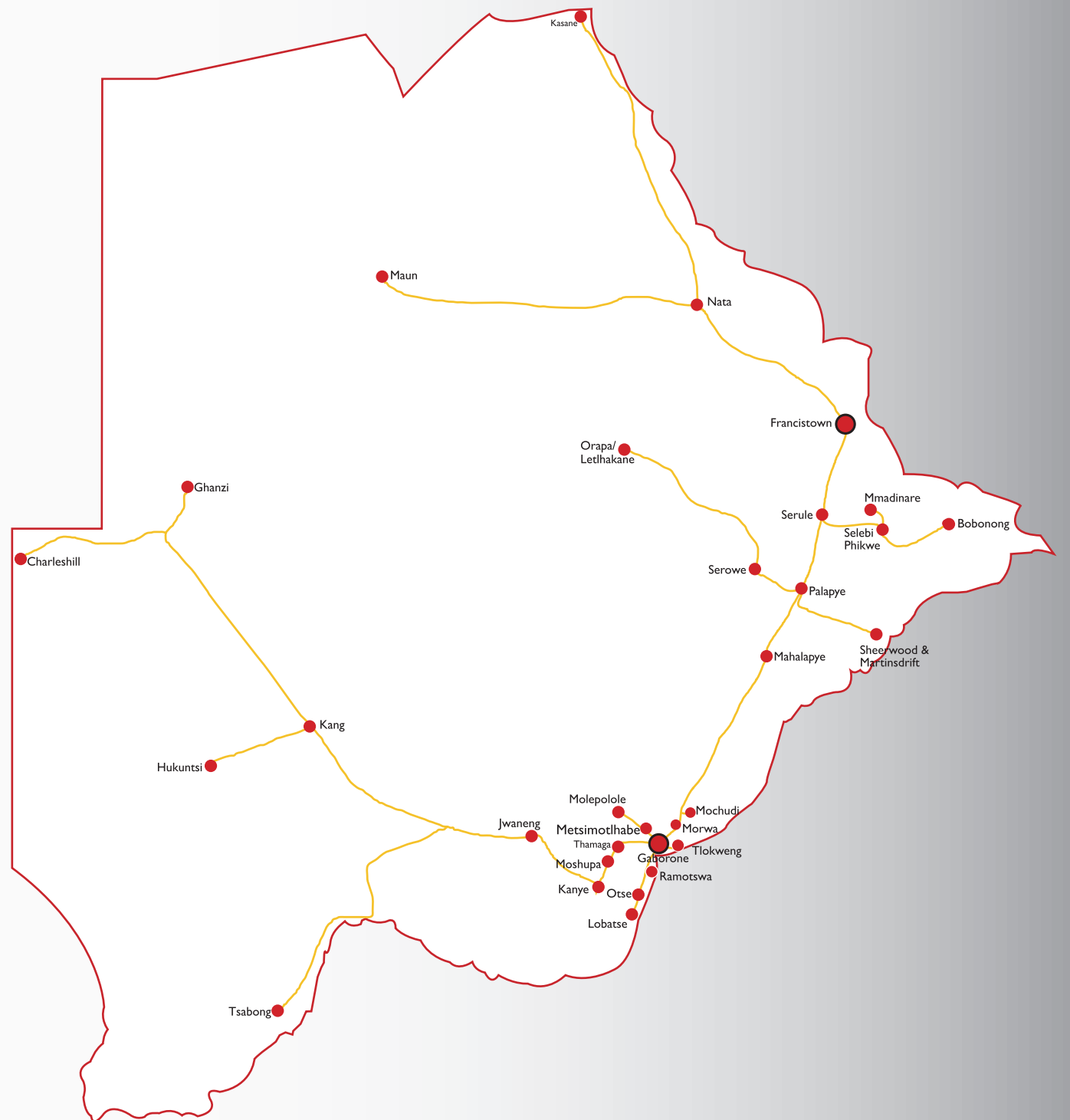
GABORONE -MOLEPOLOLE	
Choppies Rail Park	Choppies village-jarapino
Engen Kgale	Torinby- Choppies tlkw
Choppies Fresh-take	Broadhurst Filling Station
Engen Commerce park	Marupula Filling Station
Choppies G-west F	Lisboa Choppies
Puma Kgale	Spar BBS
Lepscom	Wimpy Western
Walrus	CBD Engen
Keyone Bp	Spar Mochudi
Borakanelo	Spar-Phakalane
Choppies-Fair Grounds	Tswana supermart
Engen-Bontleng	Spar-village
Indulgencies	Stone house-Engen
Choppies Gamecity	Spar air-port junction
Choppies Block-5	Woolworths Riverwalk
Joes	Square Mart
Engen pula	Food lovers North
Choppies Brington	Payless Tlokweng
Choppies-Mog-Smoothsail	Kaunda Filling Station
Kays-Mart	Shamiz Filling Station
Big Six Bar	Marupula Choppies
Choppies kaar	Rainbow Filling Station
Hot Pot	Exclusive books
Taj Select	Truck Inn
Star Shop	KGATLENG ENGEN
Engen Molepolole	Mochudi-choppies-pucko
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Engen Mmopane	North-end filling
Spin&Shine	Choppies Phakalane
Shell Hill view	Choppies Namntle
Double Axel	Choppies Roadtight
Bears Choppies	Choppies Block8
Moleps Supasave	Engen Phaphane
Choppies Supasave	Madina Met Prdut
Alex	Atladis Choppies
Spar main mall	Pilane-Filling Station
Food Lovers	Buy n Save
Total Gamecity	PUMA Tlokweng
Payless main mall	PICK n pay molapo
Payless Block 6	PICKnPAY SEBELE
Shell Fairgrounds	PICKnPAY RIVERWALK
Shell Kudu	PICK Npay southeren
Spar Kgale	INDUSTRIAL F/STATION
Spar Mafenyatlala	A1 SERVICE STATION
Spar Molopolole	PUMA PHAKALANE
Pula Spar	UNIQUE SUPERSTORES
Woolwortha Industrial	LERAKWA
Meat Market block 9	PAYLESS MOCHUDI
Wool worth Kgale	WOOLWORTHS BBS
Business Base f/station	SUPASAVE BBS
Botswana Book Centre	HEAVEN HILL CHOPPIES
CONESCO HOLDINGS	SMART BUY Choppies
BOKAMOSO	RASESA, PILANE,
Shoppers Station	MOCHUDI
MOLEPOLOLE, METSIMOTLHABE	
MMOPANE,	
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Rainbow-Shell maun
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Ghanzi Choppies
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MAHALAPYE PALAPYE · SEROWE
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Bodiba-Filling Station
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Dimple Holdings
Engen -serowe
Choppies-Dostanna
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MAHALAPYE,
PALAPYE, SEROWE,
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ORAPA · LETLHAKANE
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Highway Rest
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Ramatlabama shell
Molax Goodhope
Daisy choppies
MAA SUPERMARKET
SPACE GOODHOPE
CONNERBAR PITSHANE
KELEAPARE PITSANE
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MOSHUPA · THAMAGA KANYE · JWANENG
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Moshupa-Filling Station
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AB kanye
Choppies -Pucko
Saverite-Kanye
Caltex Jwaneng
Million Touch-chop
Choppies Gobrand
Shell Cevill Service
Bakgatla s/market
Tanglewood chop
Saverite-Gabane
Mega Cash Store
pick n pay jwaneng
SPAR KANYE
Puma Gabane
GABANE, THAMAGA,
KANYE, JWANENG,
MOSHUPA,KUMAKWANE
700

SELIBE PHIKWE BOBONONG
Saverite/Frsh pack
Choppies Chath
Tsetseng
Motswedi
Leseding
Daily Needs
Saverite Mmdnare
Bosele Filling Station
Ikanyeng
Make mi day
Gosiame
Plaza
Engen Shara-dusk
Kebose
Choppies Bob-Ndogle
Pioneer Book Shop
Choppies-Macha
PICKnPAY phikwe
POEGO
MOSES
SALUBRIOUS
MMADINARE, SERULE,
BOBONONG
600

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Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



ADAM PHETLHE
ON SUNDAY!

The importance of the media during elections: Botswana case

AS THE DATE OF Botswana general election is awaited with bated breath by everyone with keen interest in elections, Botswana will be hosting Freedom of Expression Summit from 24th to 25th June 2024. The theme of the summit is 'Strengthening Freedom of Expression and Access to Information to Enhance Electoral Integrity.'

I found the theme too attractive, relevant and compelling to be ignored particularly in the Botswana context. This because while Botswana has an entrenched provision in the Bill of Rights with respect to Freedom of Expression, she lacks dismally with respect to Access to Information legislation. The media fraternity and other key stakeholders like the civil society organisations have for the longest time decried the importance and desirability of Freedom of Information Act but to no avail. Government has for the longest time acted in bad faith by acknowledging the desirability of the Act, yet playing hide and seek to facilitate the passing of such an Act in Parliament.

Strengthening Freedom of Expression
While the Freedom of

Expression is guaranteed by the Constitution under the Bill of Rights, this right has been under constant and consistent threat from the Directorate of Intelligence Service (DIS) in so far as members of the media are concerned. I must point out that to the best of my recollection, no member of state media has ever been so unjustly harassed by intelligence agents as do members of the private media.

Not very long ago, the Editor of Mmegi newspaper and a Senior Reporter were rounded up by DIS on the eve of their newspaper going for print. The arresting party told the newspaper journalists that DIS members are the law themselves, suggesting that they are above the law. Before this incident, other members of the private media have been harassed, arrested, and detained by DIS with their tools of the trade unjustifiably confiscated. Freedom of Expression cannot be enjoyed by members of the media and other citizens when they have to constantly look over their shoulders whether DIS is lurking in the horizon. In particular, it inhibits journalists in large measure to report on election matters with absolute freedom and peace of mind.

Access to Information crucial
Only primitive democracies

short of dictatorship will always find it hard to play its cards out. Freedom of Information is crucial in holding government accountable to enhance good governance and transparency amongst others. The importance of electoral integrity in any progressive democracy which I suspect will be one of the topical issues under the Summit theme, cannot be overemphasised for obvious reasons. That said however, it is critical to mention that for any election to pass the test, its integrity must not be in doubt under any circumstances. It is a virtue all progressive democracies must strive to achieve. The doubt about electoral integrity in Botswana is caused by the fact that the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is a government department under a Minister in the Office of the President. Whereas government and the IEC have portrayed the IEC as independent, such cannot be correct as it is under the direct supervision and influence of politicians—the Minister and the President.

With the IEC comfortably ensconced in the political arena by virtue of its close proximity to political power, it is difficult for the media to sufficiently scrutinise it for its decisions



Journalists taking pictures as Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi and The First Lady Neo Masisi registered to vote at the Moselele Primary School in Moshupa on 15 January 2024 [PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

or lack thereof. Just before the 2019 general election, the DIS was alleged to have infiltrated the IEC database by buying ID verification equipment under the claim that such database was vulnerable to election rigging. By any account, this was a huge story particularly in an election year. It will be remembered that the results of this election were heavily contested in court although the case was dismissed on technicalities. It is a given that the media would have wanted, in the public interest, to dig deep into these allegations in order to find the truth. As I write, there are so

many controversies around the voters roll wherein for example, opposition political parties are demanding soft copies of the voters roll as such has been the case before. The IEC has adopted a casual response to these demands to the point where it could be said it is asking these parties to jump into the nearest dam. Given this state of affairs, electoral integrity becomes extremely under threat because doubts linger in people's minds. Access to Information Act would have enabled the media to protect such integrity in some form or the other. Government is not

prepared to be held accountable by making it easy for the media to access un-harmful information for the sake of the citizens.

Abuse of state media
Back in the day, Botswana was described as a beacon of democracy with ambitious calls that other countries should benchmark with her. That was the era when words like vote rigging were hard to come by. If indeed this Republic was ever a beacon of democracy, that era is dead and buried. And the death of progressive democracy in this country must be blamed on the ruling Botswana Democratic

Party (BDP) because it is the only political party that has governed since 30 September 1996. The obligation was and still is with the party by virtue of being at the helm of governing Botswana for over five decades.

The fact that the media is a key stakeholder in politics on one hand and elections on the other cannot be overemphasised. In recognition of the fact that State media particularly the television platform is accessible in the remotest parts of Botswana, the BDP has over the years almost shut out opposition political parties from this platform such that they are not exposed to many Batswana. In 2016/17, the Ombudsman ruled that it is unfair for the BDP to enjoy about 80% of Botswana television coverage while opposition political parties share between them the remaining, paltry 20%.

Yet, State media is funded through public funds and not BDP's. With 80% television coverage, not all BDP politicians are not so lucky to be covered except for the President, his deputy and the Minister in the President's office. The complaint against unfair television coverage was lodged by an opposition political party member. Just two weeks ago,

the BDP and Botswana Patriotic Party (BPP) held two rallies at different venues during the same weekend. The distance between the venues is a mere 40 kilometres. BDP rallies were widely covered while there was blackout on the latter's.

The long and short of my humble contribution is that while the Freedom of Expression is provided for in the Bill of Rights under the Constitution, it is nevertheless under serious threat from the intelligence agency. It is taken away particularly from private media practitioners as and when the agency so desires. It is fair to suggest such can only be the case under primitive if not backwards democracies. Equally so, lack of Freedom of Information Act does not help the private media cause. And so is the monopoly of State media by the BDP at the detriment of opposition political parties. The sum total of these compromise electoral integrity in no small measure. As we approach the 2024 general election, the IEC is in the spotlight owing to its questionable shenanigans. Have a productive and fulfilling summit. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

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Batswana should benefit the most from trophy hunting

BOTSWANA, HOME TO the largest elephant population in the world, faces inevitable conflict between humans and elephants. This is due to the large elephant population coexisting with humans within the same space. The human-elephant conflict in Botswana is not going to go away anytime soon and a resolution is necessary. A ban on trophy hunting dating back to 2008 by the previous

administration was uplifted in 2019 by President Mokgweetsi Masisi government to resolve this human-elephant conflict. The main beneficiaries of the trophy ban uplift are supposed to be the Batswana communities who often find themselves in direct conflict with elephants. This is not the case as evidenced by previous articles including The Journal of African Elephants on the matter. Instead, middlemen are benefiting at the expense of communities who are supposed to be the main beneficiaries of the trophy hunting ban lift, which is why the new government policy is geared toward managing this challenge.

According to the Minister of Environment and Wildlife Dumezweni Mthimkhulu, the policy of trophy hunting is a way of controlling the elephant population akin. The policy seeks to also empower local communities in direct conflict with elephants in the North West region. Since coming into policy, the trophy hunt ban has only benefited middlemen connecting trophy hunters with local communities. Trophy hunters come into the country having already arranged for their hunt through European middlemen who facilitate the hunt and the profits never get realized by local communities.

The so-called middlemen connect local communities with trophy hunters who are in the country to hunt wildlife and in the process get an adrenalin shot. Trophy hunters pay money to European middlemen who go on to keep most of the trophy hunting money. Middlemen pay a paltry fee to local communities so that a trophy hunt takes place on the local's land without much gain. Middlemen also contribute to capital flight, an issue that the African union has called out in their latest report about money moving out of Africa unaccounted for.



Trophy hunting

To address this challenge, the Botswana government introduced the Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) policy as an attempt to address the issue of capital flight and communal empowerment in the trophy hunting industry. According to the CBNRM policy document and the USAID review of the CBNRM, the goal of the trophy hunting policy is communal sustainable development. The CBNRM aims to equip communities with the skills to conduct independent sales without middlemen. The communal empowerment policy is the approach that the government seeks to achieve and manage, offering a different strategy for local communities to maximize their benefits from trophy hunting.

The alternative approach that government is introducing is the establishment of a regulatory board overseeing trophy hunting and the value chain to the benefit of local communities. This board seeks to issue licenses, monitor compliance, collect revenue,

and ensure that funds are directly distributed to affected communities, bypassing middlemen who contribute to capital flight. This body will also develop and implement policies to further the hunting industry as part of socio-economic growth. As opposed to local communities, a regulatory body is better placed to undertake market research and industry analysis. The human-elephant conflict is no longer a domestic issue confined to the borders of Botswana. The matter is now also of interest to the international community as seen by British politicians deliberating whether to allow the importation of trophy hunting products. A regulatory body is better suited to address these international dimensions, a task beyond the capabilities of local communities. The idea of a regulatory body overseeing trophy hunting activity is not a new one. In South Africa there is the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa whose objective is the regulation of the trophy hunting industry.

A regulatory body can also

adopt a scientific approach to determine sustainable hunting quotas, balancing habitat preservation and animal population control to reduce human-elephant conflicts. Data from trophy hunting indicates that proceeds can significantly uplift local communities and contribute to the local economy if managed effectively. It is imperative for government to take a proactive role in regulating trophy hunting to prevent further human-elephant conflict. Industry regulation is nothing new. The Gambling Authority of Botswana regulates gambling activities. The trophy hunting industry should be regulated. Through a regulatory body, the government can promote socio-economic progress, manage the elephant population, and better conserve habitats. A regulatory body is best positioned to replace the role of middlemen, ensuring that the benefits of trophy hunting reach those most affected by the human-elephant conflict.

By Kabelo Nare
18 June 2024

The new energy landscape in Africa and youthful potential

– the time for incremental change is over

THE WORLD IS BECOMING increasingly electrified and with this comes challenges and opportunities. It is a time that sees countries across the globe witnessing a change in how we produce and consume energy.

It is a world that races against time to meet emissions reduction targets and the urgency to fulfil subsequent sustainable transformation.

It is a place which sees organisations prioritise digitalisation, decarbonisation and sustainability.

At the heart of it all lies the new energy landscape.

Defining the new energy landscape

The new energy landscape represents the outcome of the global shift toward renewable energy sources, which is crucial to fight climate change. And for each country this is somewhat unique, depending on the sum of the alternative energy resources that ultimately make up the part that is the new energy landscape.

In Kenya, for example, we're seeing the emergence of an electric vehicle (EV) marketplace which will leverage the country's geothermal and hydropower energies base. This transition not only represents the adoption of new technology but also a cultural shift towards higher productivity driven, if you will, by alternative energy.

However, with this adoption should also come sound energy management practices. People tend to charge their EVs at their destination—be it their office, home, or shopping malls—accounting for almost 80% of charging behaviour. This shift could potentially double or triple the energy demand of buildings overnight.



Renewable energy grid

To illustrate, a typical electric car might use approximately 7KW to charge, while in Kenya, has a power demand of about 2KW. Introducing an EV to a household could multiply its energy consumption by three to four times.

To meet this demand, and allow for the increased adoption of EVs, optimised energy management strategies should be implemented, allowing for the development of onsite renewable generation, such as rooftop solar and introducing efficiency measures, with digitised real-time monitoring to manage and reduce energy use.

Developing the skills for the new energy landscape Africa, particularly East Africa, boasts a youthful population. For example, over 80 percent of Kenya's population is aged 35 years and below. It's a young, impressionable population that has the potential to change the course of history.

It is also this demographic which underscores the importance of training young people to drive forward the new energy landscape. Here, vocational schools can play a critical role in preparing the youth for the future, ensuring that East Africa capitalises on its demographic advantage without

the need to import skills. Establishing this young, dynamic and skilled labour force can also extend to entrepreneurship and training, again emphasising the importance of partnerships with vocational schools and industry stakeholders. This will equip the next generation with the necessary skills to thrive in the new energy landscape.

Indeed, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are set to become the backbone of East Africa's new energy landscape movement. It is these organisations that will create jobs and with the support of large global organisations like Schneider Electric set benchmarks for the establishment of the new energy landscape.

Schneider Electric envisions a future shaped by countries like Kenya, acting at this intersection between technology and decarbonisation. It is also leaders such as the youth and SMEs, which we refer to as impact makers, which are driving change and shaping a more resilient, electric, and net-zero world.

By Ifeanyi Odoh
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Gaborone, Botswana or
email to dibeela@thepatriot.co.bw /
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BNF's Social Democratic Programme

LET ME ONCE MORE HAP ON and reiterate this message about the character and aspirations of BNF, as enshrined in our Social Democratic Programme (SDP) of 1994, Strategic Plan of 2023, and BNF Policy document of 2024.

The BNF ideological orientation and values are based on inter alia pursuit of liberty, promotion of civil rights, economic empowerment of the people. The central focus of policy framework of the party is to address of socio-economic disparities in communities for equality and social justice.

VISION:

A political vanguard for socio-economic transformation and prosperity for all.

MISSION:

BNF exists to advocate for a just, inclusive and equitable society.

VALUES

- Social Democracy
- Good Governance
- Membership-centred
- Self-reliance
- Gender equity & inclusivity
- Unity

BNF STRATEGIC GOALS

GOAL 1: To nurture a leadership which has good governance and democratic credentials in BNF

GOAL 2: To pursue an aggressive BNF membership growth through a recruitment drive across the country

GOAL 3: To utilize BNF's highly skilled human resources and committed general membership to mobilize financial resources to make BNF a self-reliant and sustainability party.

GOAL 4: Through political education to nurture a culture of inner-party democracy, discipline, voluntarism and sustained peace within BNF.

GOAL 5: To Strengthen the current BNF's Communications and Marketing Strategy.

GOAL 6: To mobilize and organize opposition parties into a formidable Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)/partnerships.

Let me also state that we sympathise with the struggle of workers, women, youth, marginalised groups who are paining victims of BDP capitalist system.

BNF is a party of workers (public servants, those in shops, filling stations, security grads, those factories and so forth, this is your party, join it, mobilise for it, campaign for regime change for your own sake.

Those in informal sector, the poor this is your party

We are in UDC, we remain a disciplined, committed members and contributing to the success of UDC. We reiterate our respect to our partners AP and BPP. We have shared values and principles.

We have good governance. BNF CC meeting tomorrow, these meetings make resolutions to give



BNF Secretary General Ketlhalefile Motshegwa

[PIC: PRESSPHOTO]

strategic direction to the party. So as an organisation we are anchored on;

- Sound leadership
 - Sound policies
 - Sound, effective and efficient administration
- We are establishing "Integrity Commission".

In line with BNF Strategic Plan (2023-2026) and BNF Electoral rules section on leadership integrity, we are establishing BNF Integrity Commission tasked with the responsibility to make sure that the leaders of BNF are of high integrity and credibility. This will help in impacting and inculcating an organisational culture of having strong principles and values on leadership, to provide a true and credible alternative to BDP type of government. The Commission will be responsible for preventing, detecting, investigating issues of integrity on leadership.

B.BNF PRIMARY ELECTIONS

1. The BNF as an organisation has been institutionalised and therefore has a constitution which lays and outlines governance framework. There are policies, and in the context of the matter at hand, there is BNF Electoral Rules prescribing democratic, transparent and fair process of conduct of primary elections and elections of structures. On that note we are

running a professional party based on established effective processes, procedures and organisational structures.

2. The rules and decision making is bottom up not top down like in other parties.

3. The institutional structures are clear and independent from Central Committee.

4. The President was never involved and can never be involved, no member of Central Committee was ever involved.

5. The responsibility to campaign to be elected is solely on the shoulders of the aspiring candidates to convince members in that constituency or ward.

6. If the event there are genuine complaints they are raised with National Elections Board

7. As i have already enunciated, BNF has "Electoral rules", a document crafted by Central Committee and ratified by conference which is an instrument used for conducting primary elections and elections for organisational structures. Codifying these rules was meant to ensure fairness, professionalism, policy certainty and predictability, and most importantly good governance.

The primary elections for wards and constituencies are run independently by Constituency Elections Committees in consultation with National Elections Board. In the event someone is aggrieved with the conduct in the process, there

is room for appeal to the National Elections Appeals Committee, which runs independently to ensure fairness and justice.

8. The Low numbers in some constituencies is a combination of factors- lack of resources to mobilise and bring people to the polling stations as we are an opposition party without resources, people finance democracy from their pockets, new data base constraints, deadline that was set for eligibility to vote in primary elections. So far we are the only party that have held so many primary elections, even BDP as the ruling party is struggling to have primary elections in a single ward, but political commentators are quiet about it.

C. OUR FOCUS

1. Our focus now is on continued organisational stability, harmony as we prepare the BNF and UDC for a serious and spectacular campaign, to defeat BDP and take over state power to rescue Batswana from BDP misrule and economic misery.

2. As leadership we want all our members to be treated fairly and equally, so that everybody is at ease of protection by adopted policies

3. We are a Central Committee presiding over a political party and not a sinod or diocese presiding over a church. A political party has dynamics, robust internal engagements, which are welcome and healthy under the auspices of

criticism and self criticism, inner democracy.

As an organisation we have our own challenges and shortcomings, which we admit, which we have rectified and continue to rectify as a learning organisation. That's what leadership is about, to be solution oriented and not make poetry verses about problems and challenges, we are hands, leading in the frontlines in the trenches. Leading a political party is not honey moon, is not a bed of roses, it takes sacrifice and dedication in the quest for liberation of Batswana.

We emphasise discipline in our organisation. We do political education to build desirable behavior and character of cadreship. Where there are challenges empower with information for clarity and guidance, we do member rehabilitation for desirable conduct, failing which we take appropriate disciplinary action. We are building and nurturing an organisational culture of discipline, stability, team, progress and prosperity.

D.ALLOCATION OF WARDS

We have negotiated some wards amongst the coalition partners, and on the verge of concluding the remaining. This process must be guided by principle, and with focus on the bigger picture of change of Government and the plight of Batswana. The challenges, miseries and sorrows facing Batswana are

bigger than our political parties, hence the need to be highly focused and disciplined. It must be fathomed that negotiations in a coalition are not as easy as a decision within a party contesting as a single entity. There are so many dynamics at play that require maturity, discipline, patience, understanding, compromise, professionalism.

E.DRIVE TOWARDS GENERAL ELECTIONS

F.CORRUPTION

But since President Mokgweetsi Masisi assumed office in 2018, critics have voiced concerns about corruption in his government, including allegations of nepotism involving the awarding of large tenders to a company owned by the president's sister (Pheage, 2022; Africa Press, 2022). The president has also been accused of neglecting Parliament (Mothoka, 2024) and of compromising judicial independence by interfering in a tribal land dispute, a charge he has denied (Mathala, 2023; Mlilo, 2022).

-Motor Centre funding of BDP

G.CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

-what is the problem
-Parliament legislated and legalised dictatorship and erosion of democracy. These men and women who took such decision will not be forgiven by history of this country and such history will be judged harshly, generations to come with spit saliva on their graves.

8. Electoral process is still the archaic first pass the post system or winner take all.

-what should be done
Process for a transformative constitution with reconfiguration of the state to bring second generation rights, democracy and societal development and progress

•An Act of Parliament be passed to govern the entire process. We propose the following:

- Institutional set up
 - a) The Constitutional Review Commission(CRC)
 - b) The Constituency Forums
 - c) The National Constitutional Conference (Stakeholders Conference)
 - d) Parliament
 - e) The referendum
- There be terms of reference of constitutional review
- Political will to carry genuine process of constitutional review . Govt must be sincere and honest
- People must participate in constitutional review . It should be people driven
- Civic education and consultations
- Transparency and inclusion
- Enough time and resources to the process
- The final product must be approved by the people at a referendum. The referendum as the final adoptive act must be issue based.

- @National Conference
- @Act of parliament
- @Terms of reference
- @Appointment of Commissioners

H.SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES FACING BATSWANA

The key socio-economic challenges are unemployment, poverty and income inequalities and security, high cost of living in food, transport, housing, clothing, etc. Increasing corruption in the award of tenders and in the Office of President(refer to attached Afro-Barometer newsletter), financial indiscipline by the Government including the President.

Where does the money to import costly livestock and semen come from when there are no drugs in hospitals and students don't have books and access to reliable internet. Further, in this year's Budget, P200 million was allocated for Chema Chema but from nowhere the President unilaterally increased the amount to P500m and yet there are no drugs in clinics and hospitals. The President has just returned from a two-week long and costly public trip in the United States, something that he did again last year. Definitely no public accountability. Further, the government just increased salaries and allowances of top civil servants by a whopping 15 percent but refuses to increase salaries for junior officers because they claim that will increase the government deficit. Who is fooling who. Very extravagant, corrupt and Unaccountable government still wants to be re-elected.

IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE HELD AT VILLAGE **CASE NO: CCMVL-000483-24**

In the matter between:

ATTIC ROOM BED AND BREAKFAST	PLAINTIFF
and	
KENLEN GROUP (PTY)(LTD)	1st DEFENDANT
FARAI DESMOND BOBO	2nd DEFENDANT
MAPENSHI PRINCESS BOBO	3rd DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE OF EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a default judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following property shall be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Onkemsetse Medupe to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE: 26 June 2024
TIME: 10:30am
VENUE: Broadhurst Magistrate Court

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: 1x1 Telefunken LED TV, 1x1 Toshiba Printer, 1x1 Dell Computer with LG monitor, 1x2 white tables, 1x1 Think Centre computer with Samsung Monitor, 1x1 Grey Couch, 1x1 Toyota Etios white in colour Reg. No. B199 BKR.

TERMS OF SALE: STRICTLY CASH or EFT

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 20th DAY OF JUNE 2024.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONKEMETSE MEDUPE
 C/O SHARP LAW GROUP
 PLOT 19933, PHASE 2
 GABORONE
 P O BOX 2408 AAD, POSO HOUSE,
 GABORONE

KEBONANG J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE **CASE NO. CVHGB-003653-22**

In the matter between:

NASDAQ ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD	PLAINTIFF
and	
WINGS OF CHANGE (PTY) LTD	1ST DEFENDANT
ONTUETSE GODIRWANG	2ND DEFENDANT

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: ONTUETSE GODIRWANG, an adult female of full legal capacity of cellphone number **72594499** whose further and better particulars are, to the Plaintiff, unknown.

TAKE NOTICE THAT by Summons for Civil Imprisonment issued out of the High Court at Gaborone you are required, within **14 Court days** after publication hereof, to give notice to the Registrar and to the Plaintiff's Attorneys why an order for personal attachment should not be decreed against you in an action in which the Plaintiff was granted an order by this Honourable Court dated **25th September 2023** against you for payment of a sum of **BWP408,000.00**. The said amount having not been paid, the Plaintiff has issued summons seeking the following orders:

1. An Order for the personal attachment and civil imprisonment of the 2nd Defendant for a period of sixty (60) days is hereby granted;
2. The Execution of this Order shall be suspended for a period of 15 days from today's date to enable the 2nd Defendant to satisfy in full the judgment debt, interest, costs on attorney and own client scale, and the Deputy Sheriff's charges;
3. In the event of default by the 2nd Defendant on paragraph 2 above, the Plaintiff shall be at liberty to obtain a Warrant for the apprehension, personal attachment and imprisonment of the 2nd Defendant from the Registrar by way of an affidavit confirming such default, and without further reference to this Court; and,
4. The 2nd Defendant shall pay the costs of the Civil Imprisonment action on attorney and own client scale.

TAKE NOTICE THAT if you fail to give such notice of your intention to defend the matter, the Orders sought, as set out above, shall be granted against you without any further reference to you.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 13TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024.

RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
 Attorneys, Notaries & Conveyancers
 Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
 Extension 11, Gaborone
 P. O. Box 70567
 GABORONE
 (VR/bm/15492)

RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

Business

P860m: BoB's big pay out to Govt

- 2023 distribution higher than the 2022's P425 million
- P829 million dividend, P31.5m as residual income
- BoB made comprehensive total income of P8 billion



Bank of Botswana (BoB) Governor Cornelius Dekop



Bank of Botswana Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Daniel Loeto

(PICS: PINO KILANO)

BAKANG TIRO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE CENTRAL BANK, BANK OF Botswana (BoB), has in 2023 distributed P860.5 million to the Government of Botswana (GoB) with the distribution comprising P829 million pre-set dividend and P31.5 million as the residual income. The bank's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Daniel Loeto revealed this on Tuesday during the bank's economic briefing that included the launch of 2023 statutory annual report.

The 2023 distribution was higher than the P425 million which was paid out to Government in 2022 - comprising of a dividend of P202 million and a residual net income of P222 million. Loeto said the Government is the solo shareholder of the central bank and whatever profits that are made by BoB are declared to the government. He also said the bank administration costs increased from P786.6 million in 2022 to P901.6 million driven mainly by the increase of P17 million in the fund

management fees, adding that when market performed well and therefore the bank had to pay the fees based on market values and in US Dollars. Loeto said there was P2.4 billion net currency gains in 2023 compared to P1.9 billion in 2022. P8 BILLION INCOME Furthermore, the bank has revealed in its 2023 statutory annual report that it has recorded a total comprehensive income of P8 billion as at December 2023. Governor Cornelius Dekop said this outcome resulted from a combination of earnings on the

foreign exchange reserves, unrealised fair-value (market) and currency gains. Dekop said the market gains were due to strong recovery in global bond and equity markets in 2023 in response to expectations of monetary policy easing as inflation rate declined. Against this background, he noted that the value of the foreign exchange reserves increased by 16.9 percent from P54.5 billion in December 2022 to P63.7 billion in December 2023. "In foreign currency terms, the

foreign exchange reserves increased from USD4.3 billion in December 2022 to USD4.8 billion in December 2023 while increasing by 9.4 percent from SDR3.2 billion to SDR3.5 billion over the same period," he added. Moreover, Dekop said at this level, the foreign exchange reserves were equivalent to 8.8 months of import cover of goods and services. In the circumstances, total assets of the Bank increased by 16.6 percent from P56.3 billion in December 2022 to P65.7 billion in December 2023.

Meanwhile, he said the monetary policy in Botswana in 2023 was conducted in the context of projected lower inflation in the short-to-medium term, in the absence of increase in administered prices (and the reduction in fuel prices); subdued domestic demand; declining trading partner countries' inflation while the economy operated below potential. He said these conditions provided scope to ease monetary policy in support of stronger output growth, adding that consequently, the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR)

was reduced by 25 basis points to 2.4 percent in 2023, following a cumulative 151 basis points policy rate increase in 2022. "In response to the reduction in the MoPR, the prime lending rates of commercial banks decreased from 6.76 percent to 6.51 percent. Following the monetary policy reforms implemented in 2022, there has been a noticeable improvement in policy transmission and market interest rate structure operating as expected," he added.

Botswana up four places in competitiveness

THE INSTITUTE FOR Management Development (IMD) has released the World Competitiveness Yearbook for the year 2024. IMD World Competitiveness Yearbooks are a series of annual assessments on how well participating countries manage their competencies to achieve long-term value creation. It analyses and ranks countries by measuring key competitiveness indicators across countries (67 in 2024 up from 64 in 2023). The assessment is conducted by examining four factors considered critical in promoting a nation's overall competitiveness being Economic Performance, Government Efficiency, Business Efficiency, and Infrastructure. Botswana improved in the world competitiveness rankings and score as revealed in the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2024. Botswana moved four places up and was ranked 55 out of 67 countries in 2024, improving from a ranking of 59 out of 64 countries in 2023. Similarly, Botswana's overall score improved from 45.26 out of 100 in 2023 to 50.31 out of 100 in 2024, where 100 is the highest possible score. Botswana's performance in this year's IMD's world competitiveness ranking is attributable to the improvement of the overall scores of three of the four factors assessed.

The Business Efficiency, Economic Performance, and Infrastructure registered increased scores from 30.18, 22.97 and 17.50 out of 100 in 2023 to 33.39, 25.95 and 26.22 out of 100 in 2024, respectively. Government efficiency registered a decreased score of 47.38 out of 100 in 2024, down from 51.18 out of 100 in 2023. Botswana continues to do well in the Business Efficiency factor ranking 47 out of 67 countries in 2024 compared to 50 out of 64 countries in 2023. The labour market sub-factor is the factor's greatest strength. It improved significantly from a ranking of 32 out of 64 countries in 2023 to 21 out of 67 countries in 2024. Indicators contributing positively to the labour market include number of women in management (1st), percentage of female labour force (4th), stock market capitalization contribution to GDP (5th), statutory gross monthly minimum wage (6th) and compensation levels (8th). Weaknesses in the Business Efficiency factor include opportunities & threats, attracting & retaining talents, workers motivation and agility of companies ranking 64 out of 67 countries, respectively. Botswana also registered an improvement in the Infrastructure factor rankings from 61 out of 64



Gaborone Central Business District (CBD)

(PIC: PRESS PHOTO)

countries in 2023 to 57 out of 67 countries in 2024. All sub-factors of the infrastructure factor improved in 2024 except for the technological infrastructure sub-factor. Notable improvement was in the education sub-factor ranking from 51 out of 64 countries in 2023 to 46 out of 67 countries in 2024. Total public expenditure on education (1st) is the infrastructure factors' utmost strength while its greatest weakness

is the average speed of internet bandwidth speed (67th). The Government Efficiency factor dropped in 2024 compared to 2023. It dropped in ranking from 37 out of 64 countries in 2023 to 38 out of 67 countries in 2024. The weaknesses in this factor include number of days to start a business (65th), Gini coefficient - equal distribution of income scale (62nd), inequality in the life expectancy (62nd),

sustainable development goals (62nd) and accessibility of capital markets (62nd). Its utmost strengths are percentage of employer social security tax rate (1st), percentage of employee social security tax rate (1st) and government subsidies of private and public companies as a percentage of GDP (2nd). Botswana Economic Performance factor continues to drop in 2024

registering a fall in the rankings of all its sub-factors. Notably, domestic economy and international trade sub-factors ranked 60 and 67 out of 67 countries in 2024 compared to 58 and 63 out of 64 countries in 2023. The high level of unemployment (66th) particularly youth unemployment is among the least performing for the employment sub-factor. International trade sub-factor is affected by exports of commercial services (66th), direct investment stocks inward (66th), exports of goods and terms of trade index (66th). The cost-of-living index indicator is the Economic Performance factor's strongest strength, and it continues to rank 1st. There have been two additions of African countries being Nigeria, and Ghana. These increased the number of African countries participating in the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2024 to four (4), including Botswana and South Africa. Puerto Rico is the third country included in the Yearbook this year. This year's results show fluctuations at the top of the rankings. Singapore returns to the top spot, Switzerland returns to second, and Denmark drops to third place. Botswana Economic Performance factor continues to drop in 2024

www.imd.org.

BTCL's PBT jumps 32%



BTCL Managing Director Anthony Masunga

BOTSWANA Telecommunications Corporation Limited (BTCL) expects to see its profit before tax (PBT) for the year ended 31 March 2024 up by between 32% and 37% (P47m - P55m) higher than the P149 million achieved in the year ending March 31, 2023. The audited results are due to be published on or before 30 June 2024.

Sefalana celebrates its 50th Anniversary

- Sefalana celebrates being a symbol of national pride for Batswana as one of the leading home grown FMCG businesses in the country
- Launch of our birthday bonanza with a grand prize of P1 million cash for its top winner!!!
- Other cash prizes to be awarded of P500,000, P100,000, P50,000, and over 1800 smartphones



Sefalana Group Managing Director Chandra Chauhan

SEFALANA GROUP, A LISTED chain in the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) business, with a regional presence, announced its golden jubilee celebration marking 50 years of serving local communities with dedication and innovation.

To commemorate this milestone

the retail giant launches its Big 50 'Wanna be a Millionaire' Birthday Bonanza which is set to ignite excitement and reward loyal customers with numerous cash prizes amounting to P10 million. This is the country's largest ever such promotion.

"Since 1974, Sefalana has been

a force of positive transformation in the lives of Batswana. Having a citizen-owned enterprise that has grown over the 5 decades is a testament to our pride as a nation. Through local enterprise development, building value chains that enhance and promote downstream beneficiation, and

employment creation for our people, the Group has had a significant and positive impact on the communities in which it has a presence.

"This promotion is our way of saying re a leboga Batswana for your loyalty over the years," said Sefalana Group Managing Director Chandra Chauhan.

Having built up a sound reputation, and a solid governance framework, we have evolved from humble beginnings to becoming a respected household name. We consistently strive to exceed expectations and set new standards in the retail industry. This milestone is about looking back at our achievements and embracing the future with enthusiasm and gratitude with you, our valued customer base."

As part of our 50th-anniversary celebration, we are delighted to unveil an unprecedented promotion that will captivate our customers and spread joy throughout our communities. With a grand cash prize of P1 million and total prizes amounting to P10 million, this promotion promises to be the talk

of the country and an opportunity to change the lives of many of our customers.

"We are incredibly excited to celebrate this significant milestone with our customers and express our gratitude for their unwavering support over the past five decades," said Chauhan. "Our 50th-anniversary promotion is our way of giving back to the communities that have embraced us and made us who we are today. We look forward to creating memorable experiences and rewarding our customers for their loyalty."

Customers need to spend a minimum of P150 by purchasing 3 participating promotional items at any of the Sefalana stores (excluding Quick Shops) countrywide to stand a chance to win!

Join us as we embark on the next chapter of our journey and celebrate 50 years of excellence, innovation, and community development. Here's to the next 50 years!

BIHL Group sponsors Petlo Literary Arts with over P180,000



Keepetsoe

THE BIHL GROUP, CONTINUES to show its dedication to improving livelihoods of Batswana announcing the launch of the BIHL Life Stories Workshop, an innovative event aimed at nurturing storytelling talents and fostering a vibrant literary community in Botswana. This initiative, in partnership with Petlo Literary Arts, and hosted by the Botswana Open University underscores BIHL Group's commitment to advancing literacy and education across the nation.

This partnership comes with a sponsorship of an amount of P180,650 from the BIHL Group and recognises the fundamental role of literacy in this mission. Together with Petlo Literary Arts and Botswana Open University the goal is to contribute to Botswana's national literature by chronicling the lives of Batswana and developing an anthology of memoirs. This project will not only build communities but also educate Batswana about their history through story-telling while improve livelihoods.

Addressing the audience at the event, BIHL Group Head: PR, Communications and Marketing, Tebogoo Keepetsoe said, "We are truly excited about this initiative, and it will give Batswana an opportunity to tell their stories. These stories are invaluable and deserve to be told before they are lost to time. By empowering talented writers through this workshop, we ensure that the rich tapestry of our nation's history is preserved and shared with future generations. This project is about capturing the essence of our identity, struggles, triumphs, and dreams. By telling our stories, we strengthen the fabric of our society and improve the livelihoods of all Batswana."

For the BIHL Group, the BIHL Life Stories Workshop is a continuation of their efforts in promoting arts and

culture, as well as unearthing and nurturing the creative talents within communities we operate in.

Said Barolong Seboni, of Petlo Literary Arts, "This is a momentous occasion for us as writers and today, we reclaim that power. By sharing our stories in our own words, we assert our agency, our resilience, and our right to be heard. These stories are not just personal; they are the collective tapestry that weaves the fabric of our nation. This initiative indeed came at the right time and it is an opportunity for writers from different backgrounds to take heed of."

Speaking on behalf of the facilitators of this workshop, Dr Enole Ditsheko, took the audience through the importance of storytelling, encouraging participants to use this platform as a steppingstone to capture Botswana's history. "Our heroes and heroines are unsung because writers have not raised our hands to be counted. Our villages, cities and communities have no documented histories because we have not paid attention to the need to produce books. He added "The BIHL Group must receive our unreserved gratitude and thank you for creating a platform like this one. Through this channel, we can identify men and women - the elderly and others in their prime who have left a footprint on our soil to tell their stories."

Over the next couple of days, participants will engage in sessions designed to enhance their writing skills, teach the art of storytelling, and guide them in crafting compelling memoirs. Led by some of the finest literary minds, including Wame Molefhe, Barolong Seboni, Tiro Sebina, Dr Jeff Ramsay, Cheryl S Ntuny, Batshane Ndaba and many others. These sessions aim to inspire, challenge, and develop the participants' writing abilities.

BIC hosts Successful Annual Thought Leadership Conference

- Industry heavy-weights engage in how the best they can navigate rapid economic changes
- BIC Group CEO Jazire emphasizes the need for co-creation of new value frontiers



BIC CEO Mr. Newton Jazire

BOTSWANA INSURANCE Company (BIC) proudly announces the successful conclusion of its Annual Thought Leadership Conference, held at Cresta Lodge. The summit convened industry leaders, stakeholders, and experts to discuss and explore innovative strategies for shaping the insurance sector amidst an evolving economic environment.

Themed "Shaping the Insurance Industry in an Evolving Economic Environment" the conference highlighted the critical role of innovation and adaptation in meeting the diverse needs of customers in today's dynamic economic landscape. Participants engaged in insightful discussions on leveraging technology, enhancing customer experiences, and driving sustainable growth within the insurance industry.

Key highlights of the summit included a thought-provoking presentation from BIC CEO Newton Jazire, Norton Rose Fulbright Director Mr. Donald Dinnie, Dr. Rachel Nekati CEO of Achievement Enterprises, and Emeritus RE International CEO Mrs. Patience Marwiro amongst others.

These prominent leaders in the insurance sector had interactive panel discussions on regulatory challenges and opportunities, and presentations showcasing cutting-edge innovations in insurance products and services. The event provided a platform for robust

exchanges of ideas and best practices aimed at fostering resilience and driving forward-thinking strategies in emerging markets.

Mr. Newton Jazire the BIC CEO, emphasised the company's commitment to advancing the conference as a major highlight in the insurer's calendar as a melting pot of the industry's co-creation of new value frontiers that will accelerate industry growth and protection of national assets.

"The insurance industry is undergoing a revolution due to factors such as digitization, changing regulations, and increased emphasis on sustainability and resilience.

The way technology is being incorporated into every aspect of our business is one of the biggest changes we are seeing. The way we evaluate risks, assist customers, and run our businesses is changing due to technology. Examples of this include AI-driven underwriting procedures and blockchain-enabled claims administration. We must be in sync with all these dynamics," Jazire said.

The summit concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and collaboration among attendees, highlighting a shared commitment to advancing the insurance industry's role in economic growth and societal resilience.

"In the future when history books of the insurance industry are opened, let this collaboration be the trajectory that sets the course of Africa's leading insurance player," concluded Jazire.

Know Your Corporate Leader



Full Name: Theetso Nkwe

Position: Head- Audit

Institution: FNB Botswana

Date Started: 1 May 2024

Nature of business: Banking

Absa openw a new branch in Francistown



ABSA Bank Botswana Galo mall staff

ABSA BANK BOTSWANA IS pleased to announce the opening of its new and consolidated branches into one in Francistown. This significant milestone underscores the bank's commitment to delivering exceptional banking services and highlights its dedication to innovation and customer satisfaction. This new branch has consolidated both the old Francistown Main and Galo Branches into one building.

The new Galo Branch, strategically located in the new, revamped, and accessible Galo Mall, promises to serve all customer segments in the Retail and Business Banking space

more efficiently. Francistown, being Botswana's second city, is a critical hub for Absa operations, and the new location signifies its continued investment in the region.

Valeta Mthimkhulu, the Retail Director at Absa Bank Botswana, expressed her enthusiasm about the new branch. "We are delighted to reopen our Francistown Main and Galo Branches in a bigger and better space. This upgrade and relocation reflects our commitment to providing seamless banking solutions and enhancing our customer experience. Our customers in Francistown and nearby villages will now enjoy state-of-the-art facilities and cutting-edge digital solutions designed to meet their diverse and

individual needs," she said.

The Galo Branch is designed to embody Absa's brand ethos of putting customers first. "We are committed to excellence in all our endeavours, and the opening of this new branch location is a testament to that commitment. We invite everyone to visit the new Galo Branch and experience first-hand exceptional customer service and innovative solutions we have to offer," added Mthimkhulu.

The opening of the consolidated Galo Branch further cements Absa's new brand positioning of "Your Story Matters" which emphasises seamless experience and the drive by the bank of being customer centric.

BB host 17th National Business Conference

BUSINESS BOTSWANA WILL host the 17th biennial National Business Conference (NBC) from the 25th -28th of August 2024 at the Adansonia Hotel, in Francistown under the theme "Invigorating Economic Transformation Through the Private Sector."

His Excellency, the President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi will officiate. The theme aims to ignite innovative actions to accelerate economic transformation through the private sector. Several critical topics/ sub-themes will be discussed during plenary and specialised breakaway sessions.

The three (3)-day Conference will bring together top 500 private and government experts and thought leaders locally, regionally, and internationally to share insights, and best practices to influence policies and strategies to achieve a private sector led economy and accelerate Botswana's transformation towards a High Income Status by 2036.

A major initiative in this year's

conference will be the inauguration of a Junior Executives Session. Comprising of the brightest young entrepreneur leaders, it allows this cohort of entrepreneurs to lead this country into the future, an opportunity to share views on aspects of digital transformation, particularly how the digital revolution can enhance the role of the private sector and research and technology that drives innovation as well as their effective implementation.

The Junior Executives Session will serve as a platform for productive collaboration and connections between industry professionals, policymakers, Senior Government officials, as well as the junior executives themselves. It will mostly offer them an opportunity to learn how policy is developed and how lobbying of the Government is done under the auspices of Business Botswana. Additionally, they will contribute to solutions critical to addressing implementation challenges.

Financial Caucus to drive Africa's Housing Agenda



Shelter Afrique Development Bank Managing Director & CEO Thierno Habib-Hann

THE FINANCIAL CAUCUS OF African Ministers of Housing and Urban Development will serve as a continental advocacy platform to prioritise the housing sector among national governments and international institutions.

Shelter Afrique Development Bank (ShafDB) has applauded the formation of a Financial Caucus of African Ministers of Housing and Urban Development that will help identify common challenges and opportunities in the housing sector to develop effective strategies for collective action by the member States.

The decision to form the Caucus was reached by shareholders at the institution's 43rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Symposium held in Kigali, Rwanda last week.

The Caucus which was launched during the AGM, will facilitate dialogue and information sharing on best practices in housing policy, regulation, and implementation. It is also expected to serve as a continental advocacy platform to prioritise the housing sector among national governments and international institutions.

Lauding shareholders for approving the creation of the Caucus, Shelter Afrique Development Bank

Managing Director & CEO Thierno Habib-Hann said the formation of the Financial Caucus of African Ministers of Housing and Urban Development is "a welcome move".

"At 52 million housing units deficit and at an estimated construction cost of US\$25,000 per unit, the continent needs at least US\$1.4 trillion, which presents a huge funding challenge for us. We believe this Caucus will provide a platform for housing and urban development ministers from member States to collaborate, share knowledge, and develop policies and financing strategies to enhance their efforts in delivering sustainable and affordable housing solutions in their respective countries under the guidance of Shelter Afrique Development Bank," Mr. Habib-Hann stated.

Leveraging the collective strength

Mr. Hann further noted that the Caucus has been formed to create synergy by leveraging the collective strength of member-countries, drawing on their unique experiences and resources to address Africa's common housing challenges.

"We believe the Caucus will help identify common challenges and opportunities in the housing sector to develop effective strategies for

collective action and explore ways to mobilise resources and expertise from international partners, private sector stakeholders, and development organisations to support housing initiatives and address Africa's housing crisis," Mr. Habib-Hann said.

ShafDB shareholders also elected Nigeria's Minister of Housing and Urban Development Arc. Ahmed Musa Dangiwa as the inaugural chairperson of the Caucus.

Acceptance his election, Arc. Dangiwa said the establishment of the Financial Caucus of African Ministers of Housing and Urban Development presents a unique opportunity to galvanize collective action and accelerate progress towards inclusive and sustainable housing development in Africa.

"By fostering collaboration, promoting innovation, and mobilizing resources, we can transform our continent's housing landscape and significantly improve the quality of life for millions of our citizens," Arc. Dangiwa said.

For further inquiries, please contact:
Mike Omuodo | Media Fast PR|

Financing Africa: Where is the money?



Mo Ibrahim

THE MO IBRAHIM FOUNDATION'S latest report, "Financing Africa: Where is the Money?" provides a comprehensive analysis of both the financial needs deemed necessary for Africa to meet its development and climate goals and the resources that are currently available. The report makes the point that the resources mostly exist, but either lack the relevant processes to be effectively allocated where needed, or, significantly when it comes to domestic resources, are either dormant or misused. Commenting on the release of the report, Mo Ibrahim, Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said: "We need a complete change of paradigm. This is not about Africa coming to the developed world with a begging bowl and developed countries considering how much more they can pledge. This is about smarter money, not just more money. As this report outlines, the money is already there. But current processes prevent resources from being used to properly address the challenges. Steps must be taken to reform the international financing system and update

African debt structuring, risk assessment and mitigation and aid conditionalities. Even more, our continent must stop squandering its own assets and take proper ownership and responsibility. In short, we must apply good governance to ensure these assets are adequately leveraged for the best interests of our people." The report first identifies the substantial but often incoherent numbers associated with Africa's development and climate goals. While the task of assessing financial needs is complicated by inconsistent data from multiple sources, the figures all point to staggering numbers. And whatever the numbers, the report underscores the critical need to ensure climate finance does not crowd out development finance, forcing African nations to choose between development for their population and environmental sustainability. The report then analyses financial contributions from non-African sources. Official Development Assistance (ODA) accounts for nearly 10% of the continent's financial resources. But ODA from western donors remains primarily directed towards

health and education, and often comes with specific conditionalities. Meanwhile non-DAC countries commitment to Africa is growing steadily and addresses the demand. Debt cannot be the way out, as stock and servicing costs have tripled since 2009, and its increasingly complex structure renders traditional relief efforts obsolete. Other key issues include inadequate African risk assessment and mitigation, the IMF's specific surcharges, and dormant ODA funds. But the main source could well be Africa's domestic resources, which, according to the African Union, should on average cover between 75% and 90% of the needs to finance Agenda 2063. However, most of those resources appear to be potential or dormant at best, or too often misused. Preventing leakages through Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) could bolster resources by up to \$100 billion annually, surpassing both ODA received (\$81 billion annually) and remittances sent back to the continent (\$97 billion annually). With the average tax-to-GDP ratio in Africa still at 15.6%, half the OECD average, strengthening tax systems appears a quick win. Indeed, Africa lost \$46 billion in corporate taxes due to tax incentives in 2019, more than half of ODA received. The report also highlights the potential of leveraging remittances, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, and private wealth. Additionally, monetising Africa's green assets including biodiversity, critical minerals, carbon-sinking potential can unlock notable financial resources, provided that good governance and allocation of resources to people's development is ensured. This report is a product of the Ibrahim Governance Forum, which is part of the Ibrahim Governance Weekend, held every year in a different African country. Scheduled to take place in Nigeria, the IGW 2024 was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, but the expected speakers and panellists have provided key contributions that are incorporated in the final report.

A proven track record, even during turbulent times

More than three decades of unwavering commitment to providing long-term investment returns for our clients.

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Ninety One
Investing for a world of change

Ninety One Botswana (Pty) Ltd is regulated by the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority.

New Businesses Surge

■ But may be tested this year



THE AMERICAN entrepreneurial spirit seems to be doing well despite high borrowing costs and consumers burdened by high prices. New business applications are rolling in at a monthly rate 48% higher than the 2019 average. This surge began in the immediate wake of 2020 COVID-19 lockdowns, and it continues now in both total

applications and those considered “high propensity,” which are businesses most likely to result in job creation. A flood of government funding during the pandemic, favorable demand are just a few reasons for the sustained increase in new businesses. The growth of new businesses has likely played a role in continued

labor market strength, where job creation remains robust in the face of the Federal Reserve’s campaign to slow inflation through higher interest rates. However, those new businesses should craft contingency plans to weather continued high borrowing costs and softening consumer spending as 2024 wears on. Applications surge In 2019, 293,000 new business

applications — as measured by requests for employer identification numbers (EIN) from the IRS — were processed each month on average. This monthly measure peaked in July 2020 at 546,000. It slowed slightly before peaking again at 503,000 in May 2021 and settling to the most recent 12-month average of 455,000. These applications weren’t solely driven by lofty fantasies conjured

during lockdowns — high-propensity applications, or those deemed most likely to result in having workers on payroll, have risen and remain aloft as well. The increases have likely been due to a combination of factors: some new entrepreneurs being among the layoffs and business closures of spring 2020; Economic Impact Payments to households helping to seed some of the startup funding; pro-small business policies; and that difficult-to-articulate shift in life priorities that occurred because of the pandemic. Increased filings Early on, there was some debate as to whether these applications would actually result in successful business creation, i.e., would the ambitions of entrepreneurs translate to measures of success such as the hiring of employees? Thus far, the answer seems to be yes. There is a lag between when a business files for an EIN and when it is measured as a new business or one where employees are on the payroll. In 2018-2019, these establishment “births” accounted for 3.1% of all establishments, each quarter, on average. That share grew to 4.3% in late 2021, and currently averages 3.6% over the past year. You can also see the increased presence of new businesses when looking at business age data — the share of establishments younger than 2 years grew modestly from 15.5% in 2013 to 16.7% in 2019, before rising rapidly over the next several years. In

2023, the share of young businesses stood at 20.6%, according to Business Employment Dynamics data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Funding Costly These young businesses are coming of age when funding is expensive. Interest rates on new loans have roughly doubled over the past three years, according to data from the Kansas City Fed. On a loan of \$100,000, for example, this difference can mean hundreds of additional dollars on a monthly payment, and tens of thousands in interest over the life of the loan. New small business lending remained robust in the fourth quarter of 2023, according to the Kansas City Fed, but banks report lower demand for business loans in the first quarter of this year, according to the Federal Reserve. Further, in that most recent quarterly Fed survey of lenders, a moderate share of banks report tightening standards on those loans, making it more difficult for businesses to get approved for the costly funding. New businesses expectations The remainder of 2024 could prove tough for new businesses. Borrowing costs will likely remain high, and consumer spending could cool. The Federal Reserve is unlikely to begin cutting interest rates until the third or fourth quarter of the year, and it will probably begin cautiously. So new businesses shouldn’t expect any significant relief from high interest rates on loans through the end of the year. In addition, the Fed’s efforts to

quell demand-driven inflation with higher rates are likely to begin weighing more heavily on household finances in coming months. This means consumer demand for goods and services may not be as robust as it’s been for the previous few years. In fact, it’s already begun slowing, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. New businesses are more likely to feel a negative impact from swings in consumer spending. In contrast, older businesses may have long-standing relationships with clientele — potentially greater customer loyalty — which can help buffer short-term changes in those customers’ household finances. Further, more-established businesses are likely to have more resources and greater insulation to cover periods of slower business. Owners of new businesses can prepare for the coming months by having a game plan. Businesses that depend on discretionary spending, in particular, should plan for lean times. It’s better to be prepared and not need it than to be caught off guard. Think about where you might be able to cut expenses, consider a line of credit as an emergency fund and know where to go for help when you’re a new business owner navigating new economic experiences. **Nasdaq**

TENDER NOTICE

1. Commercial Holdings (Pty) Ltd, a Member of The Botswana Development Corporation Limited (BDC) Group of Companies invites proposals from capable **100% Citizen Owned** Companies to provide proposals for the below tenders. Bidders must be duly registered with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA).
2. **RFPO08 2024CH PPRA Codes**
 - Code:301- Architecture Sub-Code: 01 Architectural Services, and
 - Code:302- Quantity Surveying Services, Sub 01- Quantity Surveying Services, and
 - Code:303- Civil Engineering Sub Code:01-Civil/Structural Engineering, and
 - Code:304- Electrical Engineering Sub-Code: 01-Electrical Design –General, and
 - Code:305- Mechanical Engineering Sub Code:01-Mechanical Design-General
3. **RFPO09 2024 PPRA Codes**
 - Code 145 – Safety Healthy and Environment Services, Subcode 03 – Disinfecting and Extermination Services

Tender Reference Number	Tender Name	Site Visit Date	Closing Date for selling of the tender	Tender Closing Date
RFPO08-2024CH	A services contract agreement for the procurement of consultants for pre and post contract services for design and construction of an office block at plot 70667, Gaborone – extension of Fairscape precinct	Site visit date: 05 th July 2024 @ 1030hrs Venue: Fairscape Precinct, The tower Plot 70667, Fairgrounds Gaborone Assembly Point: The tower entrance	22 nd July 2024	06 th August 2024 @ 1100hrs
RFPO09 2024CH	Provision of birds control, treatment, cleaning up dead birds & their nests and thirty-six (36) months monitoring services for the Commercial Holdings (Pty) Ltd facilities at Fairscape precinct in Gaborone	Site visit date: 02 nd July 2024 @ 1030hrs Venue: Fairscape Precinct, The tower Plot 70667, Fairgrounds Gaborone Assembly Point: The tower entrance	09 th July 2024	23 rd July 2024 @ 1100hrs

4. Tender documents will be sent to Bidders after paying a non-refundable fee of **P2,500.00** for tender no: RFPO08 2024CH and **P560.00** for Tender no: RFPO09 2024CH, from 08:00hrs to 1530hrs hrs on weekdays with effect from **21st June 2024**.
5. Youth registered companies are entitled to pay **50%** of the purchase price subject to the provision of proof of 100% youth ownership. Payments can be deposited on the below account referencing the tender Name.
6. Proof of payment should be emailed to: procurement@bdc.bw

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Account Name	Bank	Account Number	Account Type	Branch Code	Branch Name	Swift Code
Botswana Development Corporation	Standard Chartered Bank Botswana	0100110107601	Current	662367	Industrial	SCHBWBGX

7. Queries and/ or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed to: Procurement Unit
Email: procurement@bdc.bw
Tel: +267 365 1300
8. Bidders should submit the documents per the submission format prescribed in the Tender Document.
9. Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, Commercial Holdings (Pty) Ltd is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer, nor incur expenses in the preparation thereof.

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

BANK OF BOTSWANA

21 June 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bank wishes to invite 100% citizen owned companies for the following services:

CONTRACT NO	CONTRACT TITLE	CLOSING DATE
BOB/2024/06/23	Provision of consortium consultancy services for reconfiguration of the first-floor office space measuring a total surface area of approximately 830 square meters at Bank of Botswana, Francistown Branch	12 July 2024

1. Only companies that are registered with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) under **Lead Consultant, Architecture, Code 301: Architecture Services, Sub Code 01: Architecture services. Other/Sub Consultants, Electrical Engineering, Code 304: Electrical Engineering Services, Sub Code 01: Electrical design - general, Mechanical Engineering, Code 305: Mechanical Engineering Services, Sub Code 01: Mechanical design - general or related.**
2. The Evaluation method is, **Least Cost Selection Services**
3. **Prospective contractors are invited to attend two (2) mandatory site visits on the 28 June 2024 at 1000 hours and on the 3 July 2024 at 1000hours at Bank of Botswana Francistown Branch and Gaborone, respectively. Bidders are advised to appoint at least 48 hours before site visit with Mr Tobedzani Nlashwa at nlashwa@bob.bw or tel: 2400418 for Francistown and Mr Nelson Bonyongo at bonyongon@bob.bw or tel: 3606421 for Gaborone.**
4. Interested companies may purchase the tender documents for a non-refundable fee of P350.00 (Three Hundred and Fifty Pula, VAT inclusive). The payment can be done by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or cash at the Bank’s Banking Hall in Gaborone, or at Francistown Branch Banking Hall, from 26 June 2024 to 11 July 2024, Monday to Friday at 0900 to 1400 hours in Gaborone and from 0900 to 1245 hours in Francistown Branch during weekdays. The 50% price discount for purchase of the tender document will be applied to companies owned by youth, women and people living with disability who should provide proof of the same to qualify.
5. Companies are advised to email proof of payment to keekeek@bob.bw who shall send the complete tender documents by electronically.

Bank Details for EFT payments

Bank	: Bank of Botswana
Account Name	: Accpac Sundry Receipts
Account Number	: 0000110900001
Branch Code	: 910167
Branch Name	: Gaborone
SWIFT Code	: BBOTBWGX

Please include reference (Company Name)

6. The tender will be closed on **12 July 2024 at 1000 hours**. The tender submissions will be opened **18 July 2024 at 1015 hours**, or later as the Bank of Botswana may advise.



BIUST HOSTS DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND ACCESS (DEIA) PUBLIC LECTURE



Welcome remarks- Vice Chancellor Professor Otlogetswe Totolo



Introduction of guest speaker - Mr. Donah Letlhogonolo Lekwati



Public Lecture by Dr. André M Harper



Closing remarks-Professor Elisha Shemang



Prayer- Mr. Moagi Rahube



SHE Moment by Ms. Malebogo Moshashane



Sign Language Interpreter - Mr. Aobakwe Quinton Mfolwe



Audience listening to the lecture

Diversity is about levelling the playing field and giving people an equal opportunity, and not about taking away the limelight from anybody else, according to Fulbright Specialist Lecturer and an expert in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA), Dr Andre Harper.

Speaking after delivering a public lecture, which was held under the theme 'Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA): Success and Challenges -a BIUST Perspective' at Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) in Palapye last Tuesday, Dr Harper said if people are not given equal opportunity there is no way there can be a productive society.

Dr Harper said in his research he wanted to establish how BIUST community defines DEIA, and their understanding of the strengths and challenges facing the institution regarding DEIA. He said the challenges mentioned include not having a department dedicated to DEIA and women in leadership roles not having opportunities among others.

He commended BIUST for their successes and commitment to DEIA pointing out that one of their successes is that they were the first university in the country to graduate two (2) female PHD students one in Chemical Engineering and one in Physics.

Dr Harper also said he was impressed to see that the staff and faculty at BIUST are on the same page in terms of what is working and what needs to be implemented. "In most context the faculty and staff differ most of the times. So, it was really fascinating to be able to see that," he said.

Further, Dr Harper recommended BIUST to develop a DEIA statement, establish a DEIA

department dedicated for DEIA initiatives including programs focused on rural areas and resources for mental health. He also recommended BIUST to offer seminars and workshop to undergraduates and postgraduates, particularly geared towards the university experience incorporating the needs as outlined in the survey responses. He also advised BIUST to incorporate teaching demonstration into the hiring practices for new faculty, re-vamp faculty mentorship, place flyers around campus and administration building to inform students of where they can find mental health guidance and DEIA resources.

Dr Harper also recommended that BIUST provide workshops for faculty and staff to help them better understand the diverse student body and ensure that each Professor includes information about available resources and accommodation in their syllabus. He further said they should also consider establishing a computer database to identify and support students who need exceptional support services, for example disability services.

For his part BIUST Vice Chancellor Professor Otlogetswe Totolo said diversity, equity, inclusion, and access is not just a buzz phrase, but one that touches the core of the university as a whole. He revealed that BIUST has embraced diversity, equity, inclusion and access across every facet of the university, reiterating that one of their core institutional values is equality, equity and diversity.

Professor Totolo said BIUST subscribes to fair and equitable treatment of staff, students and stakeholders while also respecting their rights and differences. He said as an international university that is home to students and staff from diverse abilities, opinions, nationalities and genders, their value defines who they



Audience attentively listening to the lecture



Directors of Ceremony; Ms. Shezzane Zendanemako and Ms. Nikita Makwana

are, and what they strive to achieve. "It is as a result of living this value that we have a 3:2 males to female ratio, one we actively strive to bring to balance," he said.

Furthermore, Professor Totolo said their strategic intent as supported in their 2023-2028 Strategic Plan emphasizes student centricity. He said they have made significant strides in area of accessibility for students with special needs in physical spaces, residences and teaching and learning spaces. "However, we cannot promote DEIA within the student community without ensuring the same for our staff, which is why our strategic intent in relation to high performance culture recognizes the unique contributions of staff and faculty," he said.

Professor Totolo said BIUST strives to be aligned with the national priorities around equitable access to education, and as an international university that has consistently performed exceptionally well in international rankings, DEIA matters for the university's international competitiveness. He added that with Times Higher Education ranking BIUST

No. 1 in Botswana, this project and public lecture will showcase the university's successes as well challenges in its effort to accelerate drive towards an inclusive campus environment and culture.

BIUST Deputy Vice Chancellor, Teaching and Learning -Professor Elisha Shemang said as BIUST community they are willing to accommodate everybody. However, he indicated that as a university of Science and Technology one of the challenges they face is when people with disabilities want to do Mining Engineering, but it becomes impossible as the mines will say no. "They can't go on an attachment in the mines and go underground because if there is any emergency underground, they will not be able to get around," he said.

Professor Shemang credited the Public to the partnership and sponsorship of Fiducia Services, the first 100% citizen owned Company providing pension fund administration services in Botswana, the AVN/Square Kilometer Array Botswana and the Botswana Human Resources Development Council (HRDC).

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lifestyle

Sgela debuts on Moja Love

AGODIRWE KOKORO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THABISO MARETLWANG filmmaker and award-winning director launched Sgela a new series in partnership with Moja Love this past week. This new series was motivated by the realities that surround the life of a student in this day and age. Maretlwang said he wanted to use the production as a stage for actors to nurture their talent and give them exposure as majority of them made their debut on the screens.

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of state President, Goitseamang Morekisi commended Maretlwang for producing a film that made it to the international stage. "The creative sector in Botswana contributes to 5.4% of the GDP and needs to be commercialized more," she said.

Morekisi urged Botswana to create a culture that supports creativity and for television to give creatives



Thabiso Maretlwang filmmaker and award-winning director launched Sgela

[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

a chance to tell stories that can help employ others. Botswana government has partnered with American television host and film producer, Steve Harvey to help grow the creative industry by creating a vehicle to train creatives to create international standard works she added.

A Director at Moja Love, Professor Mamokghethi Phakeng said with the 10 million viewers across Africa, Sgela has a chance to be known and has a chance to grow. She said with Sgela being on Moja Love, DeeZone productions will be able to tell their story on a larger scale and have an opportunity to tell stories in their own voice. The show will air on DSTV Moja Love Channel 157 on the 5pm slot.

Meanwhile, Multichoice has announced that they seek to source more local content to showcase talent. The film Sgela shows a testament to the dedication of craft the director has.

Gaborone Rifle Club honors Brigadier Frank Jansen

GABORONE RIFLE CLUB WILL be holding a special memorial shoot on 7 July 2024 as a tribute to the late Brigadier Frank Jansen, who was Commandant of our club. Frank started shooting from a young age as a boy. He would further hone his skills when he joined the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) and competed across all marksmanship disciplines; handgun, rifle and shotgun.

Frank's exceedingly high competency and competitiveness led him to become a registered member of the Clay Target Shooting Association of South Africa (CTSASA). This would lead Frank to form part of a competitive team that shot at provincial club level in South Africa. He would go on to represent Botswana in the 100th Grand American World Trapshooting Championship.



Frank was instrumental in the continuance and development of sports shooting in Botswana. With Frank as Commandant of the club and the goodwill of the BDF, the Gaborone Rifle Club was able to establish itself at the BDF Tshela Range in perpetuity.

Frank will be remembered for his dedication and commitment to the

club. Always willing to lend a helping hand, whether it was to guide a new shooter, fix club equipment or even operate the machinery to grade the grounds himself. Anyone's visit to the range would be enlivened by his gracious and humble presence. Frank's legacy lives on in the annals of the Gaborone Rifle Club.

The Beautiful Birds of Botswana No.1: Waxbill and Finches

BOTSWANAPOST IS delighted to announce the release of "The Beautiful Birds of Botswana No.1: Waxbill and Finches" commemorative stamp issue. This initiative aims to raise awareness of the exquisite bird species native to Botswana, promoting bird-watching activities, tourism, and conservation efforts throughout the country. In collaboration with Birdlife Botswana, this stamp issue brings the rich avian diversity of Botswana to the forefront.

Stamps are a significant medium for global communication and storytelling, showcasing a nation's heritage through themes such as conservation, education, and tourism. The "Beautiful Birds of Botswana" stamps encapsulate this narrative, highlighting the natural beauty and ecological significance of Botswana's birdlife.

"At BotswanaPost, we believe in the power of stamps to tell compelling stories of our nation's heritage. This stamp issue is a testament to our commitment to preserving and showcasing Botswana's natural beauty and fostering young artistic talent," said Puleg Johnson, Philatelic Bureau Manager at BotswanaPost.

BotswanaPost Philatelic Bureau remains committed to empowering young Botswana artists by providing them a platform to showcase their creative talents, thereby enhancing their professional opportunities. By nurturing local talent, BotswanaPost aims to expand stamp collecting activities within Botswana, facilitating access to both local and international markets for Botswana.

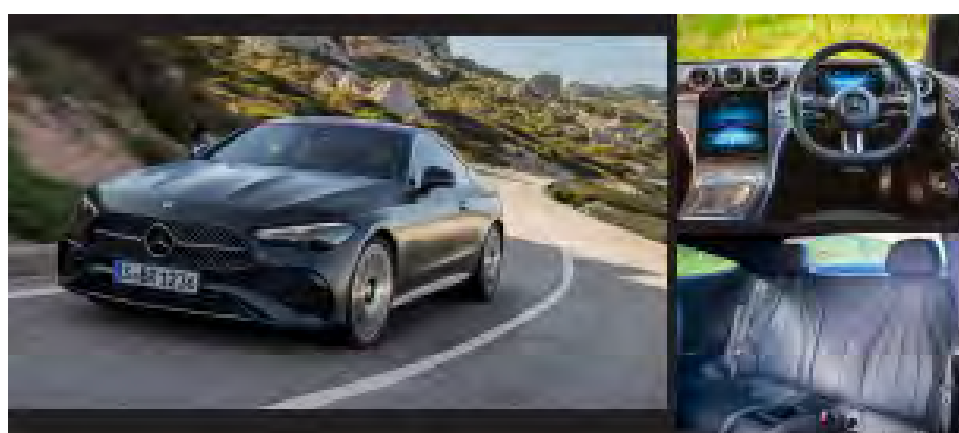
Mr. Tasala Tabona Caiphus, a 22-year-old artist from Masunga Village, is the creative mind behind the artwork featured in this stamp issue. Tasala completed his BGSE in 2021 with a grade A in art and has since established himself as a versatile artist specializing in portraits, paintings, and abstracts. This stamp issue marks his debut collaboration with BotswanaPost.

The stamps were designed by Monkogoi Samson, a seasoned visual and brand communications designer from Palapye, Botswana. Monkogoi holds a B-Tech Degree in Graphic Design from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa. With over 12 years of experience in designing for various sectors, this is his seventh stamp issue with BotswanaPost.

"It is an honour to have my artwork featured in the 'Beautiful

Birds of Botswana' stamp issue. This project has allowed me to merge my passion for art with my love for Botswana's incredible wildlife," said Tasala Caiphus, Artist.

Botswana is home to approximately 570 bird species, including numerous Palaearctic and Intra-African migrants, as well as several nomadic species traversing Southern Africa. The country's diverse habitats and central location, particularly the Okavango Delta and the Kgalagadi Pans, make it an essential stopover and destination for many migratory birds. This rich avian diversity underscores the importance of conservation efforts and the promotion of ecotourism for Botswana. www.botswanapost.post



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Sport

P55m for school sport

Teachers in the dark about return of school sport



Rari



Rakgare

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THE MINISTER OF YOUTH Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development (MYSC), Tumiso Rakgare has announced the approval of a P55 million budget by Cabinet for the revival of sporting activities in schools.

Rakgare was speaking on Tuesday during the sending off for Botswana athletics team who are participating at the CAA Africa Senior Championship in Cameroon from 21st to 26th June 2024. He said government is hopeful that the programme will be back before the end of the current school-term. "The issue of school sport is final. We got the approval of P55 million," he said. He said P37 million will go to

incentives, being remuneration for those who partake in the programme. He added that his ministry will in the next few days reveal the name of the revamped programme. He said the budget for school sport was initially P24 million compared to the P3 million allocated back when school sport was under the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD). "I wish to reiterate that if this was

the sole mandate of (my) ministry alone we would have long started sport in schools but because there are various stakeholders that's why we are here today but we will continue trying so that tomorrow we can see results in our athletes," he said. Contrary to Rakgare's announcement, Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU) Secretary General, Tobokani Rari expressed shock saying they only

learned about the P55 million through the media and social media platforms. He said they do not understand how the ministry came about the P55 million figure as negotiations are still ongoing, according to their understanding. "We (Trade union presidents and Secretary generals) met the minister and his Permanent Secretary, Bridgete John mid-May. They indicated that the mandate

of running school sports lies with DPSM, the employer of teachers. Therefore, they only asked for an ad hoc arrangement. What was presented was some form of 'competitions' to select athletes for national teams, which does not cover grassroots development of talent and nurturing in schools," he said. Instead, technical teams representing trade unions met government representatives where

they proposed compensation for participation in school sports in the form of an allowance of P1200 per month. Rari said Rakgare's announcement comes at a time when they are still awaiting finalisation on the matter. "Hopefully they will come to explain to us how they intend to go about this whole thing," said Rari.

'Target podium finish' -Rakgare

Tebogo, Ndori, Scotch, Kebinatshipi, Pesela at Africa Senior Championships

The Minister of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, Tumiso Rakgare has called on Botswana Athletics Team participating at the 23rd Africa Senior Championships in Douala, Cameroon to set their targets on podium finish

The Africa Senior Championship is set to take place in, Cameroon from

21-27 June 2024, while the African Beach Wrestling Championships will be held on June 22 and 23 in Dakar, Senegal. Africa Senior Championships are qualifiers for Paris 2024 Olympic Games, and as such present one last chance for athletes to qualify.

Bidding the team farewell, Rakgare reminded the athletes to represent Botswana well to the best of their ability. He said in accordance with

the Botswana Sport Rewards and Incentives Package of 2022, each athlete will receive an appearance fee of P2 000.00 from the Government of Botswana for participating at the Africa Senior Championships.

He reiterated that athletes who will make a podium finish with a Gold medal will be rewarded with P50,000.00. For silver medalists the amount stands at P30,000.00 while bronze medalists will walk away with

P20, 000.00 each. Those who finish in top 8 will each earn P10 000.00.

"Remember qualifying for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games will get you a P30 000.00 qualification incentive, a monthly stipend of P8,333.33 until end of August as well as the funding support build up to the Olympic Games as committed by government," said Rakgare.

He encouraged athletes who have not qualified for Paris 2024 to

push their limits to qualify for the Olympics. He said Olympics podium finish offer greater incentives such as a high-cost house for gold medalists, medium cost for a silver and low cost for a bronze medalists with a cash incentive for a Top 8 finish and setting records.

<https://www.facebook.com/BotswanaAthleticsAssociation>



Members of the Of Botswana mixed 4x400m relay team Lydia Jele, Obakeng Kamberuka, Bayapo Ndori and Leungo Scotch during the 13th African Games at the University of Ghana stadium in Accra on 18 March 2024 [PIC:PRESSPHOTO]



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