

# The Patriot

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### 'Seretse's family miss home' - Khama

- 'We wish to be home to celebrate Sir Seretse Khama Day with Batswana' - Ian
- Dismiss Sir Seretse Khama Half marathon, calls it a BDP campaign stunt
- Masisi regular presence in Serowe plan to neutralise Khama's authority

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FORMER PRESIDENT AND Kgosikgolo of Bagwato Ian Khama regret that him and his siblings continue to not celebrate their father, the Sir Seretse Khama commemoration day in Botswana and has thrashed the Sir Seretse Khama Marathon that was expected to be held yesterday (Sunday) at Serowe as a political stunt.

President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi was expected to lead a high-powered government and captains of the industry delegation and invade Khama's background as he was to be the main speaker at the marathon.

Khama together with brothers that include Tshekedi and Anthony together with the families are self-exiled in South Africa and accuse the government over assassination plans against them set by the DIS.

Political observers have noted that the marathon was not just an event aimed at honouring the legacy of Botswana's founding president but also tactical switch by Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) led by Masisi to test its strength and possibilities for it to reclaim back its dominance in Gammangwato constituencies.

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## Bloodshed in Serowe Voetsek, Bangwato tell govt

- 'We are going to take over our kgotla and nothing is going to stand in our way. If they confront us like they have been doing let them, if they decide to kill us, let them do it at our kgotla'

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AFTER SEVERAL FAILED attempts to gain access to Serowe main kgotla due to refusal by government officials, Bangwato have vowed that with or without permission, on Saturday the 29th of June they will forcefully convene at Gammangwato kgotla.

The meeting will be convened to consult on the imminent return of former President Ian Khama, who is also the chief of Bangwato, and to discuss the installation of Seretse Peter Khama as Motshwarelela Kgosikgosi of Bangwato and other issues concerning their tribe.

Balwela Kgosikgosi Chairman. Ronald Mojakgomo told The Patriot on Sunday that they plan to host churches from across Gammangwato on the 30th of June at the main kgotla and on the 1st of July they will lay a wreath at the royal cemetery to mark the annual Sir Seretse Khama Day.

Previous attempts to access the kgotla failed when they were confronted by heavily armed police and soldiers. Mojakgomo said this time around, people are prepared for any outcomes when they encounter the security forces. "We are going to take over our kgotla and nothing is going to stand in our way. If they decide to confront us like they have been doing let them, but at the end of the day we are going to our kgotla, if they decide to kill us, let them do it at our kgotla," he said.

Mojakgomo said the resolve to mobilize and occupy their kgotla is because Bangwato are frustrated and aggravated as for the past three years government has refused to address their Kgotla and Bogosi grievances.

He said they have exhausted all attempts to amicably engage the government appointed



Former President Ian Khama bids farewell to his tribe at the Gammangwato kgotla in March 2018 [PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

Kgosikgosi Seretse, Minister Kgotla Autlwe and President Mokgweetsi Masisi as they have been uncooperative. "They (Bangwato) instructed us that they want to meet at their kgotla, as it is the only place that they can discuss issues related to their tribe," he said.

He further mentioned that, the people also insist that it high time Kgosikgosi Seretse whom they say was imposed to them by the government to vacate the Gammangwato kgotla. He said just like any tribes in Botswana they have the right to have Motshwarelela kgosi whom their chief, the royal uncles and the tribe has identified, therefore they demand Seretse Peter Khama to be officially recognized and installed.

"The people don't want him (Kgosikgosi Seretse), they don't hate him, they don't want him because he was not rightly appointed, and he is

also distant in the Bagammangwato Bogosi lineage," he said.

Meanwhile, Mojakgomo said Khama's arrival is imminent, and he indicated that his first stop will be at Gammangwato kgotla, hence the need to urgently clean and prepare it for him.

Member of Parliament for Serowe North, Baratiwa Mathoothe said they are supportive of any decisions that the people have decided to take in their quest to reclaim their Kgotla. He said a kgotla belongs to the people with government as a partner, therefore it is unacceptable for government to refuse them permission to use it.

Mathoothe also stated that under democracy as MPs and people representatives they have prerogative to use Gammangwato kgotla to consult and update the people on the developments at the parliament,

however in their attempt to use it they have also hit the brick wall as Kgosikgosi Seretse refused them access.

He said Kgosikgosi Seretse indicated in his letter the reasons for denying them the use of the kgotla was as a result of attending a meeting that was called by the royal uncles. He pointed that, Kgosikgosi Seretse actions were uncalled for as their association with a group of people or any association has nothing to do with their duties as MPs. "This was a surprising statement by him because we don't know how attending a meeting with the royal uncles concerns him, he knows that he had to avail the kgotla to us as Mps so that we can discuss the issues related to parliament," he said.

Furthermore, Mathoothe criticized government for refusing to appoint Seretse Peter Khama

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## Nasha saves AP, UDC unity

- Intervenes in the UDC-AP conflict, reconcile Boko and Ndaba
- AP candidates now partake in UDC candidates training workshops
- UDC partners agree to conclude wards



Dr Nasha [PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

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THE FORMER CHAIRPERSON OF the opposition cooperation forum, Dr Margaret Nasha has stepped in to calm the storm that had rattled the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) after the Alliance for Progressives (AP) boycotted coalition activities in protest.

The AP last weekend withdrew its parliamentary and council candidates from participating in the UDC elections manifesto workshops, a move that prompted Nasha to step in and reconcile the two parties. AP noted that it reached that decision because it has received several complaints from its aspiring council candidates over the delayed process for conclusion of pending wards allocations by the UDC.

Information turned up by The Patriot on Sunday is that Dr Nasha presided over a meeting between UDC President Duma Boko and his deputy Ndaba Gaolathe. Also attending was the UDC Chairman, Motlatsi Molapise. It is said Nasha asked both Ndaba and Boko to expeditiously address the pending issues that are shaking the coalition such as conclusion of allocation of Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF)

constituencies and wards.

Also, Dr Nasha advised the UDC leadership to not let differences that arise within the coalition to be left unresolved for a long time and that lessons should be taken from BPF and BCP as over why the left UDC. "The meeting was fruitful, and AP has since agreed to rescind its decision to withdraw its candidates from not participating in UDC elections preparations. Nasha going forward will be working closely with the UDC National Executive Committee (NEC) of being advisor as UDC and AP elder," a source confided.

Dr Nasha is considered to be a close ally of Ndaba and has served as the special advisor to AP leader.

Contacted for a comment on Friday, Dr Nasha was cagey with details and said she is not that much active now but said whenever AP / UDC needs advice from her they can approach. She referred this publication to AP Chairman, Major General (Retired) Pius Mokgware or Secretary General Dr Butale for any issues.

### AP back

Meanwhile, AP Secretary General, Dr Phenyio Butale when asked about Dr Nasha's intervention on AP-UDC

TO PAGE 2

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# India underlines importance of making African voices stronger

INDIA HAS UNDERLINED THE need for making African voices stronger in multilateral organisations to ensure they can argue their case and call out external interferences.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj told the UN Security Council on Thursday that it is "high time" that the comity of nations gives due credence to the African member state. "Sustainable peace and security is possible only if external forces do not intervene for vested interests.

This calls for making African voices stronger in multilateral organisations", she said Kamboj noted that it was this conviction, which drove India to successfully campaign for the admission of the African Union into the G20 during its presidency in 2023. She said the high-level Summit of the Future, to be held during the UN General Assembly this year, presents a precious window of opportunity to display "our



Kamboj

collective commitment to reform the existing multilateral system."

"WIPO Treaty A treaty on intellectual property, genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is a "significant win" for India and the global South, comprising mainly low-income and developing countries, the

commerce and industry ministry said on Sunday.

The treaty will establish in international law a new disclosure requirement for patent applicants whose inventions are based on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. This will also offer added protection to Indian generic resources and traditional knowledge in countries that don't currently have disclosure obligations.

The signing of the treaty on Friday capped two decades of negotiations. It was adopted at the multilateral fora with a consensus among more than 150 countries, the ministry said in a statement. India and the Global South--which are biodiversity hotspots with abundance of traditional knowledge and wisdom--have long been proponents of this treaty.

This is the first WIPO treaty to address the interface between intellectual property, genetic resources and traditional knowledge, the global body said in a separate statement. It is also the first WIPO treaty to include provisions specifically for indigenous peoples and local communities, the statement added.

The treaty will not just safeguard and protect biodiversity but also increase transparency in the patent system and strengthen innovation, the ministry added. "With the majority of the developed countries on board, who generate IP and use

these resources and knowledge for research and innovation, this treaty paves the way for bridging conflicting paradigms within the IP system and the protection of biodiversity which have existed for decades," the ministry said.

Mahindra bag orders from Ghana

Ghana has signed deals with a Reliance Jio subsidiary, Tech Mahindra, and other vendors to build 4G and 5G infrastructure as the African country aims to enhance its telecom capabilities. Ghana's state-backed Next-Gen Infrastructure Company (NGIC) has partnered with Jio's arm Radisy's, Tech Mahindra and Nokia to build the necessary infrastructure for delivering affordable 5G mobile broadband services.

Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, the West African country's Minister for Communication and Digitalisation, told reporters in Mumbai that India was a "strategic choice" due to its similar demographics and Ghana wants to replicate the Indian story on telecom

penetration. "Your (India's) demographics are just like us, the Jio model was rolled out just a few years ago, so the learnings are still fresh," she added.

NGIC has been allocated 5G spectrum and local telcos will be utilising the shared infrastructure to roll out the services in the next six months. As per reports, the overall contract is over \$200 million.

Ms. Owusu-Ekuful said Ghana is a part of the 33-nation Smart Africa alliance, and other countries in the continent will be closely watching the rollout to see whether they can also emulate the same locally.

When pointed out that Indian vendors have not executed such deals in the past and why Ghana chose them over the Chinese suppliers, she said, "It was a strategic choice for us. We don't want to get caught up in any of the geopolitics that is currently going on. We want what is the best for our national interest."

"Ghana wants to leverage India's experience in the field," she added.

# Health ministry allays fears



Dr Nyanga

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

THE MINISTRY OF Health has noted the ongoing public concerns and outcry about services at its facilities across the country. The Ministry takes the issues raised seriously and has already commenced some targeted initiatives and activities meant to address some of the concerns raised.

The ongoing investigations on the Princess Marina incident continue to lay bare some of the gaps, both in relation to staff conduct and the hospital administrative system. The Ministry is therefore, working on a country wide intervention because most challenges are not peculiar to Princess marina Hospital.

As the Ministry continues to attend to these concerns and gaps, the public is urged to remain calm and is assured that the issues they raise are not taken for granted. Staff

has already been advised to reflect and change on their approach to service delivery. They will be duly supported and facilitated to function better. Unprofessional conduct on their part will therefore, not be countenanced. There will be consequences for those who do not live up to the Ministry values, which include Botho, customer focus and timeliness.

Members of the public are therefore, assured that the Ministry will do everything possible to ensure that all public health facilities are conducive for health care provision in a manner that aligns not just with our values and ethos as a people, but also with best international practice. The Ministry will regularly update on its interventions and progress thereof, in this regard.

Dr Christopher Nyanga  
For Permanent Secretary

## Bloodshed in Serowe

FROM PAGE 1 to Gammangwato regency. He said the issue of Bogosi which is current before the Maun High Court is intentionally stalled by constant recusal from the case by the Judges because it is evident that Former President Khama and Bagammangwato have followed the right procedure in appointment of Seretse P Khama and therefore no Judge want to rule against the government.

Meanwhile, during in one of his previous Kgotla meetings, Kgosi Serogola maintained that he is the only one who can authorize and convene a Kgotla meeting in Gammangwato. He insisted that he is responsible for the people and he doesn't rule with the royal uncles.

He further said his refusal to give them permission is to thwart any chance of rebellion against the current Bogosi.

## Nasha saves AP, UDC unity



Dr Butale

FROM PAGE 1

fracas was quick to indicate that it is not true as there was need for her to broker peace. Also, Dr Butale noted that he wants to assure Batswana and the general membership of the AP as well as those of the UDC contracting parties of the AP's commitment to the People's Project. Dr Butale also confirmed that AP central committee has since withdrawn its decision that its candidates don't participate in the series

of UDC manifesto workshops which kickstarted in Palapye last weekend. "The AP remains an integral part of the UDC and plays a crucial role in its functioning. This weekend (29th-30th June 2024) all AP Council and Parliamentary candidates in the Southern part of Botswana will be in Jwaneng attending the manifesto and candidates training workshops," he said on AP's obligation.

Meanwhile, this publication has learnt that the UDC central

committee has decided to have all the pending wards allocation be completed by end of next week with that also paving way for fielding of candidates in constituencies that were left vacant when BPF left UDC, and parties submitted their bids.

It is said the UDC coalition partners have agreed not to dispute constituencies where some BPF members have since shown their interest to contest under UDC banner especially at central district constituencies.

### PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY **PPRA**

#### MEDIA RELEASE

#### PPRA OFFICES CLOSE FOR WELLNESS DAY

The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) wishes to inform all its stakeholders that its offices will be closed on the 16 February 2024 to hold its annual wellness day.

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4	Ms. Mogomotsi Segolame	Contractor Registration Assessor	(267) 77 156 881
5	Mr. Godira Mmeso	Contractor Registration Adjudicator	(267) 72 740 224

Procuring Entities (PEs) needing urgent assistance should contact the following:

NO.	NAME	DESIGNATION	MOBILE NUMBER
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2	Ms. Chipa Morapedi	Devolution and Compliance Officer	(267) 74 311 697

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# Local beef set for EU market dominance

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**T**HE BOTSWANA BEEF IS POISED for dominance in the lucrative European Union (EU) market bolstered by the availability of sophisticated equipment used for testing chemical residuals in meat donated to the National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) courtesy of the SADC-EU support.

The equipment has been handed to Botswana through the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement Support Programme (Residues Project) which commenced three years back at the tune of P88 million value.

Speaking during the handover ceremony in Gaborone on Thursday at the NARDI-Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory (BNVL), Head of Cooperation - European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC Clement Boutillier said the equipment will position Botswana as beef exporting hub to the EU market.

He said EU in particular offers huge market potential for Botswana beef and there is indeed room for increasing the volumes of export, adding that they have noted with excitement the efforts made by the Botswana government to improve the beef value chain through importation of quality breeding stocks.

"We believe that with enhanced capacity for testing and quality assurance, Botswana will be better

- EU-SADC hand over P7.2 million chemical testing machines
- Botswana expected to be a beef testing hub in SADC region



**ON TOUR: [L-R] Agriculture Minister, Fidelis Molao, European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC Clement Boutillier and NARDI CEO Professor Julius Athlopheng**  
[PIC:PINO KILANO]

positioned to expand its exports, create the jobs, and drive economic growth.

These ideals define our cooperation that has stood firm for more than 40 years," said Boutillier confident on Botswana growth.

He also said the support EPA Implementation Support Programme worth P88 million is to promote export-led economic diversification and growth in Botswana with improved employment in targeted value chains. Boutillier noted that

main result areas of this programme that was started in 2021 are as follows; increased and diversified export to EU and regional markets, enhanced enterprise and product competitiveness and increased foreign direct investments (FDI) in support of the export effort.

"The support to the beef value chain is central in this effort it was agreed to provide to BNVL with chemical and microbiological laboratory testing equipment and consumables to strengthen the

national capacity in the testing, analysis and inspection of food of animal origin to EU and other international food safety standards to meet EU regulatory import requirements for food of animal origin and thus facilitate exports," he added. Boutillier indicated that machines that were supplied by EU are of a combined value of P7.2 million.

**MoA**  
Meanwhile, the Minister of

Agriculture (MoA) Fidelis Molao said the EU-SADC EPA initiative is envisaged to have a positive impact on the economy of Botswana by bolstering beef trade through the enhanced market access.

Molao said the beef sector has traditionally played an important role in the lives and economy of Botswana, adding that Botswana has gone to great lengths to control diseases of cattle and ensure the safety and quality of the meat products for trade.

"NARDI is tasked with the testing of residues samples which is conducted at BNVL. Due to lack of capacity at BNVL, residues testing has been subcontracted in the United Kingdom since 2008," said Molao.

Molao also said the lack of adequate specialized equipment, delayed maintenance of equipment and the attainment of necessary skills were the main challenges towards developing the testing capacity.

For his part, NARDI CEO Professor Julius Athlopheng stressed that the equipment will give NARDI the capacity to conduct more tests on daily basis and that would boost the capacity to export beef to EU.

Athlopheng emphasized the importance of Botswana's beef meeting the export standards of the EU market, adding that NARDI is much focused on value chain development and therefore EU support will enable them to unlock fully the beef value chain potential and enhancing quality monitoring of food etc.

## Chema Chema is a scam - LOO

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**I**N RESPONSE TO THE MAYOR'S SPEECH delivered earlier this week at the ongoing Francistown City Council full session council meeting, the Leader of Opposition (LOO) in the house, Councilor Gaone Majere of Tshwaragano ward told attendees that the Chema Chema initiative is another scheme by the current government to harness votes for the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) in the upcoming national elections later this year.

Also, the President of the Alliance for Progressives Youth League, Majere cited that Botswana should open their eyes and realise that as soon as elections are over, the Chema Chema program will also disappear into thin air like the Nyeletso Lehuma programme that debuted just before the general election.

"We have seen many government programs coming in just before elections as a way of buying elections and then we see the programs dying a natural death after elections. We know they are buying elections, and we would be grateful if Botswana benefited from this scheme of buying elections.

But as the mayor, you have failed to give us an accurate report on the total amount of money disbursed through Chema Chema in the city of Francistown. We do not want to know how many people attended the workshop or registered for Chema Chema, we want to know about the funds as well," he added.

Majere further suggested to the house that LEA and CEDA as the relevant authorities handling the Chema Chema programme be requested to come before the house and give an accurate report of how many people have been funded and the amount of money disbursed

so far. He further reminded his fellow councilors to bear in mind that they are members of the city council as representatives of Botswana and not for themselves or their respective political parties.

"We need an accurate report so that when we talk to Botswana we know what we are talking about and whether it is a scam or not, but as for now, Chema Chema is a scam," he added. For his part, Councilor Impimethus Mabutho of Boikhutso ward seconded Majere's motion to request LEA and CEDA to present to the house a Chema report. Mabutho further advised the mayor to desist from publicly speaking about issues that he is not well informed on as it poses a threat to all the good work that the city's councilors have done in the past five years during their tenure.

"We have done so much for the city under your leadership these past five years. Now you are ruining our reputation by talking about Chema Chema, things that you know nothing about and they don't concern you. You are failing to even tell us how many people have benefited from Chema Chema, leave those issues alone. We have worked hard in the last five years, do not ruin it by talking about Chema Chema in the last four months of your tenure," he echoed. Earlier in his State of Francistown City address, the city's mayor Godisang Radisigo gave an update on the Chema Chema programme, saying the Fund that was launched in April this year has attracted 6,994 applications in the Francistown area, adding that a total of 1,458 applications were approved and were eligible to apply for the Loans at CEDA.

Radisigo went on to encourage the existing Informal Sector businesses in the city to apply for the programme.

# Kattholo trumps rogue DIS

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**F**ORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC), Tymon Kattholo on Friday prevailed over the rogue Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DIS) over their excessive use of force when they raided and barricaded his office, and detained some DCEC officers for interrogation in 2022.

The DIS purported it was looking for files regarding national security investigations. The judgement was delivered on Friday morning by a Court of Appeal (CoA) bench made of Justice Isaac Lesetedi and Justices Bess Nkabinde and Edwin Cameron. Delivering the judgement, Justice Lesetedi said this was a rare matter where two state agencies came in conflict to the extent the matter escalated to the apex court. The Judge said it was the first of its kind in Botswana.

The dispute had escalated without intervention from the powers that be despite the erstwhile DCEC Director General having made attempts to seek intervention. Consequently, the CoA ruled that: "this case concerns an egregious excess of authority and cried out for rectification and rebuke. Only the courts disposed over the power to administer these correctives. The High Court acted with propriety in granting the orders it did." The apex court dismissed the



**HAVING THE LAST LAUGH: Kattholo**

DIS and Ministry of Justice appeal with costs.

The Attorney General had appealed the case after the Lobatse High Court, Reuben Lekorwe ruled in favour of Kattholo who initiated the suit in his personal capacity. The High Court had found that the DIS had no mandate to seal the offices of the DCEC head honcho. Lekorwe ordered that the files in his office be placed in custody for safe keeping.

Giving background to the matter, Justice Lesetedi said the case was first brought to the High Court by the then DCEC director general, Kattholo who moved an urgent application against DIS agents. Lesetedi said the case was precipitated by events that transpired

when the DIS raided the DCEC offices when Kattholo was away on official duty in Rwanda on 3rd May 2022. Kattholo and another officer's offices were sealed and labelled "crime-scene" when the DIS agents came searching for certain files it claimed were necessary for 'investigations concerning national security of Botswana' reads the judgement.

Despite, the repeated attempts by the DCEC boss to reach out to the Attorney General, his efforts were thwarted, as per the judgement. The DCEC wanted AG to initiate legal proceedings against the DIS, but it fidgeted. DCEC felt the AG failed to engage the DIS Director General Peter Magosi over the matter.

Although the High Court ruled in favour of Kattholo, the AG were opposed to it citing that he had no mandate to institute legal proceedings on behalf of a state agency as they are represented by state lawyers. Meanwhile, Kattholo maintained that he was acting to safeguard the independence and integrity of the DCEC. But the AG believed the DIS acted legally and within its statutory mandate.

Subsequently, Kattholo was suspended pending disciplinary proceedings. The fall-out between DIS and DCEC come from way back. The two institutions have in recent memory differed over issues of national interest like the alleged P100 billion theft at Bank of Botswana. Whilst the DCEC always maintained that the prosecution was a wild goose-chase, the DIS on the other hand felt there was something to be salvaged. Both agencies are by statute empowered to help investigate. The DIS was primarily set to advise on national security while the DCEC investigates corruption and economic crimes and forwards the evidence to the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for prosecutions.

Meanwhile, the DIS continues to lose a number of court cases. The institution labelled "rogue" for its excessive use of power, arbitrary arrests of journalists, politicians have been accused of abusing its mandate and some within the civil society, academia and opposition have called for its reforms.

# Botswana student ranked top in accounting globally

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**A**DITYA GOPAKUMAR, 17-year-old A-Levels student at Al-Nur School put Botswana on the global academic record after he was recently awarded with the Top award in Accounting by Cambridge at the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level 2023.

In an interview following the achievement, he said he is extremely grateful to have received the Top in the World award for accounting, and it is a very gratifying feeling. "Accounting has been my passion ever since I took it up for the first time in Form 2 and I immediately found it intriguing how mathematics (which I am particularly fond of too) could be integrated into the real-world setting: dealing with business operations, analysis and measures," he said. According to him, there is absolutely a huge sense of accomplishment, as even in his IGCSE examinations one of his goals was indeed to achieve a Top in the World award which he unfortunately did not achieve at the time. He said to be able to do it this time, that too in accounting, is truly a special feeling for him.

"In addition to my achievement in Accounting, I managed to obtain 3 other awards at the AS Level: \_Top in the Country\_ in Mathematics, \_Best across 4 Subjects\_ in Botswana, as

- 17-year-old Aditya Gopakumar get Cambridge top award

**Parents, teachers**  
He noted that he really attributes his massive success to his parents, adding that for so long their unwavering encouragement has helped him push on to achieve even greater things.



**Gopakumar**

well as a \_High Achievement\_ award in Further Mathematics, which I had to study outside of school," he added.

He also said in his IGCSEs, in 2022, he achieved 11 A's, along with the Best across 8 Subjects\_ in Botswana award, and the Top in the country for Additional Mathematics Award.

He said each time he started slacking off work, his parents were the first ones to get him back up working buttressing that as he started feeling the heat of exam pressure, they were the ones to compose me, explaining that without them he would have achieved none of this success.

He added: "I would also like to extend massive thanks to my teachers at Al-Nur School. They have been nothing but supportive, the teachers sacrificing their time to teach us in afternoons, Saturdays, and holidays, just to ensure that we are fully ready for the final examination."

Specifically, Aditya said he would like to acknowledge Mr. Madzingira, his Accounting teacher, who has been a real cornerstone in my achievements. His drive to push him higher and higher is something that has stuck with him throughout his academic journey.

"The school itself has been hugely important, as the effort to obtain the best and latest textbooks, and the emphasis on academic excellence has created the perfect environment for me to perform, for which I am also thankful for," he added.

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## TENDER NOTICE

### TENDER NO. GA 3/1/5-I 003/2024-2025

#### Provision of Consultancy Services to Review Gaming and Gambling Policy 2002

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# Preparing Students for Entrepreneurship: The Role of Higher Education and Innovation Hubs



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

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS and innovation hubs play a pivotal role in equipping students with the skills and resources necessary for their entrepreneurial journeys. In Botswana, entities like the Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) have developed comprehensive strategies to support aspiring entrepreneurs. Higher Education's Role Universities and colleges are integrating entrepreneurship into their curricula, fostering a mindset of innovation and self-sufficiency among students. This includes offering courses in business management, startup financing, and product

development. Institutions often collaborate with industry experts to provide practical insights and mentorship. For instance, many universities establish incubators and accelerators that offer students access to resources like office space, funding, and networking opportunities.

### The Importance of Relevant Entrepreneurship Courses

Crafting relevant entrepreneurship courses for the 21st-century learner is crucial in combating high youth unemployment rates. As the job market evolves, traditional employment opportunities are becoming scarce, necessitating a shift towards self-employment and entrepreneurial ventures. Universities must therefore tailor their courses to include contemporary business practices, digital literacy, and innovative thinking.

By doing so, they equip students with the necessary skills to create their own job opportunities and drive economic growth. This proactive approach not only prepares students for the future but also addresses the immediate challenges of youth unemployment by fostering a new generation.



**Botswana Innovation Hub's Initiatives**

The Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) is

at the forefront of promoting technology and entrepreneurship in Botswana. As part of its mission, BIH offers a range of

services and programs aimed at nurturing entrepreneurial talent:

**First Steps Venture Centre (FSVC):** This programme focuses on technology entrepreneurship development. It supports startups by providing incubation, business acceleration, and innovation capacity building.

The FSVC identifies and nurtures viable technology-oriented startups, helping them scale locally and internationally.

**Microsoft Innovation Centre:** This facility supports software companies through partnerships with academia, industry, and government. It plays a crucial role in research, development, and innovation activities in the ICT sector.

**Innovation Funding:** BIH provides seed and early-stage funding to promote innovation. This financial support is critical for startups looking to bring their ideas to market.

**Technology Transfer and Commercialisation:** BIH offers intellectual property advisory services and assists with market readiness and access, ensuring that innovations can be successfully commercialised. **CleanTech Centre of Expertise:** In collaboration with

international partners, BIH focuses on developing clean technologies relevant to Botswana. This initiative supports research and business development in the field of clean technology

### Collaborative Ecosystem

BIH's strategy involves creating a collaborative ecosystem where entrepreneurs, investors, and innovators can interact and grow. This environment is fostered through various programmes and facilities that support networking and idea exchange. For example, the Cyber City Kgotla is an open community workspace that brings together innovators, technologists, and investors to drive technological advancements and entrepreneurship

Higher education institutions and innovation hubs like the Botswana Innovation Hub are essential in preparing students for successful entrepreneurial careers. By providing education, resources, funding, and a collaborative environment, they help transform innovative ideas into viable businesses, contributing significantly to economic development and competitiveness.

# Tapyowa returns to Xaxaba



**SOLOMON TJNYEKA**  
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THE SECOND EDITION OF TAPYOWA NG32 Experience, a cultural tourism event initiated by Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust (OKMCT) returns to Xaxaba settlement on the 28th -29th June 2024, to celebrate the diverse multi-ethnic groups of Bayei, Hambukushu, and Basarwa found in the NG32 wildlife concession area.

Tapyowa is a seyei word found within the communities of NG32, which translates to meaning 'a gift'. The phrase compliments the cultural heritage activities, which also celebrate the arrival of the annual floods into the Okavango Delta, an intrinsic connection between nature and the local populace.

According to OKMCT Trust manager, Seikanyeng Moepedi, they came up with the initiative to maximise utilisation of resources in their area by promoting cultural heritage tourism, through the Tapyowa NG32 Experience to diversify their tourism activities through the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) policy.

Moepedi said the Tapyowa NG32 Experience brings local communities in the concession area to participate in form of mokoro (dugout canoes) race using the magical Okavango delta. "This activity is unique and one of its kind in the area, in addition to its uniqueness it also empowers women to address gender mainstreaming," he said, adding that the experience does not only capture the mokoro race, but other cultural activities found in the area, including promoting indigenous knowledge among local communities and visitors.

Moepedi said the first edition was conducted successfully in 2023 and showed the viability and potential in the area. He added that the trust has been working on fundraise activities for this initiative to make it a local, national, and international event which empowers and develops the community through integration of culture and tourism.

He added that the purpose of this event is

to exhibit and enhance community-based approach in preserving cultural heritage and promoting tourism in rural areas, most importantly in Wildlife territories. "This initiative merge communities and natural resources which at the ends intends to promote conservation through event incentives," he stressed adding that rural communities often possess unique cultural heritage that is at risk of being lost due to various factors such as globalization, urbanization, and lack of resources.

"OKMCT therefore encourages and support its communities to protect their heritage while simultaneously utilizing the potential of tourism to promote economic growth and development by putting in place a community-driven approach, which is the Tapyowa NG32 Experience," he explained.

Moepedi believes that through this cultural event that the communities will directly benefit from the activity, protection, and transfer of indigenous knowledge from the old to new generations, sensitization on conservation education, network, and cultural exchange.

The trust believes that the Tapyowa NG32 Experience will create jobs for local communities as the main priority, new business opportunities, and strengthens local economies. The cultural heritage event also protects natural and cultural resources, which improve the quality of life for natives and tourists who participate in the services and attractions.

"The event will promote community pride by allowing people to work together to enhance economic and cultural development through distinct community opportunities," he stressed.

The trust has made strides to ensure the second edition of Tapyowa becomes a success as part of their contribution in kind in an attempt to raise more funds. "The Tapyowa NG32 Experience has been enlisted in Botswana Tourism Organization's calendar of events as a way of intensifying marketing and audience reach," he said adding that event also offers OKMCT an opportunity to market and expand their tourism services offered in the area.



## Results of the Absa Bank Botswana Limited 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Registration number BW00001237900  
Share code ABBL ISIN BW 000 000 0025 (Incorporated in the Republic of Botswana)

Absa Bank Botswana Limited ("the Company") announces that the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") was held on 27 June 2024 and all tabled resolutions were passed by the required majority. A total of 832,023,584 votes were received from shareholders holding approximately 97.64% of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company, and all shareholders were entitled to vote.

<b>Total shares in issue</b>	<b>852,161,252</b>
Proxies received – number of holders	80
Proxies received – holding (shares)	832,020,940
Proxies received as % of total shares	97.64%
<b>In attendance and voting – number of holders</b>	<b>2</b>
In attendance and voting – holding (shares)	2,644
In attendance voted as % of total shares	0.00%
<b>Total number of holders voting</b>	<b>82</b>
Total shares held by those voting	832,023,584
Shares voting as a % of total shares in issue	97.64%

### ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1	For	Against	Abstain
The adoption of the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 together with the Directors' and Independent Auditor's reports thereon.			
Number of votes cast	832,023,584	-	-
Percentage of votes cast	100.00%	0.00%	
Percentage of total shares in issue	97.64%	0.00%	0.00%

**Resolved the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 together with the Directors' and Independent Auditor's reports thereon be adopted.**

Resolution 2	For	Against	Abstain
To approve the declared interim dividend of 14.43 thebe per share and final dividend of 44 thebe per share, for the year ended 31 December 2023.			
Number of votes cast	832,023,584	-	-
Percentage of votes cast	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Percentage of total shares in issue	97.64%	0.00%	0.00%

**Resolved that the declared interim dividend of 14.43 thebe per share and final dividend of 44 thebe per share, for the year ended 31 December 2023 be approved.**

Resolution 3	For	Against	Abstain
To re-elect as a director, Thabo Kagiso Matthews, who retires by rotation in accordance with the Constitution, and who being eligible, offers himself for re-election.			
Number of votes cast	832,023,584	-	-
Percentage of votes cast	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Percentage of total shares in issue	97.64%	0.00%	0.00%

**Resolved that Thabo Kagiso Matthews, who retires by rotation in accordance with the Constitution, and who being eligible, be re-elected as a Director.**

Resolution 4	For	Against	Abstain
To re-elect as a director, Saviour Mwepu Chibiya, who retires by rotation in accordance with the Constitution, and who being eligible, offers himself for re-election.			
Number of votes cast	832,023,584	-	-
Percentage of votes cast	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Percentage of total shares in issue	97.64%	0.00%	0.00%

**Resolved that Saviour Mwepu Chibiya, who retires by rotation in accordance with the Constitution, and who being eligible, be re-elected as a Director.**



# 'Don't Kill thirsty Elephants'

SOLOMON TJINYEKA  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**M**AUN BASED NON-governmental Organization, Elephant Protection Society has criticized the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, (DWNP) for the recent killing of elephants in Maun and surrounding areas.

The NGO, which strives to prevent deadly encounters between humans and elephants by reducing human wildlife conflicts, has advised the DWNP not to kill thirsty elephants but instead they should provide them with water by drilling boreholes.

Director of Elephant Protection Society, Oaitse Nawa highlighted that the El Nino induced drought have exacerbated the problem of human wildlife conflict in the district.

Nawa revealed that in the months of June more than 10 elephants have been killed after they have been causing trouble at human settlement searching for water. Nawa decried that the killing of thirsty



elephant is not a solution as more elephants will keep on encroach human settlement searching for water.

He suggested that the DWNP should rather drill more boreholes for elephants

to protected areas to prevent them from coming into human settlements.

He however said despite their efforts to engage the government they are not coming on board. He also revealed that a herd of

elephants accidentally falls into a sewage pond at Boro prison whereby a younger elephant died during the process.

"The DWNP recently killed two elephants near Kgantsang cattle-post that

were searching for water, we cant keep on killing elephants as we please, its not good, this will affect our tourism," he decried

Nawa said his NGO is always sensitizing the community about the elephant behavior, how to behave when they come across wild animals during this drought season.

The human wildlife conflict crisis was also highlighted by the chairman of North West District Council, Itumeleng Kelebetse at the just ended full council session noting that they are experiencing the escalation of reports of wild animals intruding farming land and causing damage to property, killing livestock and generally being a nuisance to communities due to scarcity of water. He added that due to low rainfall experienced in the last season, the anticipated drought is upon us. Kelebetse said rivers, lagoons and all water bodies have dried up or are on the brink of drying up

"There is severe shortage of forage for animals. As a result, hundreds of hippos are stranded in clusters across the district with little-to-no water," he said. Regarding

the situation at Nxaraga, he highlighted that the DWNP has taken steps to pump water and provide feed for hippos at the highest populated lagoon in Nxaraga.

The hope is that this will be a short-term intervention while the floods slowly make their way downstream. He revealed that the Department is also discussing reducing the number of hippos at Nxaraga by relocating some of the hippos to the delta where there is sufficient water. Kelebetse also encouraged the community to report dangerous animals sightings promptly and desist from engaging in risky activities that might end with loss of life or injury.

Kelebetse also said drought situation has also contributed to the increase of poaching in the district. He said both commercial and subsistence poaching seem to be rising at the same rate, with antelopes, giraffes and elephants being greatly targeted.

"Elephant poaching is prominent in northern parts of the district and is believed to be conducted mainly by foreign individuals from neighboring countries," he said

## Brewing Trouble: Ethiopian Coffee Industry Faces Impact of New EU Regulations

**T**HE "BLACK GOLD" OF ETHIOPIA IS THE main export product (37% by value) and the primary source of foreign currency for the country.

Regulations from the European Union (EU) that aim to stop deforestation globally will go into effect in 2025, with a focus on palm oil and soy as the two main risks to tropical forests. Soon, coffee importers will have to use satellite data to demonstrate that their supply chains do not contribute to deforestation, the Western media reported.

Coffee smallholders in Kaffa, the home of coffee in southern Ethiopia, may reportedly find it difficult to comply with these requirements because of poor internet availability and a deficit of land registers. They might not catch up to European standards for up to five years.

Ethiopia's coffee business is a huge value to the nation, with a significant portion of its exports going to Europe. Therefore, even though less than 5% of Ethiopia's imports come from the EU, the foreign exchange earned from these exports is vital for Addis Ababa, particularly in the fight against inflation.

"We obviously don't want to lose the relationship with this market," Aduugna Debelu, director of the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority, told the French news outlet.

In an effort to boost productivity and raise revenue, the Ethiopian government is under

pressure from Brussels to modernize the industry, according to the report. Addis Ababa is looking for international partners to help fund this program.

"The harvests of hundreds of farmers are mixed together during drying, then washing, and again during the various stages of resale and transport. A single container of coffee en route to Europe can contain beans from a thousand producers, which means you'd have to provide a thousand GPS coordinates when it reaches Europe," Peter Horsten, an adviser to AgUnity, a platform helping smallholders in emerging economies, was quoted as saying.

But in order to get financial support, Ethiopia reportedly must show its commitment and implement the required supply chain improvements.

"Even compared with other African players, Ethiopia is lagging behind. It has neither protected nor regulated its supply chain. Is this the Europeans' fault?" an outlet's source within the bloc wondered.

The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that every year, 10 million hectares of forest disappear globally, with food consumption in Europe playing a major role in this deforestation. According to estimates from the European Parliament, Europe's consumption of soy and palm oil accounts for 10% of the world's deforestation.



## 'Seretse's family miss home'

FROM PAGE 1

In an interview on Thursday, Khama said it was unfortunate that the government has not ever consulted the Sir Seretse Khama family about the marathon although it appears its mainly government sponsored.

Khama said there is no valid reason other than as he indicated before that the marathon it is an election stunt by the government of his successor Masisi to misuse Seretse's name to try win favour with people and which will fail.

"I have made it clear to Bangwato there in Serowe that the government is not trying to honour Sir Seretse Khama but rather abuse his name as they are doing to his own family. Of course, we would like to join Batswana on that special Day of our father, but we also prefer to be all alive," Khama buttressed.

Masisi and Khama feud and exchange of jabs continued to unfold this week after Masisi while during an interview with France 24 television poured cold water on claims that Khama has fled the country over fears that government want to eliminate him through poisoning, urging Khama to return to Botswana.

Masisi said to the best of his knowledge and that of his government Khama's life is not in any danger.

Meanwhile, Khama through SKI Foundation responded to Masisi and described his utterings as that of a habitually dishonest character.

In the statement, the Chief Executive

Officer (CEO) of SKI Foundation Mogomotsi Kaboemodimo said it is irresponsible and insensitive of Masisi to find amusement in speaking comically about assassination attempts against Khama.

### Politics

Meanwhile, political analyst Kitso Morekisi has said Masisi of recent he has been active in Serowe and surrounding areas either addressing BDP rallies or officiating the government events, noting that it is a clear sign that is a political move to sway Bangwato into the BDP favour while Khama is still not available.

He also said for Masisi to headline the Sir Seretse Khama half marathon over the weekend in Serowe could be described as strategic move to neutralize Khama's influence before his subjects, Bangwato.

"Even if the government could have approached the Khama's over the event which remains unknown whether that attempt was ever made, Khama and his family were still not going to participate. Masisi knows the importance of Khama's absence and would constantly visit Serowe to charm Bangwato," he said.

Just few weeks back, Masisi addressed back to back BDP star rallies in Serowe and Palapye respectively and that was presided over by his official launch of the Thuo Letlotlo, a government programme that is aimed at the transformation and development of the local livestock industry into an export led sector.



## Results of the Absa Bank Botswana Limited 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Registration number BW00001237900  
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Resolution 5	For	Against	Abstain
To re-elect as a director, Sari Helena Nikka, who retires by rotation in accordance with the Constitution, and who being eligible, offers herself for re-election.			
Number of votes cast	832,023,584	-	-
Percentage of votes cast	100.00%	0.00%	
Percentage of total shares in issue	97.64%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Resolved that Sari Helena Nikka, who retires by rotation in accordance with the Constitution, and who being eligible, be re-elected as a Director.</b>			
Resolution 6	For	Against	Abstain
To approve the remuneration of the Directors for the ensuing year.			
Number of votes cast	790,285,398	18,736,440	23,001,746
Percentage of votes cast	97.68%	2.32%	
Percentage of total shares in issue	92.74%	2.20%	2.70%
<b>Resolved that the Directors remuneration for the year be approved.</b>			
Resolution 7	For	Against	Abstain
To approve the remuneration of the Auditors, KPMG Botswana, for the year ended 31 December 2023.			
Number of votes cast	824,661,615		7,361,969
Percentage of votes cast	100.00%	0.00%	
Percentage of total shares in issue	96.77%	0.00%	0.86%
<b>Resolved that the Auditors remuneration for the year ended 31 December 2023 be approved.</b>			
Resolution 8	For	Against	Abstain
To approve the appointment of Auditors, KPMG Botswana, for the ensuing year.			
Number of votes cast	832,023,584	-	-
Percentage of votes cast	100.00%	0.00%	
Percentage of total shares in issue	97.64%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Resolved that KPMG Botswana be appointed auditors of the Company.</b>			
SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS			
Special Resolution 1	For	Against	Abstain
To approve, by special resolution, any substantial gifts made by the Company, details of which are available at the Company's registered office for perusal.			
Number of votes cast	832,023,584	-	-
Percentage of votes cast	100.00%	0.00%	
Percentage of total shares in issue	97.64%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Resolved that the substantial gifts by the Company be approved.</b>			

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ENDS



# The foundation of successful national endeavor lies in good governance

MOKGWEETSI MASISI\*

**T**HIS MORNING MARKS AN important day for me, and for the African Defence Forces and the United States Africa Command, as I have the honour and privilege to officiate at this momentous occasion of the first-ever African Chiefs of Defence Conference, to be hosted on the African soil.

Our gathering here today marks a significant phase of demonstrating our commitment to contribute to safeguarding international peace. This African Chiefs of Defence Conference follows on Botswana's successful hosting of the African Air Chiefs Summit in 2017, the African Land Forces Summit in 2019, the African Military Law Forum in 2022; and Climate Change Symposium in 2023.

I am thrilled to see the continuation of the implementation of my Government's strategy to establish Botswana as a centre for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE). On this note, I would like to express my gratitude to the Honourable Mr. Thomas Kagiso Mmusi, Minister for Defence and Security; Lieutenant General Placid Diratsagae Segokgo, the Commander of the Botswana Defence Force, who is the host of this conference, and the Co-host, General G.E. Langley, Commander, USAFRICA COMMAND, for affording us this opportunity.

As you gather here today under the theme, "On the Rampart Together: Expanding Cooperation and Sharing Values," you are called upon to reflect on the critical importance of unity and collaboration in addressing the challenges facing our continent, Africa. Now, more than ever before, it is imperative that we come together as one cohesive force to achieve the African Union's noble vision of

"silencing the guns by 2030," and ensuring peace and stability across our continent as espoused in the African Union's "Agenda 2063: The Future We Want."

Furthermore, there is an urgent need to face the growing disquiet about the disrespect of the democratic ideal of constitutionally elected governments on the African continent by the military. This kind of regression in our continent's political order, portends a serious threat to the stability of nations which should be functioning as well-interconnected units and planks for both regional cooperation and integration, continental unity, peace, and sustainable development.

Distinguished Delegates, this esteemed gathering provides a crucial platform for the African Chiefs of Defence to come together, share insights, and forge strategies to effectively and efficiently address the myriad of challenges facing our continent. As you commence these deliberations, I am reminded of the critical importance of strong civil-military relations especially in our continent, where the complexities of governance and security intersect profoundly, fostering a paramount harmonious relationship between our military institutions and civilian authorities.

In a democracy, we must uphold, cherish and promote the principle that the military serves the nation through an elected government and not any particular regime. We must not only be committed, but must always be seen to be committed to ensuring that our armed forces remain dedicated to the protection and well-being of our people through their governments.

Cooperation among African states is not a choice; it is required if we are to achieve our developmental goals and realise the enormous potential that exists inside our borders.



President Masisi

[PIC.PRESSPHOTO]

However, achieving this requires more than just lofty aspirations, it demands concrete action and a commitment to good governance and exemplary political leadership.

Allow me to quote a statement from the Extra Ordinary Summit on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa on 28 May 2022 In Malabo, Ghana: "The resurgence of Unconstitutional Changes of Governments (UCGs), the expanding threat of terrorism and violent extremism across the continent, including the influx of foreign terrorist fighters, private military companies and mercenaries, the proliferation of armed groups, as well as transnational organised crime, continue to negatively impact the peace, security, sovereignty and

territorial integrity of African states."

The Malabo Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Governments has since been adopted during the 16th Extraordinary Assembly of the African Union in May 2022. The same sentiments of critiquing this downward spiralling, unravelling, and negation of democratisation and constitutionalism consistent with democratic ideals, was further emphasised at the recent African Union 16th Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) on 5th June, this year, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Indeed, these threats of rampant militarisation of our nation-states do not only undermine stability and

prosperity but also pose significant obstacles to the realisation of our collective aspirations for peace and development. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to bolster cooperation, coordination, and intelligence-sharing mechanisms to effectively counter these threats and ensure the safety and security of our nations. Let us not forget that the foundation of any successful national endeavour lies in good governance and effective leadership. Without transparency, accountability, and the effective rule of law, our efforts to achieve peace and development will be in vain. We must strive to uphold these principles in every aspect of our governance systems and processes, for they are the bedrock upon which our collective future

rests.

By upholding the constellation of principles of good governance, we enhance public trust in our institutions, foster socio-economic development, and fortify the foundations of our democracies. Let us reaffirm our dedication to upholding the highest ethical standards, ensuring that our actions reflect the values of integrity, honesty, and respect for human rights.

Together, we can overcome the obstacles that stand on our way. Together, we can build a brighter and more prosperous future for all Africans. Let us stand united, hand in hand, on the rampart of expanding cooperation and shared values, as we work tirelessly to silence the guns and pave the way for peace, progress, and prosperity across our beloved continent.

I note that a number of senior professionals are here to give presentations on various and critical topics, such as civilian control of the military in a democratic set up; international security; and African Security Challenges, just to mention but a few. In the same manner, I wish to express Botswana Government's profound appreciation for the manner in which the Government of the United States of America (USA), through its military, continues to collaborate with the Botswana Defence Force to realise our national objectives. We certainly cherish this relationship and wish that it grows in leaps and bounds.

It will be remiss of me not to mention Botswana's contributions to regional security and development. I'm pleased to inform this conference that Botswana has donated 19 hectares of land for the construction of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Logistics Depot. Once finalised, the depot will contribute significantly to peace and stability in

the region.

In 2021, Botswana and other SADC countries joined hands to participate in a SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM), where we managed to create a safe and secure environment in Cabo Delgado Province. Conversely, the terrorist activities in Mozambique have been significantly reduced to a level of normalcy, which has allowed the return of the locals to their areas of origin and resumption of economic activities in the province. Operations like SAMIM, such as the SADC Mission in the DRC, are, indeed, a true reflection of the spirit of this conference's theme of "On the Rampart Together: Expanding Cooperation and Sharing Values". As we acknowledge the positive impact of these operations, I am filled with great pleasure to be here amongst African Defence Chiefs and their partners today, as this is a testament to our commitment to ensure a safe and secure African Continent.

In closing, I wish to extend my sincere wishes for productive and fruitful discussions during this conference. May your deliberations be characterised by mutual respect, open dialogue, and a spirit of cooperation. You must seize this opportunity to forge consensus, exchange best practices, and chart a course towards a safer, more prosperous Africa for generations to come.

Let me, on behalf of Botswana, conclude my remarks by expressing our appreciation to all the forty-two (42) African countries represented here today, for honouring the invitation to this year's African Chiefs of Defence Conference.

Finally, I invite you to visit tourist attractions in Gaborone and surrounding areas before returning to your respective countries. It is critical to take time out from your hectic schedules to unwind.

## BRICS will become core regulatory institution of the multipolar world order

Part 1  
VLADIMIR PUTIN\*

**I** AM PLEASED TO WELCOME ALL of you and express my gratitude for your active work in the interests of Russia and our people. We last met in this extended format in November 2021, and since then, there have been many pivotal and even fateful events, without exaggeration, both in Russia and around the world. Therefore, I think it is important to assess the current situation in global and regional affairs, as well as set the appropriate tasks for the Foreign Ministry. All of these tasks are aimed at achieving our main goal: creating conditions for Russia's sustainable development, ensuring its security, and improving the well-being of Russian families.

In today's challenging and unpredictable conditions, our work in this area demands that we concentrate our efforts, initiative, perseverance, and abilities not only to respond to current challenges, but also to set our own long-term agenda. We should propose possible solutions to fundamental issues that concern not only us, but also the entire international community. It is crucial to discuss them with our partners in an open and constructive manner.

Let me repeat: the world is changing rapidly. Global politics, the economy, and technological competition will never be the same as before. More countries are striving to strengthen their sovereignty, self-sufficiency, and national and cultural identity. The countries of the Global South and East are gaining prominence, and the role of Africa and Latin America is growing. Since the Soviet times, we have always acknowledged the importance of these regions, but today the dynamics have completely shifted, and this is becoming increasingly evident. The pace of transformation in Eurasia, where many significant integration projects are underway, has also accelerated significantly.

This new political and economic reality now serves as the foundation for the emerging multipolar and

multilateral world order, and this is an inevitable process. It reflects the cultural and civilisational diversity that is inherently part of humanity, despite all attempts at artificial unification.

These profound, system-wide changes certainly inspire optimism and hope because the establishment of multipolarity and multilateralism in international affairs, including respect for international law and broad representation, make it possible to resolve the most complex problems together for the common benefit, and to build mutually beneficial relations and cooperation between sovereign states for the sake of well-being and security of peoples.

Such a vision for the future aligns with the aspirations of the vast majority of countries. This is evident among other things, in the growing interest in the work of a universal association such as BRICS, which is based on a culture of trust-based dialogue, sovereign equality of its members and respect for each other. Under the Russian chairmanship this year, we will facilitate the smooth inclusion of new BRICS members in the association's working bodies.

I ask the Government and the Foreign Ministry to continue substantive work and dialogue with our partners to make sure that the BRICS summit in Kazan in October will have a considerable set of agreed decisions that will determine the direction of our cooperation in politics and security, the economy and finance, science, culture, sports and humanitarian ties.

In general, I believe that the potential of BRICS will allow it to become one of the core regulatory institutions of the multipolar world order.

I should note in this connection that international discussions are already underway regarding the parameters of interaction between states in a multipolar world and the democratisation of the entire system of international relations. In this regard, we have agreed on and adopted, together with our colleagues in the Commonwealth of Independent States, a joint



President Putin

document on international relations in a multipolar world. We have also invited our partners to discuss this subject at other international platforms, primarily in the SCO and BRICS.

We are interested in fostering this dialogue within the UN, including on such a vital topic for all as the creation of an indivisible security system. In other words, global affairs must be based on the principle that the security of some cannot be ensured at the expense of the security of others.

Let me remind you that at the end of the 20th century, after the end of the intense military and ideological confrontation, the international community had a unique opportunity to build a reliable and just security order. This did not require much – simply the ability to listen to the opinions of all interested parties and a mutual willingness to take those opinions into account.

Our country was determined to engage in constructive work of this nature.

However, a different approach prevailed. The Western powers, led by the United States, believed that they had won the Cold War and had the right to determine how the world should be organised. The practical manifestation of this outlook was the project of unlimited expansion of the North Atlantic bloc in space and time, despite the existence of alternative ideas for ensuring security in Europe.

They responded to our justified questions with excuses, claiming that there were no plans to attack Russia, and that the expansion of NATO was not directed against Russia. They effectively forgot about the promises made to the Soviet Union and later Russia in the late 1980s and early 1990s that the bloc would not accept new members. Even if they acknowledged those promises,

they would grin and dismiss them as mere verbal assurances that were not legally binding.

In the 1990s and later, we consistently pointed out the flawed approach taken by Western elites. Instead of simply criticising and warning them, we suggested options and constructive solutions, emphasising the need to develop a mechanism of European and global security that would be acceptable to all parties involved (I want to underscore this point). It would take too long to list all the initiatives advanced by Russia over the years.

Let us recall the idea of a European security treaty, which we proposed in 2008. In December 2021, a memorandum from the Russian Foreign Ministry was submitted to the United States and NATO, addressing the same issues.

However, all our repeated attempts (it is impossible to list them all) to convince our partners, as well as

our explanations, appeals, warnings and requests, met with no response. Western countries, confident not so much in the righteousness of their cause as in their power and ability to impose whatever they wish on the rest of the world, simply disregarded other perspectives. At best, they proposed discussions on less significant matters (that did little to resolve the actual problems), or matters that only benefitted the West.

It soon became clear that the Western concept, seen as the only viable option for security and prosperity in Europe and the world, was, in fact, ineffective. Let us recall the tragedy in the Balkans. While domestic issues had certainly contributed to the problems in former Yugoslavia, they were greatly exacerbated by intrusive external interference.

At that time, the main principle of NATO diplomacy manifested itself most vividly – a deeply flawed principle that is of no use in addressing complex internal conflicts. In essence, this principle aims to assign blame to one party (often disliked by the West for various reasons) and unleash the full political, informational and military might of the West, including economic sanctions and restrictions against it.

Later, these same approaches were applied in various countries, which we know all too well: Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Afghanistan. These interventions have done nothing but worsen existing problems, ruin the lives of millions of people, destroy entire states, and create hubs of humanitarian and social disasters, as well as terrorist enclaves. In fact, no country in the world is immune from joining this tragic list.

For example, the West is currently trying to brazenly meddle in the affairs of the Middle East. They previously held a monopoly over this region, and the consequences of their actions are now evident to everyone. The South Caucasus and Central Asia are also prime examples. Two years ago, at the NATO summit in Madrid, it was declared that the alliance would now deal with

security issues not only in the Euro-Atlantic, but also in the Asia-Pacific region. They claim those areas can not do without them. Clearly, this was an attempt to exert more pressure on those countries in the region whose development they have decided to restrain. As you know, Russia ranks high on this list.

Let me also remind you that it was Washington that undermined strategic stability by unilaterally withdrawing from the treaties on anti-missile defence, on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and on open skies, and, together with its NATO satellites, dismantling the decades-old system of confidence-building measures and arms control in Europe.

Lastly, the self-centeredness and arrogance of Western countries have led us to a highly perilous situation today. We are inching dangerously close to a point of no return. Calls for a strategic defeat of Russia, which possesses the largest arsenals of nuclear weapons, demonstrate the extreme recklessness of Western politicians. They either fail to comprehend the magnitude of the threat they are creating or are simply consumed by their notion of invincibility and exceptionalism. Both scenarios can result in tragedy.

It is evident that the entire system of Euro-Atlantic security is crumbling before our eyes. At present, it is practically non-existent and must be rebuilt. To achieve this, we must collaborate with interested countries, of which there are many, to develop our own strategies for ensuring security in Eurasia and then present them for broader international deliberation.

This is the task set in the Address to the Federal Assembly: to outline a vision for equal and indivisible security, mutually beneficial and equitable cooperation, and development on the Eurasian continent in the foreseeable future.

\*President of Russia Vladimir Putin's speech at the meeting with senior staff of the Russian Foreign Ministry



# Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



**ADAM PHETLHE**  
ON SUNDAY!

**J**UST LIKE NOT MANY PEOPLE predicted Jacob Zuma could hit the African National Congress (ANC) where it mattered the most and with such clinical precision, not many people predicted the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) and the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) could be hit by drama and trauma simultaneously. The two Botswana political parties have been hit by none other than friendly fire. That is, from within and with such clinical precision as well.

At the heart of the drama is the continual shifting of goal posts when the game is underway whereupon some members of these political parties feel short-changed by the Bulela ditswe (party primary elections) shenanigans perpetrated by the omission or commission by the political leadership at the highest levels. I have opined before as I still do, that lack of political leadership is the root cause of the drama and trauma ensuing thereat. I will look at each party individually and round them off collectively.

**BDP's drama and trauma**

The BDP body politic should be synonymous with democracy as its middle name suggests. But the unfolding events at the party suggest as clear as daylight is, that the process of identifying suitable candidates to represent it at the 2024 general election has become so undemocratic, unfair and unjust in fact and form. Such is not hidden to the point that it has become predictable what the next move could be.

## BDP, UDC hit by Bulela Ditswe drama

Last week's edition of The Patriot on Sunday ran with a story headlined 'Domkrag drama unfolds'. In this story the newspaper reported the BDP is considering performing oral interviews on candidates in an attempt to trim the final number that will contest for the ultimate candidate. Elsewhere, it is reported there is dissatisfaction in Palapye where candidates who had wished to represent the BDP as parliamentary candidates have been vetted out in favour of someone allegedly favoured by the party head-honchos. The said candidates are reported to have written the branch committee where they seek reasons for their exclusion. (See The Botswana Gazette dated 18 June 2024).

The drama from my observation is that the BDP chops and changes the rules of engagement at every turn for convenience and at the detriment of other candidates. Rules that prevailed during the first stage of the bulela ditswe process are not the same as those that prevailed then. For example, over and above the oral interview as reported in The Patriot on Sunday, there are strong reports that candidates could be subjected to the requirement that they state whether they are currently undergoing legal processes in court and that their finger prints could be sought. With the chopping and changing of the rules of engagement in full swing, it is impossible if not hard to suggest what the newspapers are reporting could in fact be true.

The trauma arises out of the sheer preferential treatment meted to some BDP candidates against their party colleagues. Put bluntly, the victims of bulela ditswe are traumatised by the fact that such is meted on them by their fellow party members. I am on record that inner party democracy at the BDP leaves much to be desired and I still hold that position. The first phase of vetting candidates was concluded in April this year. Two months thereafter, the BDP is yet to find a candidate for Maun East constituency. You can be



**BDP President, Mokgweetsi Masisi**

rest assured the ultimate candidate will cause further ructions in the constituency because aspiring and other party members will question the process to identify the candidate. One of the political turf wars in the litany of the many consuming the BDP is in the new Goodhope-Mmathethe constituency where Ministers Dikoloti and Serama have drawn swords. It appears every trick possible is sought to disqualify the former who reportedly, was asked to withdraw his candidacy for the latter. It is pure drama and trauma in full display.

**UDC's drama and trauma**

As if not to be left behind by the BDP, the UDC has had its fair share of the drama and trauma playing itself in the political landscape as we earnestly approach the all-important 2024 general election. In the same Patriot on Sunday newspaper

report referred to herein, there is the story headlined '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'. Having followed how the UDC has unfairly treated its fellow partners in the past, AP will be the first to know the heat generated inside the UDC political chimney. It has always been hot and unbearable. But I will be fair to the AP to suggest it has all the reasons to be bitter.

UDC has allocated them parliamentary constituencies where in the process, Botswana National Front (BNF) activists have chosen to campaign in the same constituencies. Having made representations to the UDC to call BNF activists to order, the former appears to be



**UDC President, Duma Boko**

[PICS.PRESSPHOTO]

ignoring AP's complaint hence the AP's boycott of the manifesto workshop. Apart from the AP discontent, the BNF has tried three times to date to hold bulela ditswe in the Lobatse constituency. Just on failure to hold bulela ditswe on consecutive occasions is good enough to conclude the UDC is hopelessly not in control of its partners because failures arising out of the partners have a direct bearing on its overall standing. Such causes drama and trauma to the potential candidates and their supporters.

Individually and collectively, the BDP and the UDC have stooped so low to run unnecessarily controversial yet damaging inner party elections even when such was avoidable. I have no doubt in my mind that the underpinning factor in the shambolic undertaking of the processes by the two parties is to favour certain candidates over

others. Otherwise, there wouldn't be the brouhaha we are currently subjected to. Someone was saying to me: if the BDP as a party in power can condone the naked unfairness and I dare say cheating of fellow members, what comfort does it bring to suggest such cannot be done in the general election given the BDP is the party in power? And if the UDC can equally behave so shambolically, what comfort does it bring that it is an alternative to the BDP? Those are strong propositions one cannot easily dismiss. It is not in dispute that drama and trauma have hit the BDP and the UDC in equal measure. Election results will tell whether or not the hit was fatal or not to the respective parties. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

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

## Saving our soils in Africa may be the only path left to a future

**JENNY LUESBY**

**C**OULD THE SOIL OF AFRICA BE developing an unstoppable malaise that will transform our continent from an innocent victim of climate change into its main driver?

It seems the answer may be yes. For we might be sitting in a ticking carbon bomb. African soil is degrading ever faster, losing us millions of hectares a year. And while scientists have known for the longest time that soil 'breathes out' pure carbon dioxide, the emerging horror is that our heated, drought-struck soils are now breathing out

more, maybe even a lot more.

It's a carbon source that holds the potential to make our man-made greenhouse gasses nearly insignificant by comparison. And the fear is that it could turn Africa into the biggest carbon generator of all.

Yet no-one knows for sure. Researchers, in studies that take a decade or more to complete, are finding soil organic carbon (think, plant roots) degrading faster in warmer, post-drought soils - and also finding, in other studies, that it isn't. They are counting deeper soil carbon, soil carbon after late rains, next to volcanoes, four years

after soils were dried out, and below our forests: in a flurry of carbon measuring to try and map the change.

For, ominously, in all the 'we-are-looking-at-soil-carbon-now' noise, the drip, drip raising of alarms, and even the odd prominent public fight between scientists, it turns out our carbon calculations have never included soil breathing.

And that on a planet where soil holds more of our planet's carbon than the atmosphere and all its vegetation put together, and much of it as soil organic carbon that breathes out carbon dioxide.

It is a missing sum that is only made more



worrying by the acceleration in climate change. We should not yet be suffering our first row of 50°C temperatures, our hottest years ever, our wettest and driest every new season: it's all going faster than the charts. Until you factor in soil.

And that's made soil into the kind of geopolitical focus that presidents meet for summits about.

It has also drawn Dr Cary Fowler into the fray, as the now US Envoy for Food Security, in his second crusade to lead the world away from destruction.

Dr Fowler created the Svalbard Seed Vault, to preserve our global diversity. Now, his mission is soil, and he is not waiting for perfect science.

"I am no soil scientist," he declared, while visiting Nairobi for the African soil summit this year. "But we are deeply concerned about African soil."

Yet his solution is as sweet for Africa as his seed vault was for biodiversity - for how do you stop the continent's soils degrading at speed?

It has taken decades to stop our energy emissions from growing. So where does one even begin to break a cycle of rising heat spikes and erratic rainfall degrading land, which then cannot support ground cover to capture carbon whilst breathing out more carbon - thereby causing further heat and weather disruption.

A possibly prescient starting point was the French call at the 2015 CoP for the globe to

commit to adding 4 parts per thousand to its soil organic carbon - to give the world an extra 20 years to fix its greenhouse gas problem.

This has generated a growing drumbeat around 'regenerative agriculture'.

Yet Africa already has the world's lowest soil organic carbon, and it's falling all the time. Moreover, the incentives for African farmers and for Africa to sort out its lands are few.

Even as initiatives have flourished to draw farmers into new approaches that boost soil carbon, the world's leading carbon credit verifier, Verra, observes forlornly that these often reduce output for farmers for some time - which isn't a treat in a continent already caught between roaring population growth and falling yields.

So Dr Fowler went back to the drawing board, to find an everybody-wins solution.

Working with the FAO, the Rockefeller Foundation, and scientists he sums up, excitedly, as the best in the world - across every discipline from soil, to agronomy and nutrition - he has driven a programme called VACS that has searched for the plants that solve everything. And he claims to have found them. "We don't see plants the same way now," he explains. "We always used to think of the plant and soil as separate, but now we see them as a single system." That single-system slant saw his VACS team select 60 crops that could grow in Africa's degraded soil and erratic climates; that

improved the soil as they grew, creating a better future ahead and rehabilitating land; and delivered fantastic nutrition.

For nutrition matters, too, in a continent where micronutrient deficiencies drive childhood and maternal mortalities, brain damage, and a host of lifestyle diseases from diabetes to high blood pressures.

The saviour crops turned out to be indigenous - although not by design. Millet, sorghum, yams, amaranth, Bambara groundnuts, pigeon peas and sweet potato, the list goes on. But growing them works: it lifts yields, arrests land degradation, and solves diabetes too.

Many African farmers comment that they were always the crops that served, and we should never have transited. But in their historical form, they didn't arrive with big, vital tags saying their deep roots took carbon out of the air and into the soil and additionally slowed up every kind of soil degradation.

Nowadays, that matters vastly more, opening a path to saving the world by growing what we used to grow, and thereby solving mass food insecurity, pulling marginal land back into full use, and clawing down our carbon footprint too.

So, thank you, Dr Fowler. I hope you save our soils.

*Jenny Luesby is a food systems consultant specialising in climate change, and the publisher of farmers' information service FarmBizAfrica.com*

## Celebrating the Unsung Heroes & Heroines

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**Hunyepa**

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

**T**ODAY, WE CELEBRATE TEACHERS Day, honoring one of the most noble professions in the world. Teaching is not just a job; it is a calling requiring passion, love, patience, discipline, perseverance.

Each day, teachers step into the classroom to inspire, nurture, and empower the minds of tomorrow, shaping lives far beyond the curriculum. They do not only identify talent, they remarkably develop it into what you see today!

The impact of teachers is profound. They impart life skills, values, and the art of learning from the cradle to the grave. We therefore need to invest in real productive quality education to remedy all global problems. EDUCATION IS THE KEY.

Despite the challenges of diverse student needs, evolving technology, and demanding

systems, teachers demonstrate remarkable resilience and innovation.

In our fast-paced global world, their role is more crucial than ever.

On this special day, teachers must take pride in their invaluable work and recognize their immense contribution to society.

Your efforts change lives every day and this calls for continuous and unconditional support & motivation from the employer: good salaries & allowances, progression, promotion, further studies, decent accommodation, etc.

To all teachers: thank you for being the unsung heroes & heroines of education. You are true comrades!

Happy Teachers Day! Viva Teachers viva!  
**Cde Justin Hunyepa**  
Educationist  
UDC Tati West Parliamentary Candidate



**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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Plot 28562, Unit F3, Paigrounds Mall,  
Tel: +267 318 7951 / 40. Fax: +267 318 7952  
Postal: P.O. Box 404583, Gaborone, Botswana or  
email to dibeela@thepatriot.co.bw /  
ditiro@thepatriot.co.bw



# Improved telecommunications translate to better access to healthcare information, government services

**KENALEONE FANKIE MOTSAATHEBE**

**I**STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY, DEEPLY honoured, as we celebrate a significant milestone on our path towards digital empowerment and socio-economic development in the Southern District. This collaborative effort between the Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF) and Mascom Wireless, the Southern District Digital Empowerment Project – represents a bold step forward. It bridges the digital divide, ensuring every individual has access to technology's transformative power, fulfilling a key pillar of our National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) and Vision 2036.

**Policy and Project Significance**  
This project goes beyond infrastructure. Delivered through the Universal Access and Service Fund, which is a contributory fund by all telecommunications operators to serve underserved communities, the project creates opportunities, fosters growth, and empowers communities, directly addressing goals outlined in NDP 12, which emphasises leveraging Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for national

development. Vision 2036 further underscores the importance of a knowledge-based economy, where widespread access to technology is crucial. By providing mobile broadband and voice networks to 67 villages in Goodhope Sub-district and 26 villages in Ngwaketse and Moshupa Subdistricts, while connecting 150 government facilities (57 government schools, 46 health facilities and 47 kgotlas to dedicated broadband internet, we guarantee access to the digital world, even in the most remote areas. This aligns with the Universal Service Obligation (USO) policy enshrined in the Telecommunications Act, ensuring all citizens have access to basic telecommunication services.

The services are running on a state-of-the-art 240 kilometres fibre optic network running from Pitsane to Mabule. This significant upgrade marks a new era of connectivity for the Goodhope Sub-District, bringing numerous benefits that surpass those offered by traditional technologies. The benefits include unmatched speed, reliability and enhanced quality of service. Today, we celebrate not just a project's completion, but the dawn of a new era brimming with opportunity and growth for our

communities. The implementation of mobile broadband and voice networks across numerous villages, along with dedicated broadband internet for government schools, health facilities and kgotlas lays the foundation for a more inclusive and connected society, as envisioned by government.

**Impact on Education and the Community**

For our schools, this project is a game-changer. Students in primary, junior, and senior secondary schools will now have access to online educational resources, interactive learning platforms, and the ability to connect with peers and educators worldwide. To date, government has provided over 54 000 devices to learners across the country, and therefore, digital connectivity will enhance the quality of education, provide new learning opportunities, and better prepare our students for the future, directly contributing to the development of a skilled workforce as driven by the SmartBots initiatives.

The project's impact on the community extends far beyond education. Improved telecommunications infrastructure translates to better access to healthcare information, government services, and

business opportunities. It empowers local businesses, particularly women entrepreneurs and farmers, by providing them with the tools and knowledge to leverage digital technologies for growth and efficiency, aligning with the NDP 12's focus on fostering entrepreneurship and diversifying the economy.

**Sustainability and Infrastructure Sharing**

A key aspect of this project is the provision for sharing the subsidised mobile network infrastructure with other licensed service providers. This approach fosters sustainability, maximises resource utilisation, and encourages a competitive environment that benefits consumers through improved services and lower costs, in line with Botswana's Telecommunications Policy as outlined in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This policy encourages competition while safeguarding consumer interests through the Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA).

**Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Commitment**

This project also represents a significant milestone in our journey towards achieving our Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals. By ensuring equitable access to digital technologies, we are fostering social inclusion and economic opportunities for all, particularly for marginalised and rural communities, as emphasised in NDP 12. Additionally, the infrastructure improvements align with our commitment to sustainable development, enabling smarter and more efficient use of resources. Through initiatives like this, we demonstrate our dedication to responsible governance and the longterm well-being of our nation.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mascom Wireless and the UASF for their unwavering commitment to this project. Your efforts are making a tangible difference in the lives of many. We look forward to seeing the continued impact of this initiative.

To our partners, stakeholders, and community members, thank you for your support and participation in making this a reality. Together, we are creating a brighter, more connected future for all, fulfilling the aspirations we have for Botswana!

*\* Speech by Goodhope District Council Chairman at Mascom UASF project handover in Rakhuna village on 28th June 2024*

# Masisi is reckless and irresponsible



Motshegwa

**W**E HAVE NOTED WITH utter disappointment pictures of President Mokgweetsi Masisi drinking chibuku in front of children in some neighbourhood. It is wrong for Masisi - Botswana's Head of State who should be a role model for all to be doing that as he is inspiring the children into alcohol consumption. After drinking a carton of chibuku Masisi was seen driving a vehicle around, promoting drunken driving. This happens at a time when the country he is supposed to lead -Botswana, is grappling with high road traffic accidents caused by drunken driving, resulting in huge loss of lives and serious injuries.

In terms of security and protocol the President should not be driving himself around on public roads. He is exposing himself and everyone around to unnecessary danger. The reason Botswana government has highly trained specialists drivers assigned to drive the President and other VVIPs is to ensure that they can mitigate any threats or danger which may arise using their defensive

driving skills. So, for the President Masisi to make it a habit of driving himself around is reckless and irresponsible. It clearly shows he has nothing important to worry about while the nation is suffering.

If indeed the DISS was telling the truth when they claimed that Masisi's life was in danger, why then is he allowed to continue driving himself around? Some of the privileges that a President loses when he ascends office is driving himself on public roads, that is why even upon retirement he's assigned a driver and security guards to continue that role. At his private residence or farm he can drive himself but not on public roads, this is common practice across the world. It is assumed that the threat to a President goes beyond his retirement.

We urge Masisi to give the Office of the President the respect and decorum it deserves and start behaving like a respectable Statesman.

Yours in justice  
*Ketlhalefile FC Motshegwa  
BNF Secretary General*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR PROPOSED GRAVEL BURROW PIT NEAR LECHENG

As part of EIA study and in fulfillment of Section 7 (2) of the EA Act, notice is hereby given for the intent to undertake environmental impact assessment (EIA) for gravel borrow pit near Lecheng by Tsaone Natash Mokhurutshe.

The proposed project's positive impacts among others are boost to the local economy and job creations.

The project's negative impacts include generation of noise and dust in the area.

The public is therefore invited for public consultation meeting to be held in Lecheng main Kgotala

Date and venue for the intended meeting

Village	Date	Time
Lecheng Main Kgotala	21 May 2024	0900hrs

The purpose of the meeting is to

- present the proposed project to the communities in the area as well as the Interested and Affected parties (IAP)
- to establish their views and concerns regarding the proposed project.

The communities and the IAP are kindly requested to attend the meeting.

Any comments or enquiries regarding the proposed project may be addressed to:

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICER

Contact: 72777575

## KITSISO GO SETSHABA

### TSHEKATSHEKO YA SEEMO SA TIKOLOGO MABAPI LE KEPO YA MMU O O DIRISIWANG MO DIKAGONG GO BAPA LE MOTSE WA LECHENG

Ka maikaelelo a go netefatsa melawana ya tshomarelo tikologo, karolo ya bosupa, karolwana ya bobedi (section 7(2)) sechaba se itsisiwe ka maikaelelo a go epa mmu o o dirisiwang mo dikagong go bapa le motse wa Lecheng ke Mme Tsaone Natash Mokhurutshe.

Tiro e e tla nna le ditlamorago tse di molemo dingwe tsa tsone e le go tlhamiwa ga mmereko le go godisa itsholelo.

Ditlamorago tse di sa eletsegeng tsone di akaretsa modumo o o feteletseng le lerole.

Setshaba se lalediwa phuthego ya morafe e tla tshwarwang ko motseng wa Molalata ka letsatsi le le latelang:

Nako le lefelo la phuthego ya morafe:

Village	Letsatsi	Nako
Kgotlakgolo ya Lecheng	21 Motsheganong 2024	0900hrs

Maikaelelo a phuthego e ke

- Go itsise banni le botlhe ba ba amegang kgotsa ba ba nang le kgatlhego ka ga tiro e le
- Go tsaya maikutlo le matshwenyego mabapi le tiro e e ikaeletseng e. Sechaba le ba ba emegang le kopiwa go tsena phuthego e ka bontsi le ka nako.

Ba ba nang le dipotso kgotsa dikakgelo mabapi le phuthego e ba ka leletsa

MOSEKASEKI WA TIKOLOGO

Mogala ke 72777575

# FARM WORKER

A farm worker is required at Bakwenyana Lands/ Cattle-post in the Southern District.

Send your applications to:

**T. Dibeela**  
P. O. Box 10886  
Kanye  
72925512

**Deadline: July 14, 2024**

## IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF JWANENG HELD AT JWANENG CASE NO.: CCMJW-000214-23

In the matter between

**MOLEFE LEEROY THOMAS DIMA AND JAFTER TUMELO SEATLA**

**PLAINTIFF**

**DEFENDANT**

### NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

**BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT** pursuant to the Judgment granted by the honorable Court the following property of the defendant will be sold by public auction to the highest bidder by Deputy Sheriff Mr. AMRSTRONG TABOKA ZIBOCHWA as follows:

**DATE OF SALE:** 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024  
**TIME:** 1000  
**VENUE:** IN FRONT OF BROADHURST MAGISTRATE COURT

**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:** 1 x Isuzu KB 250 Single Cab (white) Registration: b625 ACL, 1x double bed, 1x single bed, 1 x L shaped sofa, 1x straight sofa, 1 x 52-inch LG TV, 1x fridge, 1x electric stove (4 banner)1 x chest of drawer, 2 x round stools.

**CONDITIONS OF SALE:** Cash or Bank Guaranteed Cheques

**DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2024**

**DEPUTY SHERIFF**  
**ARMSTRONG TABOKA ZIBOCHWA**  
P.O BOX 2653 AAD GABORONE  
PLOT 825 JWANENG  
CELL: +267 72302770/ +267 71699313

## IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF JWANENG HELD AT JWANENG CASE NO.: CCMJW-000194-22

In the matter between

**LETOTA LETS BOGATILE AND JOSEPH MOLAMBANE**

**PLAINTIFF**

**DEFENDANT**

### NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

**BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT** pursuant to the Judgment granted by the honorable Court the following property of the defendant will be sold by public auction to the highest bidder by Deputy Sheriff Mr. AMRSTRONG TABOKA ZIBOCHWA as follows:

**DATE OF SALE:** 07<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024  
**TIME:** 1030  
**VENUE:** IN FRONT OF BROADHURST MAGISTRATE COURT

**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:** 1 x HONDER FIT (WHITE) REG: B 414 BDR, 1 X BMW 318 (BLUE) DOLPHIN SHAPE REG: B 827 ARG

**CONDITIONS OF SALE:** Cash or Bank Guaranteed Cheques

**DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2023**

**DEPUTY SHERIFF**  
**ARMSTRONG TABOKA ZIBOCHWA**  
P.O BOX 2653 AAD GABORONE  
PLOT 825 JWANENG  
CELL: +267 72302770/ +267 71699313

**The Patriot**  
on Sunday

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# Business

## 2023 FULL YEAR SCORECARD

# BTC withstands volatility

... bullish on transformation

- Revenue three percent up to P1.436 billion
- BTC balance sheet strong, worth P3.2 billion
- P1 billion dividend payout since listing in 2016
- BTC transformation paying off, bullish about it

**BAKANG TIRO**  
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**L**ISTED STATE-OWNED Enterprise (SOE)- Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) – has shrugged off tough 2023 economic trading conditions to close the full year ending 31st March 2024 with P1.436 billion revenue compared to P1.400 billion in the previous reporting period.

BTC Managing Director (MD) Anthony Masunga declared on Thursday that the performance reflects that BTC had a good, but it's been a painful exercise during transformation.

Masunga said since BTC listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) it has had to undergo serious exercise of transformation with an intention to create value for the shareholders being government and Batswana.

He revealed that BTC has to date made a total dividend payout to shareholders of P1.035 billion.

"This billion-Pula dividend payout achievement to shareholders required us to be strategic and that is the benefits of transformation



BTC Managing Director (MD) Anthony Masunga declared on Thursday that the performance reflects that BTC had a good, but it's been a painful exercise during transformation

[PIC: PINO KILANO]

journey that we embarked on. We had to do business in a different

way after our listing on the stock exchange. We are striving to be a fully

digital telecoms business," he said. He also said the target is to move BTC

from a traditional telecommunication business to a digitalised

telecommunications company, adding that has been a work under progress citing some of the new digital products and solutions such as fintech, cloud services and target to be an e-commerce business too.

Delving into the economic and trading environment for the year under review, Masunga said the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was stable in terms of growth but said the economy is still faced with a litany of challenges that include high unemployment rate and issues of disposable income.

Commenting on the telecommunication landscape, Masunga said there have been new entrants in the sector and that has brought about competition with the sector being liberalised and healthy for growth.

**THE NUMBERS**

Meanwhile, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Boitumelo Paya said operating profit during the year is P151 million and the Profit Before Tax P200 million while earnings per share is valued at 15 thebe.

She said the revenue increased by three (3) percent from P1.400 billion in 2022 to P1.436 billion in 2023.

This revenue increase was driven by the growth in fixed voice services and strong demand for mobile data services. Paya also said there was a significant growth in the mobile voice business, underpinned by mobile data usage as people get more connected to the voice calls on the WhatsApp messenger.

In addition, Paya said the balance sheet stood at P3.2 billion, anchored mostly by commercial properties.

BTC further noted that the 79% increase in the cost of sales reflects rising spectrum costs and high maintenance expenses for the copper network due to ongoing copper cable theft and vandalism of network equipment. However, it said the continued migration of its customers to fibre and wireless broadband technologies is helping to mitigate the effects of copper theft and strengthen BTC's position in providing high-quality services to the market. "BTC benefitted from reduced administrative expenses (-18%) mainly attributed to the prior year restructuring process. We will continue to optimise our structure to keep the costs in line with our growth trajectory," said BTC.

## First Capital Bank posts impressive 2023 results

- Digital platforms drive growth
- Profit After Tax up 29%
- Strong results amid uncertainty

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**F**MB CAPITAL HOLDINGS PLC (FMBCH) Group –the Mauritius-based holding company for First Capital Bank subsidiaries in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe has released its full year performance which highlights an overall strong performance for the year ended 31 December 2023.

FMBCH recorded a profit after tax of USD 78.7 million which is a 29% increase from 2022. The Group's total operating income grew by 31% to USD 251.3 million, customer loan advances increased by 10% to USD 716.4 million and the credit loss ratio was 1.9% compared to the 0.7% in 2022. The bank's expected credit losses were among the lowest in the region at 3.2% compared to the 2.7% in 2022 of the USD 736.2 million gross advances portfolio. Further accounting for the operational highlights, customer deposits went up by 5%, exceeding USD 1.09 billion.

The bank underscored that the positive results for the year ended 31 December 2023 came against a backdrop of a myriad of economic challenges in Southern Africa. This included fluctuating commodity prices and global geopolitical tensions without exhausting the list.



Jaco Viljoen, FMBCH Group Managing Director

Additionally, the Group made strides towards sustainability and profitable returns anchored by its strategy which hinges upon the ethos, "Growth is our Business." Consequently, the group reported that it capitalized on opportunities in corporate, commercial and retail sectors.

"Our performance reflects the dedication and skill of our people, who have been instrumental in executing our strategy," said Jaco Viljoen,

FMBCH Group Managing Director. "We are committed to fostering a culture of service excellence, ensuring that we not only achieve our growth targets but also strengthen our market position and brand equity."

A statement from the bank indicated that all the five (5) FMBCH subsidiaries excelled in their respective markets. For Botswana, the highest return on equity was achieved through diversified ventures, Malawi showed resilience

across sectors albeit significant currency devaluation, Mozambique leveraged opportunities in the energy and natural resources centre, Zambia managed fiscal and liquidity challenges while Zimbabwe achieved stability and strategic growth amidst hyperinflation and regulatory reforms, stated the bank.

Investments in digital banking platforms, internet and mobile banking have led to massive growth in First Capital Bank's balance sheet, the bank announced Wednesday. In the recently released financial results, the bank said digital innovation coupled with a focus on consumer lending and relationship banking instigated growth.

"Despite a strong USD, the FMBCH Group saw a 5% year-on-year increase in deposits and other liquidity sources. Customer loans and advances rose by 10%, and income-yielding financial instruments grew by 5%" stated the bank.

Furthermore, the Group highlighted it achieved a 25% year-on-year increase in net interest income, maintaining a net interest margin of 15% across average advances, money market instruments, and other financial assets, enhanced transactional, trade, and foreign exchange treasury services drove a 39% increase in non-funded income to USD 115 million, contributing to 46% of the Group's operating income, which rose to USD

251 million and operating expenses increased by 28% to USD 123 million, resulting in a cost-income ratio of 49% (2022: 50%).

In addition, the cost of credit risk increased to 1.9% from 0.7%, a favourable metric relative to industry standards, these comprehensive efforts resulted in a 29% increase in post-tax consolidated profit to USD 78.7 million, earnings per share rose to 2.14 US cents, a 31% increase from 2022, reported First Capital Bank.

The results indicate that the Group remains well-capitalized across its five geographies. According to the company, this is bolstered by strong capital and liquidity risk management frameworks deployed thereto.

"Effective risk management and disciplined capital allocation have been crucial to our financial performance. Our strategic approach to liquidity and performance management has enabled us to achieve impressive profitability metrics while maintaining a strong balance sheet," said the Mythri Sambasivan-George, FMBCH Group Chief Finance Officer (CFO).

Lastly, according to the results, the Board declared a final dividend of USD 10,625,148 (0.43 US cents per share) for the same financial year. The total dividend for 2023 is USD 15,787,473 (0.64 US cents per share), a 32% increase over the previous year's dividend.

## Inflation slows down

- May inflation down to 3.0%, within BoB's 3-6% objective range

**BAKANG TIRO**  
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**B**OTSWANA INFLATION COOLED further in May, registering a decline of 0.1 of a percentage point from the April 2024 rate of 3.1 percent, driven by the easing of prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages prices.

According to Statistics Botswana (SB) Consumer Price Index (CPI) May report, Miscellaneous Goods and Services accounted for the most significant share, contributing 0.8 of a percentage point, followed by transport at 0.7 of a percentage point, and food and non-alcoholic beverages at 0.6 of a percentage point.

Statistics Botswana said the cities and towns inflation rate decreased by 0.2 of a percentage point, from 3.2 percent in April to 3.0 percent in May.

"Similarly, the Urban Villages saw a decline of 0.1 of a percentage point in the inflation rate, from 3.0 percent in April to 2.9 percent in May. In contrast, the Rural Villages inflation rate remained unchanged at 3.2 percent in May 2024, aligning with the April rate," said Statistics Botswana.

In addition, it said the Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco group index rose by 1.2 percent, from 134.8 in April 2024 to 136.4 in May 2024, buttressing further that increase was attributable to the rise in the constituent section index of Alcoholic Beverages (1.4 percent) and Tobacco (0.2 percent).

Moreover, the transport group index registered an increase of 0.6 percent, from 153.4 in April to 154.4 in May 2024 and SB noted that the increase was largely due to a rise in the constituent section index of Purchase of Vehicles (2.4 percent).

"The Domestic Tradeables inflation rate registered a drop of 0.3 of a percentage point, from 3.7 percent in April to 3.4 percent in May 2024. SB said the Imported tradeables inflation rate went down by 0.1 of a percentage point, from 3.3 percent in April to 3.2 percent in May 2024," Statistics Botswana underscored in its CPI report.

**CENTRAL BANK**

Governor of Bank of Botswana (BoB) Cornelius Dekop noted in the bank's 2023 annual report that 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 reduction in fuel prices); subdued domestic demand; declining trading partner countries' inflation, while the economy operated below potential.

Dekop 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.

BoB forecasts that inflation for the better of this year will be within the bank's 3-6 percent objective range.



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# Debswana 55 years: More than Diamond mining

**W**HILE THIS MAY BE AN OLD story, it is one worth being told over and over again. In 1969, just three years shy of our Independence, the Debswana Diamond Company Limited was formed, sparked by the discovery of hidden gems. This discovery was the catalyst of growth and prosperity in Botswana for over fifty decades.

The name “Debswana” brought together the partnership between De Beers and Botswana and symbolised the union of global innovation. This partnership has been pivotal in developing essential infrastructure, employment opportunities, education opportunities, healthcare services and so much more.

Debswana’s four diamond mines — Jwaneng, Orapa, Lethakane, and Damtshaa — along with our Corporate Centre in Gaborone, stand as testaments not only to the company’s growth and vision but what happens when we as Botswana truly come together with the aim of ensuring that we all benefit from the value of the infinite gems that lie beneath our earth. Over the years, our purpose has gone beyond diamond mining into making life brilliant through our contribution to the communities in which we operate. Our collaboration with community leaders, local authorities and every member of society have shaped Debswana into an entity dedicated to serving the people of Botswana.

It is due to the collective efforts of all Botswana that we have grown to become one of the world’s leading diamond producers. The company is currently the largest contributor to De Beers Group’s rough diamond production and significantly impacts Botswana’s GDP, foreign exchange

and export earnings, and government revenue. Debswana is Botswana’s largest private sector employer with close to 12,000 employees and contractor employees. The company has also stimulated job creation through the Debswana Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP). The CEEP Programme is working towards having created and supported 20,000 jobs in Botswana by the end of 2024. The Company’s Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme has and continues to improve the livelihoods of Botswana. Since Inception Debswana CSI has invested P100million towards philanthropic initiatives country wide.

Debswana continues to adopt advanced technologies to enhance mining efficiency and sustainability. These techniques include, among others, airborne magnetics, electromagnetics, and ground-penetrating radars that have improved the accuracy of locating potential mining sites. These technological advancements are implemented with a focus on minimizing environmental impact and ensuring the safety and well-being of all staff.

Debswana’s comprehensive healthcare services to our employees and their families has benefitted surrounding communities. The Jwaneng Mine Hospital and the Orapa Mine hospital offer advanced medical care and serves both employees the communities in which we operate.

The strategic partnership between the Botswana Government and De Beers has enabled sustainable development of the diamond industry, ensuring that the wealth generated benefits the entire nation. Debswana’s success story



Debswana Jwaneng mines

highlights the potential of public-private partnerships in driving economic growth and development,

underscoring our role as more than just a diamond mining company. In recent years, Debswana has focused on diversification and value addition, including initiatives for cutting and polishing diamonds

within Botswana. Investments in other sectors aim to reduce economic dependence on diamond mining. The company also emphasizes environmental conservation and community

engagement, ensuring that our activities contribute positively to Botswana’s development. Debswana remains committed to innovation and discovery, with ongoing exploration activities and

continuous efforts to locate new diamond deposits. Sustainable mining practices and investments in technology have enhanced diamond recovery and extended the lifespan of our mines.

## Know Your Corporate Leader

**Full Name:** Moitshepi Matsheng

**Position:** Co-founder, Managing Director

**Institution:** Youth Impact

**Date Started:** March 2014

**Nature of business:** Youth Impact is a grassroots, youth-led, evidence-based NGO based in Botswana and with partnerships in over 10 countries



## De Beers sells \$315m worth of diamonds in latest sale

The northern summer is generally a quieter period for rough diamond sales, says CEO Al Cook



**D**E BEERS SOLD ROUGH diamonds valued at \$315m at its fifth sales cycle of the year, Anglo American said on Wednesday.

This was lower than the \$383m worth of diamonds at the fourth sales cycle and the \$456m sold at Cycle 5 sales in 2023.

“The northern summer is generally a quieter period for rough diamond sales, and this was reflected in our cycle 5 sales,” De Beers CEO Al Cook said.

“The recent annual JCK jewellery show in Las Vegas confirmed a resurgence in retailers’ interest in natural diamonds in the US but ongoing economic growth challenges in China mean we continue to expect a protracted U-shaped recovery in demand,” Cook said.

Business Day reported earlier in June that De Beers and the diamond industry are only just emerging from a horror year in which demand for diamonds tanked in an environment where huge inventories had built up as consumers held back on luxury spending in tough times. Late in 2023, De Beers took the unprecedented step of allowing its large buyers — the so-called sightholders — not to take up their allocations at all, as they are usually required to do at each sight. The plunge in diamond prices was one of the reasons for Anglo’s profit decline for financial 2023, as well as one of the factors driving the Anglo share price to levels that made it a prime candidate for a takeover bid.

BHP said in its recent proposal for Anglo that it would put De Beers under strategic review. But Anglo

went all the way in its far-reaching mid-May restructuring plan, promising to sell or unbundle De Beers to simplify its portfolio and unlock value.

Anglo has promised that the restructuring will be substantially complete by end-2025. But the De Beers piece of the plan could take the longest. Analysts have pointed to the risks of selling, unbundling, or even simply listing the diamond group at such a bad time in the diamond cycle. There are big question marks too over whether this is a cyclical downturn, or a more structural one, as hi-tech synthetic diamonds gain ever more favour in the jewellery market.

De Beers, which is 85% held by Anglo and the rest by the Botswana government, has promised to revamp its strategy. [businesslive.co.za]

## EU adds key exemptions to Russian diamond sanctions

JOSHUA FREEDMAN

**T**HE EUROPEAN UNION HAS extended the “sunrise period” for sanctions on Russian diamonds by six months and added an important concession for goods that predate the rules.

The traceability program for imports of rough and polished natural diamonds will become mandatory on March 1, 2025, and not on September 1, 2024, the EU said in a statement Monday.

This follows calls by De Beers and other industry figures to extend the interim period, during which importers may use other documentation to show that diamonds are not Russian.

Once that period is over, importers into the EU must use a traceability-based certification scheme to verify imports of diamonds over 0.50 carats.

The EU has also added a “grandfathering” clause to exempt diamonds that were located in the EU or a third country other than Russia — or were manufactured in a third country — before the rules went into effect. The EU ban on



direct imports of diamonds from Russia began on January 1, 2024, while the ban on goods transformed outside Russia started on March 1.

Reuters reported last month that this concession was under consideration.

“We are extremely pleased that, after months of intense negotiations, we have succeeded in pushing the needle to allow regularization of so-called ‘grandfathered stock,’” the Antwerp World Diamond Centre

(AWDC) said. “Sanctioning these goods and prohibiting their trade would impose an unfair and severe financial burden on diamond companies without significantly impacting Russia’s revenues.”

Furthermore, temporary imports or exports of jewelry, for example for trade fairs or repairs, will not fall under the ban. In addition, the EU has delayed the prohibition on jewelry incorporating Russian diamonds processed in third

countries until the European Council, the EU’s executive arm, “decides to activate” it, the EU statement said.

The EU said the update — part of its 14th package of sanctions on Russia since the Ukraine war began — “fine-tunes” the import ban on Russian diamonds, which it initially implemented in its 12th package.

Earlier this month, De Beers called for a one-year extension to the sunrise period for the Group of Seven (G7) sanctions on Russian diamonds. It is up to individual G7 members — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US, as well as the EU — to impose any rules. The EU is an important element because it contains Belgium, which is historically the number-one destination for rough diamonds from Russian miner Alrosa.

The US currently requires self-certification for diamonds of 1 carat or lower, falling to 0.50 carats on September 1. A recent jewelry-industry delegation to Washington, DC, called for a “grandfathering” clause similar to the EU’s. [rapaport.com]

## Bomaid, Sidilega strengthen partnership

**F**OLLOWING RECENT developments, Bomaid and Sidilega Private Hospital continue to have constructive engagements such as the meeting held today to further solidify their commitment to providing the best healthcare services to their customers. The meeting included Bomaid’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Moraki Mokgosana, and Sidilega Private Hospital’s Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Suresh Menon, along with Finance, Clinical, Customer Experience, and Corporate Communications teams from both organizations.

The meeting aimed to review and update both entities on the current status of their continued collaboration, ahead of their regular operational meeting scheduled for this Friday.

These engagements are part of an ongoing effort to ensure seamless service delivery and address any issues promptly, as both entities act in the best interest of customers.

Moraki Mokgosana of Bomaid remarked, “we are pleased with the progress in ensuring there are no



Bomaid and Sidilega Private Hospital executives

service disruptions in providing care to our valued customers. Our primary focus remains on the well-being, seamless access to care and satisfaction of our customers.

We are committed to working closely with Sidilega Private Hospital to ensure that our members receive the highest quality of care.”

Dr. Suresh Menon of Sidilega Private Hospital added, “Our dialogue with Bomaid has been very encouraging. Both teams are dedicated to enhancing the patient experience and ensuring that our services are accessible and efficient. We look forward to continued collaboration and bringing more

stakeholders into these discussions.”

Both Bomaid and Sidilega Hospital are dedicated to maintaining transparent communication and working together in the best interest of their customers.

Additional updates and engagements with other stakeholders will be announced as they develop.



# Orange Digital Centre demonstrates commitment to employability

The Orange Digital Center partnered with Botho University to host the recent Employability Fair at the University, which drew over 260 students and recent graduates. This event marked a significant return to an in-person format, creating a quintessential example of ODC and Botho's proactive approach to providing a vibrant atmosphere of learning, opportunities and networking

**O**RANGE DIGITAL CENTRE IS KNOWN for its four strategic programmes—the Coding School, the FabLab Solidaire, Orange Fab, and Orange Digital Ventures Africa. These programs offer a network of free and inclusive resources designed to support local start-ups and digital technology projects. The Center's partnership with Botho University was crucial, reflecting the duo's broader mission to empower communities and foster digital innovation across the Middle East and Africa.

At the fair, Orange Botswana dedicated presence in the Mentors' Lounge provided invaluable career guidance through interactive "Speed Dating" mentorship sessions. Industry leaders from Orange engaged with eager students, offering insights and advice to help them navigate their career paths. This hands-on approach underscored Orange's commitment to nurturing the next generation of professionals.

Another major highlight of the fair was the One-on-One CV sessions where HR experts provided personalized feedback to students, offering practical tips to enhance their CVs and improve their chances of securing their desired roles. On the spot interviews were held by various companies at the fair. Goal setting exercises were conducted according to the participants professional and personal lifestyles well as strategies on committing and completing these set goals.

The fair had a turnout of over 30 companies from Information,

Communications and Technology, Banking, Health and Hospitality sectors as well as civil society agencies. The event was successful as government entities such as the Ministry of Youth Gender Sports and Culture, and Employment Services were present, registering the graduates in their employment database.

Attendees had the chance to engage directly with company representatives, explore various career paths, internships, graduate programs and discover innovative work-integrated learning opportunities.

Orange Botswana Human Resources Director, Ms. Modiri Nlanda highlighted their commitment, stating, "We are thrilled to be part of this initiative. At Orange, we believe in empowering the next generation with the skills and guidance they need to succeed. This fair is an excellent platform for us to connect with young talents and support their professional growth."

Orange Digital Center Manager, Ms. Ann Moatshe expressed the partnership as being innovative and imperative to achieving the mutual goal of seeing Botswana employed and becoming successful entrepreneurs. She then further encouraged for attendees to leverage the opportunity given to them by polishing up their CV's and following up on job leads. This year's Employability Fair was more than just an event; it was a dynamic platform connecting top talent with potential employers. It created a unique space for youth development agencies to engage with innovative and motivated candidates, fostering an environment of growth and learning.



Orange Botswana Human Resources Director, Modiri Nlanda



The fair had a turnout of over 30 companies from Information, Communications and Technology, Banking, Health and Hospitality sectors

## Fintech Association Botswana receives grant for Botswana Scam Radar



Tavonga Muchuchuti, President at Fintech Association Botswana

**T**HE FINTECH ASSOCIATION Botswana is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the Alliance of Digital Finance and Fintech Associations (AllianceDFA) to develop and launch Botswana Scam Radar. This platform is dedicated to identifying, reporting, and preventing scams in Botswana's digital finance market. The grant has been countersigned and is now officially in effect, marking a significant milestone in our mission to enhance digital security and protect consumers from fraudulent activities.

Botswana Scam Radar aims to create a centralized resource for scam identification and reporting. This platform will empower users to verify the legitimacy of businesses and individuals, report suspected scams, and access educational resources on scam prevention. Our long-term goals include achieving a significant reduction in scam incidents, fostering a safer digital financial environment, and restoring public trust in Botswana's digital finance ecosystem. Over the next five years, we aim to see a sustained reduction in scam incidents by at least 30%, engage tens of thousands of users, and establish Botswana Scam Radar as the go-to resource for digital finance security in the region. By continuously updating the platform with the latest information and tools, we strive to maintain its relevance and effectiveness in combating scams.

### Development and Implementation

With the support of this grant, the Fintech Association Botswana will lead the development and implementation of Botswana Scam Radar. Our team together brings extensive experience in managing the development of large-scale systems across Africa therefore this will ensure that the platform is robust, secure, and user-friendly. We will focus on building strategic partnerships with key financial regulators, industry players, and cloud service providers to enhance the platform's capabilities and reach.

### Next Steps

Moving forward, we will begin the development phase and work towards launching the platform within the next 6 months. Regular updates will be provided to keep the community informed about our progress and upcoming milestones. Our immediate next steps include finalizing the platform design, initiating development, and preparing for a comprehensive marketing and outreach campaign to ensure widespread awareness and adoption.

"We are incredibly honored to receive this grant and are eager to launch Botswana Scam Radar to make a significant impact on digital security in Botswana," said Tavonga Muchuchuti, President at Fintech Association Botswana and Project Director for this initiative. "This platform will be a game-changer in combating scams and protecting consumers."



# Mozambique's Royal to sell seized perishable ETG assets



Reference: BE 3/8/7

Date: 02/07/2024

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

FOR

## REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER/ ADVISOR FOR LAND ASSETS

### 1. Introduction

**BUAN Enterprises (PTY) Ltd (BE)** is seeking a qualified and experienced Real Estate Development Manager/Advisor company to facilitate the development of various land assets within the Company's property portfolio. We invite expressions of interest (EOI) from consultancy companies with proven expertise in large-scale investment and land development. The successful candidate will play a key role in overseeing and advising on various real estate development projects within the property portfolio.

### 2. Eligibility Criteria

Interested consultancy companies must demonstrate:

- **Strong Market Intelligence:** The ability to provide comprehensive research and insightful analysis of the real estate market, including trends, opportunities, and risks.
- **Proven Track Record:** A solid history of successfully facilitating large-scale investment and land development projects. Evidence of past projects and outcomes must be provided.
- **Record of transactions Broking:** a strong background in broking large scale transactions.
- **Registered Real Estate Consultancy:** The company must be officially registered and affiliated in Botswana as a real estate consultancy firm in Botswana and also have international affiliations such as Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) or equivalent.
- **Risk Management:** the company must be risk averse and have Professional Indemnity (PI) insurance above P50 Million.
- **Financial Management:** excellent financial management and analytical skills.
- **Project Management:** Demonstrated ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously.

To request the EOI document, please contact **Procurement Officer** at [lbadirang@buanenterprises.co.bw](mailto:lbadirang@buanenterprises.co.bw) or [kmoroanare@buanenterprises.co.bw](mailto:kmoroanare@buanenterprises.co.bw), on or before **30<sup>th</sup> July 2024**, Middy.

Private Bag 0027  
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- Sale authorised due to risk of deterioration of seized perishable agricultural commodities
- In December 2023, Court had ordered Royal to seize ETG assets as security, pending outcome of main case

**T**HE ROYAL GROUP HAS BEEN granted the right to sell seized ETG assets (agricultural commodities) which an earlier court ordered it to seize as an economic bond for the USD60m losses and damages caused by ETG to Royal Group. This order was made pending the outcome of the main case. Ahead of the sale of the seized assets, Royal has been ordered to provide an immediate guarantee of USD39m to the court, which it has done.

This amount includes an approximate USD32m for the value at cost of security, plus a 20% margin for potential changes in market pricing.

The Judicial Court of Nacala-Porto authorised the sale of ETG's seized assets to avoid the deterioration of the agricultural commodities, and the consequent irreversible loss of asset guarantees.

ETG's international shareholders include Japan's Mitsui, the South African Public Investment Corporation (PIC), and Saudi Arabia's Sabc chemicals company.

Hassnein Taki, CEO of the Royal Group says: "This is a fair, albeit onerous decision by the courts. While it protects the rights of both Royal and ETG, it is not easy to secure such a large guarantee, given that Royal has already suffered severe financial losses due to the actions of ETG. This decision is of course an interim measure; what both companies need is a decision in the main case as soon as possible."

Background to dispute between Royal Group and ETG

Taki says: "In an effort to claw back its dominance in the Mozambican agricultural export market, ETG has waged a two-year campaign to discredit and undermine Royal Group's export operation and reputation. Prior to Royal's entry into the commodities export market in 2016, ETG had controlled approximately 90% of all agricultural (cereals, legumes, oilseeds) exports from Mozambique."

The dispute between ETG and Royal Group began in 2022, when, according to the statement of claim that Royal submitted to Mozambican courts, ETG sent an anonymous tipoff to the Indian authorities, saying that Royal Group was shipping Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) soya beans to India. The shipment was in fact non-GMO, and Royal Group, during a subsequent court case against ETG in Mozambique, established that ETG was the anonymous party that tipped off the Indian authorities. This claim is still pending before Mozambican courts.

As India does not allow the import of GMO agricultural products, Royal Group's shipment was seized, at a huge cost to the Royal Group, not only in lost business, but also because it had to pay for the time and business that the shipping company had lost, and the costs of keeping the seized ship in India for many months. Royal Group's reputation as a trade partner with India also took a severe knock.

Indian phytosanitary authorities put the soya beans through rigorous laboratory testing, and concluded that the soya beans that Royal Group had imported to India were, in fact non-GMO. The Indian courts ruled in Royal Group's favour, and the shipment was released.

Royal Group, who could not sustain its business without regaining the significant losses it incurred due to ETG's actions, approached the courts in Mozambique. The court ordered Royal Group to seize ETG products and assets worth USD60 million, equal to the losses the small Mozambican company had suffered, however, in effecting the seizure, agricultural products worth only

USD30 million were found.

Royal Group has stored the seized ETG product (agricultural commodities) in its warehouses in Mozambique since December 2023.

In January this year, ETG approached the courts, accusing Royal Group of 'stealing' its seized agricultural commodities, and attempting to sell and ship them to India. Through the courts, ETG demanded that the containers belonging to Royal Group be searched.

In its accusations to the Maritime Court, ETG used falsified documents allegedly written by the maritime navigation agency, CMA. However, the CMA went to court to deny the authorship and authenticity of the documents, stating that they are false.

Nevertheless, ETG was successful in preventing the ship (MV UBENA, belonging to global container shipping company CMA CGM Group) carrying Royal Group containers from leaving the port. The port was also closed for all commercial activity. This action caused both Royal Group and the local economy further financial hardship.

ETG, in the presence of port authorities and Royal representatives, inspected 15 out of the 250 Royal Group containers and none were found to contain any of ETG's seized cargo. ETG then asked to inspect a further 20 containers, which yielded the same result. The product that Royal Group was shipping was soya and mung beans, and not ETG's agricultural commodities.

Despite the courts in India and Mozambique having ruled in Royal Group's favour, ETG, still unsatisfied, submitted a motion of suspicion to declare the judge who ordered the seizure of ETG's product in December 2023 disqualified, alleging that he favoured Royal Group.

According to Mozambican law, a party not agreeing with a promotion of the District Attorney, in this case ETG, may request the intervention of the Attorney General of the Republic.

Instead of submitting its request to the Attorney General, as is regular, ETG filed it with the Deputy Attorney General, who ordered the case archived, effectively annulling all acts carried out by the main prosecutor on the case. It's important to note that under Mozambican criminal procedural law, the decision to dismiss a case does not constitute a final decision that closes the case since, and according to the same law, there is still room to request the intervention of higher hierarchical authorities who can uphold or overturn the decision to dismiss the case.

In response to this unusual move by ETG, Royal Group approached the Deputy Attorney General's superior, the Attorney General of the Republic, requesting intervention to repair the deficiencies evident in the Deputy Attorney General's archiving order.

Most recently, ETG warned the Mozambican government that it intends to seek international arbitration to settle the dispute it started with Royal Group.

Taki says: "This threat was premature and irregular, and is a clear attempt by ETG to circumvent the courts and justice system in Mozambique. These are classic bully tactics. Instead of waiting for the courts to finalise the matter between ETG and Royal Group, ETG chose to deploy the familiar and much-abused narrative that all African countries are lawless and corrupt. It's essentially saying: ignore the Mozambican courts and ignore due process. ETG's actions show nothing but contempt, and a total lack of respect for the country and her people," he says.



# BOTEPKO'S REGISTRAR'S 2024 TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATIONS MESSAGE



It is with great pleasure that the Botswana Teaching Professional's Council joins the teaching fraternity in celebrating *THE MOTHER OF ALL PROFESSIONS*, on this 2024 Teachers Day.

The theme of this year's celebrations is, *"Positive Teacher Mindset; Key to a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner"*. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner is one who holds 'new' 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that are strongly connected to digital technology, digital communication and we can competently tag 'the digital native'. According to Kate Hirschmana and Bronwyn E. Wood in their article *21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners: Changing Conceptions of Knowledge, Learning and the Child*, the "21<sup>st</sup> century learner has become in many ways a catch cry for the changes that some say are needed in schools to meet the demands of a rapidly changing globalized and digital society. Such changes require new ways of learning, new skills, new approaches to knowledge and new pedagogies".

The applicable Theme projects the teacher to the centre stage of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner, as having the utmost influence on learners' cognitive, affective, social and behavioural outcomes. This is primarily because teachers radiate positive impacts on learner achievement and success.

Notwithstanding, the Teacher must keep pace with the 'Digital Natives', which is in line with the path championed by His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA's through his 'mindset change' Agenda. To the teaching cadre, mindset change is the hallmark of transformation of the profession to enable teachers to unlock the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner's potential which in turn would influence the quality of life for all at both national and global perspective.

At classroom level, mindset change entails adherence to the highest standards of teaching and professional conduct as well as constantly seeking ways to improve one's ability to deliver instructional design and objectives for improved educational outcomes.

In its quest to facilitate professionalization of teaching, Botswana Teaching Professional's Council remains steadfast in pursuing digital transformation and innovation and shall engage with all key stakeholders in facilitating teachers in the uptake of technology as part of their development for them to keep pace with the Digital Native student.

Allow me to wish all the Teachers the best in their everyday duties as we celebrate the noble profession and acknowledge their steadfast contribution to the socio-economic polity of our beloved Country.

**DR. RAPHAEL DINGALO**  
REGISTRAR  
BOTSWANA TEACHING PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL

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 **BOTEPKO**  
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# lifestyle

## He's not ready premieres

NANCY RAMOKHUA  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**B**YOND THE EYES NETWORK presents 'he's not ready', a romantic comedy that will premier on the 5th July 2024 in new capitol cinemas in Gaborone. Directed by a talented Motswana Tebogo Mogale, the film explores the humorous and heartfelt journey of a man facing an ultimate relationship ultimatum.

Giving a brief synopsis of the comedy, the production's media relations personnel Hlengiwe Khumalo explained that in the comedy, risk analyst Thabo Mafokoane finds himself at crossroads when his long-time girlfriend Zonke demands marriage or a breakup.

Determined to find his path, Thabo embarks on a soul-searching journey, navigating advice from family and friends while confronting his own fears and desires.

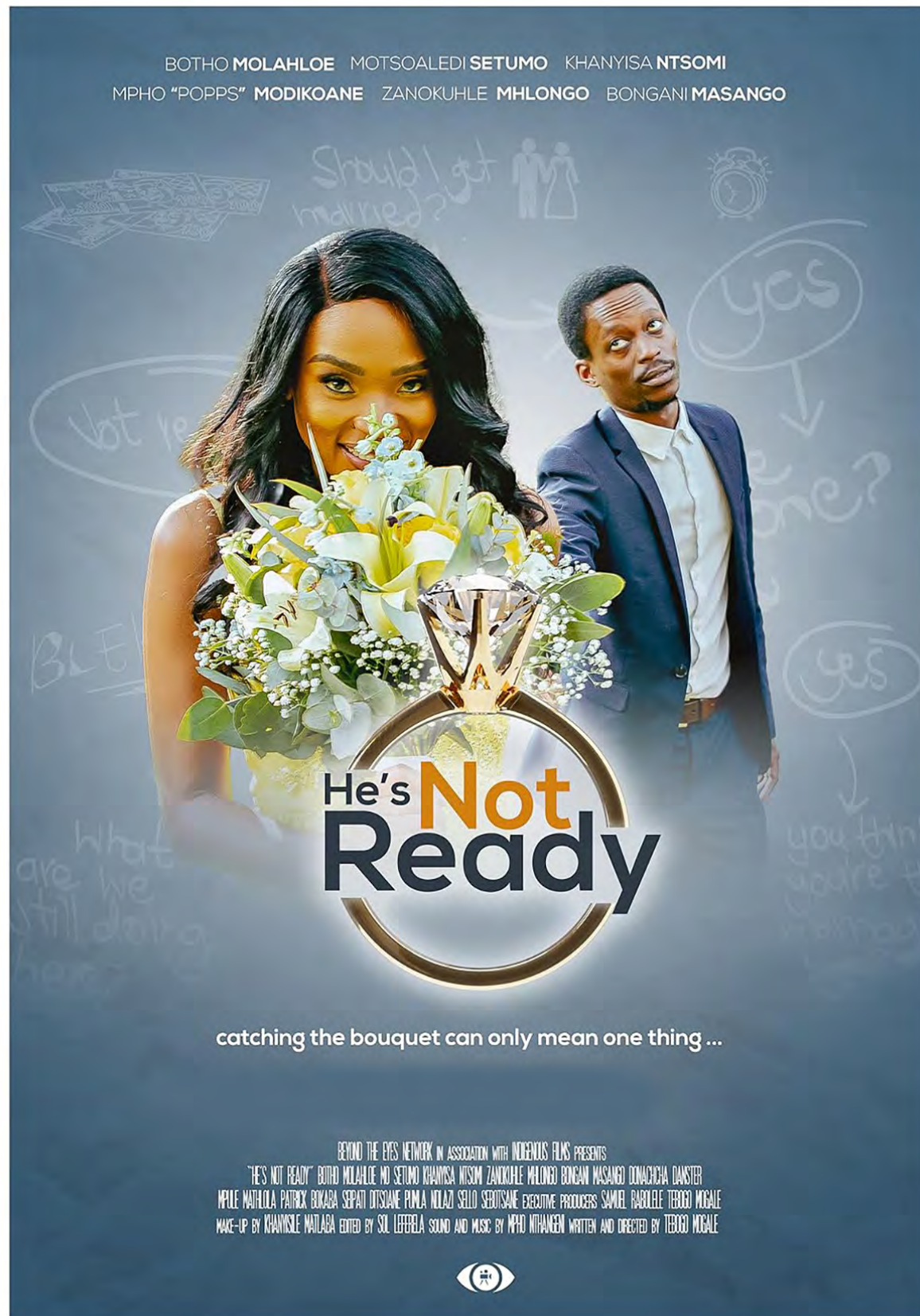
As he faces the challenge of becoming marriage fit, Thabo's quest is filled with laughter, love, and poignant moments, culminating in a profound realization about readiness and commitment.

"Beyond the Eyes is a production company which produced this movie and is owned by Tebogo Mogale. Shot in South African and premiered there on June 28 this year, we'll be having our next premieres in Botswana, Zambia and Namibia respectively", Khumalo shared.

As shared by the comedy producer Mogale, the inspiration of the film came from experiences derived from conversations held with friends who are in long term love relations.

"I was inspired by the conversations which surround young black men who often hesitate about marriage. It is basically a story I felt the need to be told for the benefit of both men and women as a lot of us can fairly relate."

As further indicated by Mogale, the film addresses the question 'How do I know if I am ready to get married?'. "The primary target group is men and women aged



24 – 45 as this is a group of people in relationships or looking to get into relationships that will potentially lead to marriage. In addition, it also

speaks to those who don't believe in the institution or social construct of marriage," Mogale stated. The 110 minutes long comedy

features Setswana and English as interchanged languages within the story. He's not ready will be available for viewing in cinemas.

## Social Change Ambassadors launched

Miss Botswana 2024, Top 10 finalists appointed Ambassadors for Social Change

**M**ISS BOTSWANA 2022 IS delighted to announce a groundbreaking collaboration between the Miss Botswana organization and Bwminsetchange Initiative. The top 10 finalists of Miss Botswana 2024 have been appointed as Ambassadors of Social Change, a new initiative under the Office of the President's Mindset Change Initiative.

Today, they officially launched the Social Change Ambassadors program with a press conference and inauguration workshop. The finalists will play a pivotal role in advancing their 'beauty with a purpose' projects in their respective home villages, nationwide. This will be supported by comprehensive training sessions on leadership, innovative thinking as well as collaborative efforts to ensure that their beauty with a purpose project are impactful and sustainable in their communities.



Miss Botswana 2024, Anicia Gaothusi

## Thapelo Malani debuts in Kenya

One of Botswana's funniest from Maitengwe, Thapelo Malani has made a mark in the

Botswana comedy industry since his first time at the 4th Annual Heavyweights International Comedy Festival. The visually impaired Malani is definitely one of the most fearlessly funny comics working today, raging on the absurd, ridiculous and his life as a blind young man. He is one of the most active young comedians in the country comedy circuit and a well-travelled comedian having performed in Lesotho (Maseru), Namibia (Windhoek), South Africa (Bloemfontein, Mafikeng, Pretoria, and Johannesburg), Uganda (Soroti), Zimbabwe (Bulawayo), and headlined shows in Zambia (Lusaka).

Following his superb performance at #NotSoDryComedyTour at Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino, Malani will be back on the road from Saturday the 29th of June in Gqeberha, South Africa for the



Thapelo Malani

99% Xhosa Comedy, after which he will proceed to Johannesburg the following day for the Bioscope Sundays Comedy event. A week later he will head to Kenya for the Punchline Comedy Club Invasion in Nairobi on Saturday 6th of July. He will be part of the amusing and funny lineups alongside award-winning comedians.

In Gqeberha, Malani will share the stage with top South African comedians such as David Kau, Ndumiso Lindi and Khanyisa Bunu including Nigerian comedian Angel Gabriel. 99% Xhosa Comedy is one South Africa's most popular vernacular stand-up comedy shows with an exciting line-up of professional and respected stand-up comedians. The show will for the first time include some of the best African

Comedians that includes Malani, alongside some of the best Eastern Cape and national comedians.

For his debut in Kenya, Malani will be showcasing his prowess alongside some of the best comedians from across Africa, including those from Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Asked about his upcoming trip, Malani quipped "I am so excited to be travelling to East Africa again after my well received performance in Uganda. I am equally amped for my debut in Gqeberha and my return to Bioscope Sundays. I am really looking forward to sharing the stage with all the talented comedians on my travels. The world is ripe for Botswana comedy and I am ready to fly the flag high".

## Seneo Perry for Miss Face of Beauty International

**A**FTER A SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF making strides in New Zealand, Seneo Perry who is no stranger in the pageantry scene will now be representing the country at the Miss Face of Beauty International. The much-anticipated event is slated for September 2024 in Taiwan. The beauty tourism Queen has expressed excitement for the upcoming Miss Face of Beauty pageantry.

"I am very much honored and excited that I have been selected as a delegate to represent my country once again in pageantry. It was one of my goals to incorporate pageantry this year as I felt this burning urge inside of me. I hadn't known whether it would be Miss Universe Botswana or it would be a different one. Grateful for this opportunity nonetheless as I'll use it as a strategic platform to echo my passion of environmental conservation," she explained.

"I am really looking forward to meeting all the other beautiful women that will be representing their countries and learning from them as well as embracing the moment to be there promoting tourism as a

product to the world."

While it can be a hurdle to secure a wardrobe sponsorship, she is however willing to partner with local designers especially for the national costume.

Even so, her wardrobe will be entailing evening gowns mostly and formal wear for the symposiums and other conferences and interviews that she would be attending with the other contestants.

"At the moment I don't have any sponsors and would be open to strategic sponsors. I will be attempting to send proposals to a few organizations. I have approached the consulate of Botswana in Australia and they have referred me to MYSC, and to the National Arts Council," she said.

Asked about how she intends to use beauty tourism Ambassadorship to bring the crown home she said,

"Having won Best Youth In Tourism Award 2023 while being away in New Zealand and being sponsored by Dr George Mason to be doing my masters in Hotel Management, I will use my knowledge and passion to facilitate in the Presidents campaign of MindSet



Seneo Perry



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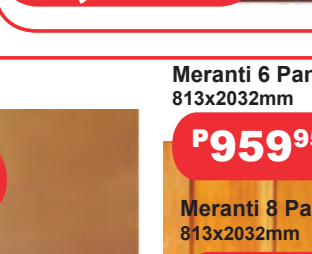
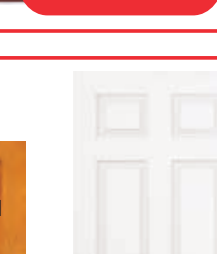
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# Sport

## Palapye marathon coming



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**T**HE SIXTH EDITION OF PALAPYE marathon slated for 10th August 2024 is set to raise awareness to the masses on healthy living as a way of combating obesity. Themed "Race against obesity", the marathon commits to dedicating the 6th edition race to mobilizing everyone to take action to improve the nations understanding on the prevention and treatment of obesity.

As shared by the race director Moagi Rahube, the background of the marathon theme for this year is motivated by the global nutrition report which highlights that Botswana has a high percent of obesity cases especially the adult women at 32.1%. He said the obesity prevalence rate for women in Botswana is mentioned to be higher than the regional average of 20.8%. "We encourage the general public, that is individuals, running clubs corporate companies and government departments to register and participate on the race. The deadline for registration is June 30th" Rahube stated.

To take place at Majestic Five Hotel from 0600hrs to 1300hrs, the marathon is expecting to have atleast two thousand (2000) runners participate at this year's race. Registration fees are P300.00 ( 42.2km) , P250.00 (21.1km) , P200.00 (10km) and the fun run for P100.00 (4km). On the other hand, all finishers will be awarded medals, whereas monetary prizes will also be awarded respectively for every top three positions per race with P10 000, P7000, P4000, P2000 for 42.2km, P6000,

4000, 2000 for 21.1km and P4000, 2000, 1000 is promised for 10km runners.

Shedding light on the previous Palapye marathon, Rahube revealed that there was a significant growth in participation in terms of the number of runners and corporate companies that joined the race. He said this year's marathon promises to be bigger and better. "This year we have made collaborations with tourist attraction areas such as Moremi Gorge and Khama Rhino Sanctuary to welcome guests on the weekend of the marathon. Furthermore, our race packages are inclusive of tourism excursions to these designated areas," explained the race manager. He however added that although they have supporting sponsors such as Majestic Five Hotel, The Medics Centre and Atom Media, they are still calling for more sponsors to collaborate with on the marathon's sixth edition.

The community initiated race established in 2016 was created with the purpose of building sustainable lives and creating hope for marginalized groups. According to Rahube, the vision of the marathon is sustained by key pillars of value for life, health and wellness, inclusion and respect as well as generosity. He said for the past five years, Palapye marathon has contributed immensely towards the fulfillment of its objectives through strategic partnerships that share common interests of changing lives. "We have committed financial procedures towards the upliftment of House of Hope children as well as the procurement of sanitary pads in junior schools in the region as well as the building of a health post in Lechana," Rahube shared.



Tshepiso Rebatenne

[PIC.PRESSPHOTO]

## Table tennis in Angola

**T**HE BOTSWANA TABLE TENNIS Association (BTTA) senior national team is in Luanda, Angola to compete in the Southern Africa Region World Championship 2024 qualifiers. BTTA public relations and communications

manager, Tshogofatso Malepa said the team, comprising eight players, left on June 26 for the four-day qualifier event billed for June 28 to July 1.

Malepa said the event is expected to test the local table tennis players' mettle as it

would field the region's best players. The men's team is made up of Bakang Maloka, Masa Lesole, Mompati Chabe and William Olyn and is coached by Boitshwarelo Butale.

The women's team comprises the quartet of Tshepiso Rebatenne, Emmah Lelatisitswe,

Tsholofelo Gaokgamelwe and Olorato Ramagapu.

BTTA vice president technical, Kabo Mosarwe is the team's manager and vice president finance, Oabona Raditloko is head of delegation.

## Paxinos is Men's 15s head coach

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**T**HE BOTSWANA RUGBY UNION Board has appointed Andrew Paxinos as the Head Coach of Men's 15s team for a period of two years running from June 2024 to June 2026. The decision to appoint Paxinos comes shortly after a great lead by Shaun Irish who coached the team for a short stint last year through a temporary appointment which provided the team with continuity in the absence of a permanent head coach.

As revealed by the union's vice president Elijah Kokoro, with important tournaments and qualifiers on the horizon, it was imperative to have a head coach in place to ensure adequate preparation and training of the team. "Our national rugby team The Vultures are scheduled to play at the Rugby Africa Qualifiers in November 2024 which

will be held in Morocco. Therefore, this immediate appointment allows the coach to implement strategies and training regimes," the vice president stated.

As further indicated by Kokoro, the COVID-19 era posed significant challenges, leading to a prolonged period of inactivity for the national team (15s). "Our team has not been active or featured in the Rugby Africa Calendar. As a result, the upcoming games are a vital opportunity to re-energize our national team within the region and re-establish our presence in the rugby community."

Paxinos brings his experience and a track record in coaching rugby at various levels, with previous successes in developing teams and achieving significant milestones. As indicated by Kokoro, Paxinos has been exposed to various levels in the national team structures of Botswana for more than seven years, emphasizing his passion on the



Paxinos

overall well-being of rugby players including their physical, mental, and emotional health, which is a holistic approach that ensures that players are not only prepared for the game but also supported in their personal development. "In his term, he is tasked with advancing the team through the Africa Qualifiers in November to improve overall rankings and secure promotion to the next tier. Additionally, we expect him to broaden the player base within the national team setup to foster greater competition for national team spots," he said.

As a world rugby level 3 coach, Paxinos holds a diploma in sports management. With a great experience of coaching at international level, he has promised to groom players to maximum excellent play. "This appointment has always been a dream. More than that, I have massive passion for rugby and I've played for Botswana's national team in the early 2000's. Botswana Rugby has given me a lot and it's time to give back to the sport."



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