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P13.00

Kaboeamodimo is BPF candidate

- Runs as BPF MP candidate for Good Hope-Mmathethe
- Constituency turns into a BDP, UDC, BPF battleground



Kaboeamodimo

constituency which has been renamed after delimitation from Kanye North.

On Friday, Kaboeamodimo said after many months of soul searching, consultations with his family including several elders and the youth in the Good Hope-Mmathethe constituency, he has decided to contest the 2024 General election on the BPF ticket as a Parliamentary Candidate.

Kaboeamodimo said he has been persuaded by the warm encouragement and endorsement from friends and acquaintances across the political divide in the Constituency. "I am now preparing for my official

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BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

A CLOSE CONFIDANTE OF former President Ian Khama, Mogomotsi Kaboeamodimo has joined active politics and has thrown his hat to contest the much sought after Good Hope-Mmathethe constituency as a parliamentary candidate under Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF). Kaboeamodimo is the Chief Executive Officer of SKI Foundation, Khama's philanthropic organization. He confirmed to The Patriot on Sunday, his intention to contest in the upcoming general elections. He laos revealed that he had initially planned to contest Kanye East parliamentary seat, a

MaDomi decide!

- BDP primary elections on Saturday
- No time for Bulelwa Ditswe losers to appeal outcomes
- Four parliamentary candidates chicken out of Bulela Ditswe

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE RULING BOTSWANA Democratic Party (BDP) will on Saturday take the litmus test as candidates face off in the much-anticipated primary elections -dubbed Bulela Ditswe to elect candidates ahead of October general elections.

Political observers have warned that the primary elections, which are held too close to the general election, could create deep divisions within Domkrag. Scores of democrats across 61 constituencies will on the

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BDP President Mokgweetsi Masisi (L) with Party Chairman Slumber Tsogwane

[PIC.PRESSPHOTO]

Govt, ex-Soldiers negotiations collapse

- Suspended court case to proceed on Friday, ex-soldiers accuse govt of bad faith

BAKWADI LEKOPANE
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

AN ATTEMPT TO REACH an out-of-court settlement between the government and retired soldiers over pension funds collapsed this week, as both parties failed to resolve their differences. Government had reached out to the litigants (retired soldiers), pleading for an out-of-court settlement to resolve the long-standing dispute.

When asked why the negotiations collapsed, the retired soldiers' spokesperson, Retired Brigadier Mabe Gaborone, said, "Government was negotiating in bad faith. They did not demonstrate any commitment at all to the issues we raised or show us any

respect. It was also shocking that their representative and Attorney, Advocate Sydney Pilane, kept insisting he was merely a messenger with no real authority or mandate."

Asked about the way forward, Gaborone stated, "We have withdrawn from the talks and will be going ahead with our case, due on the 19th of July 2024."

The retired soldiers are suing over the unlawful migration of members of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) from their rightful pension, as provided for in the BDF Act, to the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF), and the issue of the Net Replacement Ratio (NRR). NRR refers to the international standard used to determine the scale of pension to be received by former employees in order for them to live a decent life once retired. Notably, the standard is 75 percent of what one was earning prior to retirement. In the case of BDF retirees, the bulk range between zero and 23 percent, compared to their civilian counterparts who are above 70 percent.

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BCP trashes IEC

- Complain about IEC bias against opposition parties
- Challenge IEC to avail soft copies of voter's roll to stakeholders
- IEC enjoys comfort of conducting unfair elections - Saleshando



Saleshando

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

BOTSWANA CONGRESS Party (BCP) has cast doubt on the fairness and credibility of the much anticipated 2024 general elections, with its President Dumelang Saleshando accusing the election management body of arrogance and egotistical demeanor.

Briefing the media on Wednesday, Saleshando said IEC seems to be fighting in the corner of the ruling Botswana

Democratic Party (BDP) to aid its victory by hook or crook. He said what is perplexing during the build-up to the 2024 elections is that IEC has continued to refuse to avail the electronic copy of voters rolls to political parties contesting for elections. "There are lot of questions around the fairness and credibility of elections as conducted by the IEC and that appears it would be the case with this year's elections as it has been the case before. As the BCP,

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Ex-BDF Commander condemns Masisi

BAKWADI LEKOPANE
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

FORMER BDF Commander, Major General Gaolathe Galebotse has warned serving and retired soldiers that the alleged recalculation of Botswana Defence Force (BDF) pensions promised by President Mokgweetsi Masisi in 2019 does not hold much for them.

In his 2019 commitment to the soldiers, Masisi promised to ensure their net replacement ratio would be 75 percent or better. "When addressing soldiers in the barracks

in 2019, President Masisi assured soldiers that their net replacement ratio would be improved to 75 percent or better. He is on record saying this," Galebotse told The Patriot on Sunday reiterating that Masisi has failed to fulfil the promise and will never do that.

According to a statement released by government, "Calculations of pension benefits will be employing the same mathematical formulae that were established and used in 2001 when transfer values were calculated by DPSM and its Actuaries, except that this

time the denominator will be n/375 instead of n/450." But according to Galebotse: "Anything that seeks to address the plight of the military retirees and fails to guarantee them a decent monthly pension is not worth writing home about. This is one such exercise. This is just an attempt which falls far short of addressing the problem of destitution for military retirees."

Galebotse remains adamant that the injustices caused by the migration of the BDF pension fund to the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) have been ignored and still



Former BDF Commander, Major General Gaolathe Galebotse

- 'Masisi ignores core concerns and issues, has not fulfilled 75% of promises'

remain. "There has been no discussion about the financial hardships that retired soldiers who couldn't afford to purchase an annuity face. There's a lack of conversation about any corrective actions to address these issues. The problem isn't just about recalculating figures; it also involves considering lower-ranked retirees whose net replacement ratio fell significantly below the minimum pension standards, leaving them in tough economic situation," Galebotse said.

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NEW

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EA 991 calls Best Young Drivers

STAFF WRITER
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

EMERGENCY ASSIST 991, as an emergency and assistance company and also a member of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) in partnership with stakeholders is to host the second edition of the highly anticipated FIA International Best Young Driver Competition in Botswana.

The initiative seeks to promote road safety knowledge and skills among young licensed drivers aged between 18 and 26 years by, among others, testing their knowledge and skills that are essential to be a good driver.

Commenting on the initiative, Emergency Assist 991 Road Safety Coordinator, Paul Setswe said through FIA membership they are mandated to carry out road safety projects in collaboration with government and other stakeholders. "The International Best Young Driver Competition was introduced by the FIA in 2017, and last year, Botswana and Kenya became the first African countries to participate," Setswe explained.



EA 991 Executive Director, Simon Modisaeman and 2023 Best Young Driver winners, Amantle Molebalwa[L] and Moesi Mopati[R]

Setswe emphasized the competition's aim to change young drivers' behavior through positive reinforcement. "We recognize and award young responsible drivers for good driving practices. This is a

more positive way of changing behavior." According to Setswe, the initiative will in the long term, raise awareness on road safety among young drivers 'and to put forward the message

that young drivers can drive responsibly, safely and they can set a good example to both their peers and adults.

The applications for competition were officially launched on Friday 5th and will go on until 12 July 2024. The first 100 shortlisted applicants will be announced on July 19th, followed by an online theory test on July 26th.

The finalists will be announced on July 31st, with the national finals set for August 10th at a venue to be confirmed. Winners will enjoy an all-expenses-paid trip to Nevelles, Belgium, from October 4th to 6th, 2024.

Applicants for the competition can access the application forms through a link on Emergency Assist 991 and EA991 Driving Academy Facebook pages.

To qualify, young drivers must have a valid driving license with no serious traffic offenses and be citizens of Botswana. A valid passport is also required as the winners will compete internationally.

Meanwhile, Setswe further disclosed that, participants

serve as road safety ambassadors, mentoring future competitors and engaging in nationwide road safety campaigns.

The format for this year's international finals has not yet been disclosed, but the national finals will follow a similar structure to last year. Despite being a new initiative, the competition has already had a positive impact, encouraging participants to maintain clean driving records for future opportunities.

Emergency Assist 991, the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA), and the Department of Road Transport Services are key supporters of this year's competition alongside the Society of Road Safety Ambassadors, a youth Non Government Organisation (NGO). Setswe expressed optimism about the competition's long-term impact on youth driving behaviour. "In other countries, drivers are incentivized to drive safely.

This competition is a step towards recognizing and encouraging safe driving practices worldwide."

U.S. Embassy launches HIV Prevention & Care Program

THE UNITED STATES Ambassador to Botswana, Howard Van Vranken, joined by the Minister of Health, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, and Tumiso Rakgare, Minister of Youth Gender, Sports & Culture, and Kgotla Autlwete, the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, will officially launch the Comprehensive HIV Prevention and Continuum of Care Program.



Minister of Health, Dr Edwin Dikoloti

The Comprehensive HIV Prevention and Continuum of Care Program, funded by PEPFAR through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), supports the Government of Botswana (GoB) in their efforts to sustain HIV epidemic control and improve health outcomes through strengthened primary health care and social services. This program, totaling over \$17.5 million USD, will be implemented by Jhpiego,

Steppingstones International, and Tebelepe Wellness Center over a two-year period in 18 districts across the country.

USAID Country Representative Vikki Stein noted "This award highlights the United States commitment to localization in Botswana. It empowers local communities to take the lead in combating HIV/AIDS, ensuring sustainable and culturally relevant solutions that resonate with the people they

serve." This event marks another milestone in Botswana's phenomenal HIV/AIDS response and is exemplary of the longstanding partnership between the Government of Botswana and the United States Government for continued collaboration with multinational organizations, civil society, local communities, and the private sector to embolden the HIV response.

Promoting inclusivity in Zambian Agriculture

TOMORROW CANNOT wait. Someone else won't do it. If ever there was a time for promoting inclusivity in the agricultural sector with a special focus on women empowerment and youth development – it is now! – That's the crux of the message by Sheila Garakara, Country Manager for Zambia at Solidaridad as she strives to fortify sustainable smallholder farmers and SME value chains across Zambia.

One such practical example is how Garakara leveraged K'fuya, a service offering implemented by Kvuno, to enhance women's participation in agriculture.

K'fuya focuses on empowering women through poultry farming, providing additional income, ensuring food and nutrition security, and promoting village banking.

Each one, teach one

"Empowering women is not just a moral imperative; it is essential for achieving sustainable development in agriculture.

One thing that resonates with me is positioning women as vital stakeholders who are worthy of being counted. To

this end, we have set a target of calling for a turnaround by incorporating no less than 30% women in our agricultural training activities.

"However, our vision extends beyond numbers. We encourage an inclusive approach where everyone—men and women alike—are part of the conversation and solutions," says Garakara. "Men who bring their wives to training sessions are awarded extra Z'wardy points, which they accumulate and can redeem as gifts such as small farming equipment. This incentive is designed to foster an environment where women's contributions are valued and their voices are heard."

Z'wardy is a rewards programme used to promote the adoption of climate-smart practices and other activities that boost production and productivity.

K'fuya's holistic approach is already making significant strides in local communities. By engaging women in poultry farming, it addresses critical aspects of income diversification and food security while promoting financial literacy through village banking systems.

One step for humankind

Lydia Banda, Regional Manager at Kvuno, emphasizes the importance of gender inclusivity to drive the Zambian agricultural industry forward. "At Kvuno, inclusivity is at the core of our operations. We believe that by adopting a gender-inclusive approach, we can unlock the full potential of the agricultural sector. It's not just about empowering women; it's about creating a balanced environment where everyone can thrive," says Banda.

Kvuno, a leading provider of digital empowerment solutions for smallholder farmers, is not only about empowering individuals but also about fostering impact investments that support sustainable development goals. By working together, both organizations aim to create a resilient agricultural value chain that benefits all stakeholders.

"Impact investments are crucial in this journey. We call upon stakeholders, investors, and partners to join us in this mission. Together, we can create a more inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous future for the Zambian Agricultural Sector," concludes Banda.

GAMBLING AUTHORITY

GAMBLING AUTHORITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA

(MOTSHAMEKO O PHEPA) MASTERS AND PhD SCHOLARSHIP 2024

INVITATION TO APPLY

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS
These Scholarships will cover tuition, monthly stipend, research funding and conference attendance both locally and internationally. The Scholarship will cover the entire period of study based on satisfactory academic progress every semester. Recipients of the scholarship will pursue original research in any area in the gambling or gaming field.

ELIGIBILITY
The MOTSHAMEKO O PHEPA scholarship is open to citizens of Botswana seeking full-time Masters and/or PhD/Doctorate Studies in any of the disciplines as reflected above, at the University of Botswana website. To qualify, applicants must be admitted or be eligible for admission to either a Masters or PhD programme at UB (i.e. Both current and prospective students are eligible) The Scholarship will be awarded to the top-ranked applicants with outstanding academic achievements or research potential in all disciplines/fields as they apply to gambling. The MOTSHAMEKO O PHEPA scholarship will not be awarded to an applicant who is holding another award which directly duplicates the purpose of the UB Post-Graduate scholarship initiatives. Applicants should be between 18-40 Years and must be citizens of Botswana.

APPLICATION PROCESS
An application should be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, University of Botswana as a single PDF document with the following:

1. Application form. Download the application form at <https://gamblingauthority.co.bw/scholarships>
2. Application letter which includes motivation for applying for the scholarship (1000 words maximum) as it relates to the area of Gambling.
3. Applicant's abridged CV (2 pages maximum) detailing academic record, teaching and other work experience, research outputs and engagement.
4. Research proposal (1000 words maximum outlining the research topic, the problem statement, objectives, key research questions and the methodology). This should in one way or the other reflect relevance to the area of Gambling.
5. Provide reference letters or letters of support especially from those people who can articulate your academic or research ability.
6. Provide certified copies of academic certificates and transcripts.

Applications should be submitted online to:
Faculty Administrator,
School of Graduate Studies,
Private Bag UB 00706,
Gaborone, Botswana.

Please Email to: SOGRAS@ub.ac.bw

NB: Only those applications submitted online shall be considered.

For further inquiries please contact:
Phone: +(267) 3552960/3552861/3554712/3554690/3552862
FAX: +267 3185100

Deadline for application: 24th July 2024

Responsible Gambling Self Help Portal:
<https://selfhelp.gamblingauthority.co.bw/>
USSD Code: Dial *228# (All Networks)
24HRS TOLLFREE LINE: 19777 (All Networks)

www.gamblingauthority.co.bw

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(4267) 3957672

UB host SADC debate championship

THE UNIVERSITY OF Botswana Debate Masters Association (UBDA) has been awarded the bid to host the 2024 Southern African Universities Debating Championship (SAUDC) scheduled for the 7th to the 14th of July 2024 in Gaborone. The prestigious event brings together approximately 350 students from universities across southern Africa. The event will be officially opened by the Chancellor of the University of Botswana, Ms Tebelelo Mazile Seretse on the 7th of July 2024.

SAUDC is one of the most prestigious debating competitions in Southern Africa, bringing together talented debaters from universities across the region. The championship typically features teams from universities in countries such as South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, and others.

Your media is, therefore, invited to a press conference on Friday the 5th of July 2024 at the UB Student Centre Room 157 starting at 10am as a precursor to the main event as well as announcement of sponsors. By the same token you are invited to cover the main event which will be officially opened by the UB Chancellor, Ms Tebelelo Mazile Seretse on Monday the 8th of July 2024 starting 9am at the same venue.

Diamond Dreams winners laud Debswana

LESEGO MOSINYI
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

UB Vice Chancellor motivates Debswana Diamond Dreams Winners

A FORMER LETLHAKANE Senior Secondary School star performer, Yone Thebeemang who was awarded the Outstanding Performance Award in BGSCSE during the Debswana Diamond Dreams Awards ceremony held in Mopipi on Thursday, cannot stop waxing lyrical about the mining behemoth.

Excited about her win, she said Debswana has been rewarding them since her primary school days, which became a motivation for her to work even harder towards academic excellence. Thebeemang revealed that she plans to study medicine at the University of Botswana (UB) where she has been admitted but would also appreciate studying abroad.

Another winner, Charity Kgomotso who was awarded first position in Boteti region for JCE examinations, said the award will motivate her in her studies going forward. Kgomotso, who is currently doing Form 4 at Mater Spei College in Francistown after passing her JCE examinations with 6As and 3Bs encouraged other learners who did not win awards to work hard, be disciplined and devote their lives to God.

"They should avoid unnecessary entertainment that will deter them from progressing. They should also study hard, use past papers and if they don't understand they should consult their teachers,"

Kgomotso told The Patriot on Sunday on the sidelines of the awards ceremony, accompanied by her mother Irene Kgomotso who was delighted because of her daughter's achievements.

Knowledge-based economy Meanwhile, as Botswana transitions from a resource-based economy to a knowledge-based economy, it is important for learners to look beyond studying to find employment but rather to look towards innovation, University of Botswana Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris has advised.

Speaking at the 2024 Debswana Diamond Awards on Thursday, Prof Norris was encouraged learners to be innovative because nowadays economies are powered by knowledge. He said a few years ago resource companies in minerals and oil sectors were the richest and powerful, but currently the top 10 richest companies are knowledge companies.

"The companies that innovated the gadgets and softwares you use everyday are the richest, among them Apple, Microsoft, Meta Group, Google, Amazon. Their businesses are anchored around software programming and software development.

They did not say I will go to school to pass examinations so that someone will hire me, the world no longer works that way," he said, adding that some of the founders of the richest



Yone Thebeemang receiving an award for outstanding performance at BGSCSE

companies started them in their hostel rooms, by applying what they learnt to empower themselves.

Prof Norris said it is important for young people to empower themselves and not let challenging circumstances deter them from succeeding. He said some of the most powerful people in the world like former US President Barack Obama, media mogul Oprah Winfrey and the late tech guru Steve Jobs came from broken and poor families. However, he said these circumstances did not deter them from succeeding as they used their intellect to empower themselves.

Technological advancement Prof Norris said the economy of Botswana is currently reliant on diamonds which will eventually be depleted, forcing the country to shift to depending on intellectual capacity. The world is changing due to fast technological developments; therefore, Prof Norris advised the Diamond Dreams Awards winners to choose academic programs carefully when they go to university. He advised them to choose academic programs like Cyber Security, game designing, data analytics, software engineering, Artificial intelligence, Videography, and content creation amongst others. Prof Norris emphasized that to transition to a knowledge-based economy, Botswana will need to review her education system, and revamp it to produce graduates that are innovative, creative and problem solvers. "We need an

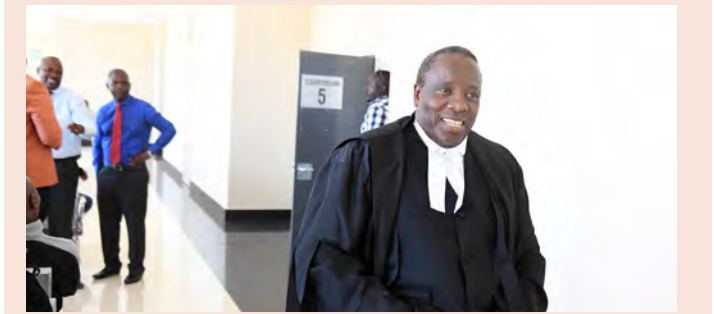
education system that will not produce people who memorize and regurgitate things in the classroom. We need problem solvers and innovators," he said. Meanwhile, Professor Norris applauded Debswana for supporting the education sector, and contributing not only to the development of Boteti Region, but the whole country.

For the past four years Debswana's Orapa, Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines (OLDM) has been spending P500 000 per annum to recognize best performing students and schools within their zone of influence - the Boteti Education sub region and Malatswai in the Serowe education sub region. OLDM Assistant General Manager, Ditiro Lentswe said Diamond Dreams Awards is part of their cooperate social responsibility program through which they want to create a legacy of prosperity and resilience among communities in which they operate, in line with Debswana's Building Forever 2030 Strategy.

Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) Director Regional Operations-Central, Sonny Mooketsi said they believe in encouraging students to work harder towards their future. He said they look forward to continuing working with Debswana to improve the academic performance in Boteti region.

"On behalf of Boteti region students and staff, we promise to commit to work harder," he said, urging participants to change their mindset for the betterment of their region and the country.

Govt, ex-Soldiers negotiations collapse



Advocate Pilane

FROM PAGE 1

Sometime back, the court's ruling allowed the ex-soldiers to proceed collectively in their legal battle against the government regarding pension fund transfers, but the government appealed the ruling and sought a stay of the impugned order, stating they would raise points of law in the application.

In the court papers, the government posited that, despite being part of the military, former BDF members were concurrently considered public officers, making them subject to the Public Service Act and associated pension legislation governing public officers. The government emphasized that the transition to the BPOPF pension scheme was both voluntary and lawful, highlighting that applicants had the choice to join. The government, through President Masisi, later conceded in public addresses that the migration was ill-advised.

The legal battle, which began in 2020 with around 200 soldiers, has garnered

increased support, with more than 2,500 soldiers seeking to join the lawsuit collectively. The legal dispute originated when five former soldiers, led by former BDF Commander Gaolathe Galebotse, contested the government's decision to move the pension plan of BDF members who enlisted prior to April 1, 2001, to the BPOPF. The retired soldiers argue that this transition was unlawful and lacked a proper legal foundation. They assert their right to have their pension entitlements calculated in accordance with the regulations under the BDF Act.

In the last court session, the government defendants were to file an application for leave to appeal, but the court did not grant the stay of prosecution. The argument at the time was whether or not the matter was to proceed as a class action, which Judge Leburu upheld in accordance with the powers vested in him. Efforts to reach Pilane were futile as his phone ran unanswered.

OLDM look beyond diamond mining

LESEGO MOSINYI
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

DEBSWANA'S ORAPA, Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines (OLDM) have committed to leave behind a legacy of developments that include education development in the area of their operation, Boteti District and Malatswai, once diamonds have been depleted and mines closed.

Speaking during Debswana Diamond Dreams Awards in Mopipi on Thursday, the Assistant Manager of OLDM, Ditiro Lentswe said through their effort in supporting education they will leave a legacy of people who can compete for jobs not only in Botswana but globally. He said it is Debswana's intention that when diamonds have been depleted, the people of Boteti will have something to fall back on. He emphasized that their projects will bring long term changes to the lives of the people beyond diamond mining.

He said through Debswana Building Forever 2030 strategy, particularly under the pillar of thriving communities, they endeavor to make life around the communities they operate in brilliant. "Within these thriving communities, we have a number of focus areas and one of them being education and skills for the future," Lentswe revealed.

He said Diamond Dreams Awards, sponsored by Debswana to the tune of P500 000 for the past four years is one of the initiatives that fall under Debswana's building forever 2030 strategy. Furthermore, Lentswe indicated that other programs they are sponsoring to support education in Boteti region include amongst others, the provision of specialist teachers to Orapa Junior Secondary school in the areas of Mathematics, Science and English that are fully paid for by Debswana.

Lentswe also revealed that Debswana is involved in a digitization project to enhance teaching and learning in



Khumaga School teacher receiving an award

schools around the mines, as well as to create a conducive learning environment for the students to improve academic performance. He said this is done so that a student from Boteti District will not be left behind just because they were born in a remote area, far from developments. He said the project is designed to make the students globally competitive. "Last year OLDM spent P850 000 for the procurement of laptops, projectors for the targeted schools in the Boteti Region as part of phase one for the digitization project that I have just detailed," he said.

In addition, Lentswe said Debswana is actively engaged in enhancement of education facilities in Boteti area. He said OLDM has constructed classrooms and administration

blocks at Mokoboxane Primary School, a classroom block at Supang Primary School as well as five fully fledged classrooms at Seaseole Primary School.

He said they have also constructed classrooms at Orapa Junior Secondary School and recently completed special education classroom block at Tsienyane Primary School amongst others.

He said there is also a new project this year which is a construction of classroom block at Mmea Primary that they have committed to fund at the tune of 2.6 million pula.

Furthermore, Lentswe said in collaboration with Steppingstones International, they have implemented a program which focuses on advancing teacher competencies to teach English literacy,

Grammar and comprehension in including improving English literacy to include accuracy, fluency and reading comprehension from standard one to standard seven pupils. "All these programs are efforts by Debswana to improve academic performance in schools and consequently make life brilliant," he said.

In an interview, Boteti District Council Deputy Chairperson Batswetele Kgagamedi said the contribution of Debswana OLDM is visible throughout Boteti District. He said with the council struggling with deficit of over 81 million pula, the contribution by OLDM will go a long way in helping with developments in the district.

He also applauded OLDM for heeding their calls when they pleaded with them to spread their cooperate social programs to other parts in the region instead of concentrating in just a few villages. "When we complained about their projects benefiting only a few villages leaving out others they listened to our plea, now the whole Boteti District get to benefit," he said.

He further commended Debswana not only for their contribution in the education sector in Boteti Region but in the whole country. He said the Debswana Diamond Dreams will go a long way in motivating the students to work hard going forward in their education journey.

He also said a special education classroom block that OLDM has constructed at Tsienyane Primary school has come in handy as student with disabilities from Rakops, Toromoja, Xhumo Mmadikola and other villages in the vicinity can now easily attend school. "They have also donated a minibus designed to be friendly to people with disabilities," he said.

Further, Kgagamedi encouraged parents to take part in their children education and the children to stay away from negative influences so that investments in the education system by Debswana cannot go to waste but instead bear fruits.

Vacancy Advert

Botswana Development Corporation is seeking a passionate, energetic, and well-qualified individual to apply for the following roles:

Manager - Internal Audit

Reporting to the Chief Audit Executive, you will be responsible for planning, organising, and managing the Corporation's internal audit activities including financial and operational audits, special investigations, inspections and monitoring of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control environment. The successful incumbent will contribute to the development of the Internal Audit strategy and plans which are aligned with the Corporate Strategy and organisational priorities, as well as ensure that all Corporation risk and internal audit policies and standards of the Corporation comply with best practice standards. You will also be responsible for promoting governance, ethics, and integrity in all the Corporation's dealings.

Additionally, you will also be expected to evaluate and provide assurance that risk management, control and governance systems are functioning as intended in order for the Corporation's operational and strategic objectives to be met. You will also review and provide assurance over the monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of risk mitigation measures, the impact of risk mitigation measures and the effectiveness of internal control mechanisms in place.

Further to that, you will also develop a flexible annual internal audit plan using appropriate risk-based methodology, including any risks or control concerns identified by Management or external auditors. You will also be expected to oversee outsourced fraud or special investigations and participate in the reviews and audits.

You should have a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Accounting, Finance or related discipline from a reputable institution, and a professional finance or accounting qualification from a recognised institution as well as a membership and in good standing with BICA and IIA. You should also have minimum of three (3) years' experience in an audit senior/supervisory role of a medium to large enterprise preferably in the financial services sector with demonstrated experience leading audit teams in audit planning, management, and reporting to the Board.

Candidates who meet the above criteria should submit their applications to recruitment@bdc.bw

Deadline for applications is 26 July 2024.

BDC offers a commensurate package with attractive benefits.

OUR RECRUITMENT PROCESS ACKNOWLEDGES PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Manager - Property

Reporting to the Chief Investment Officer, you will oversee the maintenance and upkeep of the BDC portfolio of properties and ensure the properties are well-maintained, safe, and compliant with regulations while maximizing tenant satisfaction and retention.

Additionally, you will manage lease agreements, coordinate maintenance and repairs, property budgets, respond to tenant inquiries and concerns, and ensure the properties remain attractive, functional and compliant to relevant regulations and standards.

You will also manage all contractors in accordance with signed contracts, service level agreements and project budgets and timelines. You will also assume responsibility for the preparation of annual income and expenditure budgets of all BDC properties ensuring cost-effectiveness and adherence to financial targets.

You are to also collaborate with relevant stakeholders, such as relevant government agencies and regulators, property management entities, property agencies, service providers and suppliers to foster cooperation and engagement. Ensure the careful vetting of potential tenants, assessing their applications in accordance with leasing requirements as well as facilitate the timely and efficient collection of rent and other property fees from tenants. You will be expected to also develop and recommend property management strategies, policies, procedures, agreements, and guidelines.

You should have a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Property Management, Real Estate Management or related fields. Membership of the Real Estate Institute of Botswana (REIB) and membership of the Real Estate Advisory Council (REAC) will be an added advantage.

The incumbent should have minimum of three (3) years' senior officer/ supervisory experience in facilities or property management with a track record of overseeing multiple properties and different types of properties.

Botswana Development Corporation Limited
Fairscape Tower, Fairscape Precinct, Plot 70667,
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#Bwiniidsethchange



NSC 2.2 COMES TO PRACTICAL COMPLETION-WUC CEO UNDERTAKES TOUR



Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr Gaselemogwe Senai toured the North South Carrier (NSC) 2.2 Project. Mr Senai who was accompanied by the Director in charge of projects Mr Ntshambiwa Moathodi, Water Resources Director Mr Teddy Ditsabatho and Corporation Secretary Ms Felicity Ziga, joined the team of contractors, consultants and WUC responsible to appreciate the works implemented thus far to bring to live, a project that has become one of Botswana's water masterpiece. The good news is that the project is 97% complete against a planned progress of 98%, with the remaining 3% expected to be completed by July 2024.

The NSC 2.2 project comprises the implementation of a 253 km long raw water transfer scheme from sources located in the Northeastern Botswana to the Greater Gaborone area, with key offtakes to the Palapye Water Treatment Works (WTW) and the Mahalapye WTW in route. The primary objective of this project is to convey raw water from the resources, specifically from the 400 Mm³ Dikgatlong and 100 Mm³ Letsibogo Dams to improve the capacity and efficiency of the water supply to Radisele Cluster Villages, Tswapong South Cluster Villages, Greater Mahalapye, Dibete Cluster Villages, Mochudi Cluster Villages, Greater Gaborone, Molepolole Cluster Villages, Kanye Cluster Villages, Greater Lobatse, and Rolong Cluster Villages up to the year 2041. The project will further ensure sufficient supply of surface water to the southern parts of Botswana where water demand has over time increased significantly and thereby surpassing the capacity of water resources in the southern parts of Botswana.

Raw water from Dikgatlong and Letsibogo dams enters the North South Carrier system at the first NSC 1 Break Pressure Tank site at

Moralane after Letsibogo Dam. The first phase of the NSC 2 project, namely the NSC 2A (Dikgatlong Dam to Moralane) was completed in 2013 and NSC 2.1 from Moralane to Palapye - SR2B was completed in 2016.

The objectives of the project are:

- To improve reliability of water supply and distribution.
- To improve the reliability of the scheme which will in turn provide customer satisfaction.
- To increase customer base.
- To stimulate socio-economic activity in the project area.

NSC 2.2 is the second phase of the NSC 2 project. The third phase, called the NSC 2.3 Project is currently under construction and is intended to transfer water from Mmamashia WTW to the Greater Gaborone.

For technical and economic reasons, the NSC 2.2 Project was unbundled and resulted in the project being implemented in three Contracts as follows:

Contract No. 1- Pipeline from Masama Wellfields to Mmamashia WTW comprising an 83 km 1200mm diameter, Grade X52, 8mm welded steel pipeline with PN25 valves, including a provision for potable water to Dibete Cluster Villages (Artesia, Leshititse, Dibete, Poloka, Mookane & Mmaphashalala) as well as the Radisele Cluster Villages (Radisele, Mogome, Mokgware & Tewane). The project started on 4 October 2022 with planned Completion being 9 July 2024.

Progress To Date

- The Project Progress is 97% complete against Planned 99% and its Defects Notification period ends on 4 July 2025

Contract No. 2 - Pipeline from Mahalapye WTW Offtake to Masama Wellfields comprising a 90km 1200mm diameter, Grade X52, 8mm welded steel pipeline with PN25 valves, and associated pump stations 3.2 and 4.2.

Progress To Date

- Pipeline and all chamber fittings and valves installations are complete. However, installation of Insulation Flanges (IF) kit to SP272 cross connection chamber to NSC1 has been deferred to September 2024.

- Both Pump Station PS 3.2 and 4.2 are 98% complete against 98% planned overall progress, Electrical Mechanical and Telemetry (EMT) installations are complete and await commissioning while their building structures are 100% complete.

- Dry commissioning complete on pipeline the two Pump Stations. Wet commissioning shall commence once all three contractors have finished the construction. Planned start date is 11 July 2024.

Contract No. 3 - Pipeline from the Bulk Storage Reservoir (SR2B) in Palapye to Mahalapye WTW Offtake comprising 80km 1200 mm diameter steel pipeline. Project start date: 14 November 2022.

Progress To Date

- The Project Progress is at 99% against Planned 100%. 79 078m of pipeline, all concrete chambers, NSC1 cross connection, Mahalapye offtake and air valves, along with their fittings and stubs are complete including interface work at SR2B, PS3.2, BPT3A2 and Mahalapye Water treatment works.

- All four Pipe Jackings (Martins' Drift Flyover, Railways Crossing by Tswaing, A1 by Tswaing and Shoshong Road crossing), all four River crossings (Tewane, Lose, Mahalapye and Mahalapye tributary streams) including construction of cross-connection chamber to join NSC1 are complete.

- End of Defects Notification period is 11 May 2025

Corporate Social Responsibility

The project has spent over P700,000.00 on various community projects in the project route.



Madomi decide!

FROM PAGE 1

20-21st July 2024 head to polling stations to elect council and parliamentary candidates who will represent BDP in national election in October.

In an interview on Friday, BDP spokesperson Kagelelo Kentse said preparations have gone well so far, highlighting that Political Education and Elections Committee (PEEC) and Electoral Board have done an exceptional job. He said four (4) parliamentary candidates and 19 council candidates withdrew voluntarily from contesting the primary elections and were all fully refunded their application fees. He could not be drawn into divulging the names of the candidates who pulled out of the race.

Moreover, Kentse said they do not hope to have complaints but as it is known that there is competition the possibility of protesting or appealing the results is there. "But at the end of it, all we want is democrats to exercise their rights and select candidates. We also hope that those who



BDP supporters

didn't make it will rally behind others and campaign for the party. That discipline is required in the party," said the optimistic Kentse.

Meanwhile, BDP president Mokgweetsi Masisi has repeatedly declared in BDP rallies that the party will not have time to listen to appeals post Bulela Ditswe due to time constraints as elections are just around the corner.

Game Changer

Political analyst Kitso Morekisi said Bulela Ditswe comes at a time when anxiety and confusion had rattled BDP members due to the long delay and as a result some candidates did not launch serious campaigns. He said the BDP will be put to a real test and chances are high that there will be significant number of protests from different constituencies, and it will be too

late to appeal as time is not on their side. "Anxiety, tension, and finger pointing is rampant amongst the candidates.

There is lot of accusations by candidates that incumbent MPs and councillors are manipulating voters roll in their favours. We have seen how Dr Edwin Dikoloti and Peggy Serame fought in Good Hope-Mmathethe constituency," he said.

Morekisi also said it is important for BDP to have announced primary elections dates, adding that will now make the political scene very interesting and now that voters could start to be excited by elections.

He said Botswana Congress Party (BCP) has been the only party that has been ahead with campaigns in terms of launching its candidates and it being only active player on ground made voters less interested.

"BDP having concluded the primary elections and have confirmed all its candidates would totally change complexion of the ground. This would also put pressure to another big player, Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) to up its game and conclude all necessary election preparations and go pound to pound with other parties on the campaign trail," said Morekisi.

BCP trashes IEC

FROM PAGE 1

we have written to IEC to demand for it to give parties a soft copy of voters roll but they refused," he said.

Saleshando said the hard copy version of the voters' roll is also incomplete as it does not include important details such as residential addresses of those registered, which shows IEC's lack of seriousness. He said BCP also raised other concerns to the IEC but instead it responded in an arrogant manner, showing that they do not believe that they issued an incomplete voters roll, despite several issues raised.

According to Saleshando, continuous refusal by IEC to avail a digital copy of the voters' roll is defying the government efforts of digitisation as captured in government agenda to improve public service delivery.

"We also asked them to extend the inspection period of the voters roll to allow time for those who registered and issued complaints to correct their details. The IEC still ignored us and instead instructed that all those who registered, about one million people to visit their office to inspect the roll," he said, adding that it is unfortunate for IEC to be ignoring advice and concerns raised by political parties who are stakeholders in the elections, describing that conduct as being biased and intolerant to opposition.

Expensive voters roll

The defective voters roll has been a burning issue, one of the complaints raised being that it is expensive to obtain because it is now sold by IEC for P1400 compared to P100 in 2019 elections. The IEC has indicated that the pricing went up because of administrative costs of running the elections that include stationery, compared to the past elections.

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) poll agents, Madibelathopho attempted in vain to persuade IEC to reduce the price of the voters roll, citing that its price is not affordable for candidates and parties.

Madibelathopho chairman Michael Keakopa said the IEC is not ready for the 2024 elections but instead is orchestrating plans to frustrate opposition parties with high pricing on the voters roll.

Explaining why IEC has not availed an electronic copy of voters roll, Principal Public Relations Officer at IEC Phatodi Nacane said in accordance with Section 16 (3) of the Electoral Act, the Commission

can only provide a hard copy and not a soft copy of the roll to anyone who wants it, inclusive of political stakeholders.

Nacane said the hard copy of the voters roll can be availed at a fee, currently standing at P1.75 per page of the roll, adding that it should be noted that the Commission's mandate is prescribed by the Electoral Act, to which it is fully compliant. "It is the Commission's view that where an electronic copy of the roll was issued in the past, this was contrary to Section 16 (3) of the Electoral Act therefore the Commission would not wish to repeat the same mistakes," said Nacane, downplaying suggestions that IEC is not ready for elections given that it is yet to commence recruitment of poll staff amongst others.

"As indicated the Commission by the Secretary to the Commission at the All Party Conference held on the 4th July 2024 preparations on stands ready to deliver the 2024 General Elections with the necessary undertaken schedule thus far," he added.

Nacane also said all the activities leading to the 2024 General Elections are undertaken in chronological order, recruitment of poll staff being amongst them, buttressing that IEC confirms of commenced with appropriate guidance provided to District Offices on matters recruitment.

Voter registration

Briefing the All-Party Conference (APC) meeting last week Thursday, IEC Secretary Jefferson Siamisang emphasized that IEC is ready for elections, and all is going according to plan. He was adamant that all pre-election processes that include the voters roll verification and inspection will be concluded within the set time frames, despite being grilled on the process by opposition representatives.

He said during the voter registration that took place from 5th January to 31st March 2024, 764 539 potential voters were registered, while during the first supplementary voter registration 74, 404 people registered. An additional 197, 021 registered during second supplementary voter registration period that ended on 31st of May 2024.

Siamisang revealed that in the diaspora polling stations registered 1725 Botswana, adding that the inspection period of the second supplementary voters' registration exercise has been scheduled to run from the 5th of July 2024 to 25th July 2024.

IMPROVE TEACHERS' WORKING CONDITIONS - BOSETU

Message delivered by BOSETU, commemorating 2024 Teachers' Day



WINSTON RADIKOLO
PRESIDENT - BOSETU



TOBOKANI NICHOLAS RARI
SECRETARY GENERAL -BOSETU

The year 2024 marks the 28th instalment of Teachers Day celebrations in Botswana, after the day was launched worldwide in 1994 to commemorate the signing of recommendations by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations' Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In 1966, on October 5th, a special intergovernmental conference adopted the UNESCO endorsement regarding the status of teachers and as a consequence, internationally, Teachers' Day is commemorated on October 5th.

When Teachers Day started to be recognized in Botswana, it was celebrated every first Thursday of June until teacher trade unions successfully pressurized government to change to every first Friday of June. Comrades and colleagues should note that Teachers Day celebration in Botswana did not come on a silver platter, but because of a robust and prolonged agitation and lobbying by teacher trade unions that the day be recognized. This day was identified by UNESCO to celebrate accomplishments of teachers and significant efforts that they have made in the field of education. It is in view of the foregoing that when we gather on Teachers Day, we should not forget why this day has been established and set aside by the UNESCO and the ILO, which principle is to reflect on the status and work of teachers, and their accomplishments.

Teaching is the most influential job in the world. Teachers shape the minds of the youths, and, without knowledge no one can exist in this world. A teacher imparts good values in children and turn them into responsible citizens. So, every country including Botswana, should celebrate teachers. The 2024 Teachers Day theme is "Rethinking Education with the Discourse of National Mindset Change Doctrine: The Progressive Teacher & Learner at the forefront".

In our view this concept of mindset change presupposes that there ought to be a drastic turn around in the way we view things as citizens of this country across all facets of the economy. This theme therefore calls upon teachers to lead in this transformative process of mindset change.

While this is a challenge that teachers are ready take up, the process should start with providing an enabling environment for teachers to do so. Teachers' working conditions need to be improved to motivate them to lead this process. There ought to be a turnaround in the way the powers that be view teachers and the teaching

profession.

Teachers should not be seen as too many for their conditions to be improved, they should not be seen to be too many to be extended the same benefits that are enjoyed by other cadres, they should be viewed to deserve better remuneration and better working conditions. This is to mention, but a few of those that the powers that be should change their thinking on, to facilitate mindset change in teachers and how the public should view the teaching profession.

On the eve of this day, we would have abdicated our responsibility if do not indicate that this year's teachers day is celebrated in the midst of challenges besieging teachers and the teaching profession. We need therefore, for the purposes of introspection as we sit together for that purpose, spell them out as thus;

Perpetual refusal by government to extend the benefits and conditions of service enjoyed by other cadres in the public service to teachers. This conduct by government that amounts to discrimination has continuously persisted unabated. We have seen government refusing to pay some deserving cadres within the teaching service, scarce skill allowance that is extended to other public servants that are similarly circumstanced. We have seen government refusing to extend multiple titling and grading to teachers under the pretext it commenced in the rest of the public service when teachers were still under the Teaching Service Management. We have seen government refusing place Primary School teachers Senior Teachers with responsibility at the right level of the structure (D4) for a mere reason that they teach at primary schools. This glaring discriminatory practices against teachers cannot be right and need to be spelt as introspect on us and our profession as teachers.

Teachers' workloads are way too high and prohibiting in facilitating effective learning and teaching in this era and age. Beside that with the introduction of Outcome Based Learning (OBE), the workload of the teacher increases automatically owing to regular tracking and tracing of student's performance, we have also seen of recent, instances where the powers that be deliberately increase teachers' lessons and number of classes beyond the maximum provided in the Establishment Register (ER). This has overburdened teachers, affecting their delivery.

Our education system is undergoing some transformation

through the introduction of the Outcome Based Learning (OBE), an initiative that intends to enable our education system to impart practical relevant skills in students rather being more theoretic as is the case now. While we appreciate and support this initiative, there is no doubt that it was introduced on NO foundation at all. It has been introduced without any support resources wise. As we speak today, on the teacher's day, schools do not have printing paper, schools do not have exercise books, schools do not have textbooks, schools have no or weak internet connectivity, the current form four students have not got gadgets (computers) distributed to them to assist in learning. These practical challenges on the ground are so severe and will be a nail in the coffin of our education system if not immediately to.

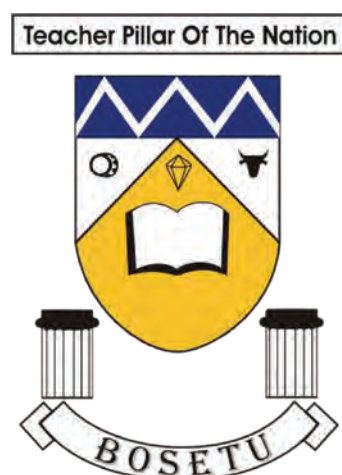
While we appreciate the introduction of early childhood education into the mainstream education system in line with the recommendations of the UNESCO, we are however worried that like OBE, the early childhood education was introduced without ensuring that the necessary enabling factors are in place. The facilities and learning materials used by the early childhood learners in the mainstream schools are not compliant with international standards. There is no comprehensive structure and clear progression ladder for teacher who offer early childhood education which disadvantages the concerned teachers, welfare wise.

It is worth stating that teachers' moral and working appetite has dwindled to its lowest ebb. The PEMANDU Consultancy instituted by government to assess the welfare and productivity of the public service in Botswana has pointed out that more than 84% of teachers are bottlenecked at the top notch of salary scale C1. PEMANDU indicated that this has frustrated teachers and dampened their morale, recommending that this can be remedied through the implementation of a Fan Shaped Salary Structure. The implementation of this Fan Shaped Salary Structure has taken forever, and we call upon government to implement the structure without any further delay.

Schools are suffering owing to the defunct and continuously erratic Government Accounting and Budgeting System (GABS). This system is never up and fully functional. Finances do not reach schools and other government institution to service Botswana owing to this dysfunctional system. Temporary teachers go for some months without being paid We call upon government discontinue this failing system.

In conclusion we wish all teachers well on this day of introspection and congratulate all the award winners for the year 2024.

Tobokani Nicholas Rari
SECRETARY GENERAL -BOSETU



Kaboeamodimo is BPF candidate

FROM PAGE 1

launch that will be held in Mmathethe on August 3rd, after which I shall immerse myself in my campaign. I thank all the residents of Good Hope Mmathethe who have welcomed me into their homes, cattle posts and wherever we met," said Kaboeamodimo.

In contesting the election on the BPF ticket, he noted that he seeks to advance the welfare of our people such as food production, education for our children and health care among others. He also said the constituency is in dire need of improved infrastructure that has long been in the books but not delivered as promised.

"This speaks to inter villages roads, water for human and livestock consumption and effect drought relief initiatives in the constituency. The challenges are many. They are solvable where there is political will," said Kaboeamodimo.

Battleground

Political analyst, Kitso Morekisi, has said Good Hope-Mmathethe would be one of the most interesting constituencies in South of Dibete, noting that it has so far already been made popular by the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) Bulela Ditswe tie between cabinet minister Edwin Dikoloti and Peggy Serame.

Morekisi said for Kaboeamodimo to enter the race under BPF this would make the constituency more exciting, and it would be seen how he will mark the BPF

authority in the constituency at which the party is relatively new.

"The constituency has been a stronghold for BDP and Botswana National Front (BNF) of Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) have a strong presence and had given BDP a tough run in the previous polls when it was still named Molapowabojang-Mmathethe. BPF won't win but its presence is bringing in a new perspective and more so that Kaboeamodimo is one of popular figures in the area," said Morekisi.

In addition, Morekisi said it good development by BPF to expand or set its presence in Southern part of the country by launching candidates there as that would be helpful on gaging its ability to grow beyond GaMangwato territory where it dislodged BDP in its traditional stronghold constituencies like Serowe.

In this year general elections, the UDC would be represented in the constituency by Gaone Seleka, and it was in the past 2019 elections represented by Dr Prince Dibeela who lost the elections to the incumbent MP Dikoloti and before that he lost to another BDP candidate Dr Alfred Madigele during 2014 elections.

Dr Dibeela has since dumped BNF and UDC and would this year contest for elections under Botswana Congress Party Alliance (BCP) in Gaborone Bonington North constituency. Dibeela is now the leader of Botswana Labour Party (BLP), a BNF splinter party that formed an alliance with BCP for 2024 elections.

Ex-BDF Commander condemns Masisi

FROM PAGE 1

According to him, this concern was once raised by the Accountant General who confirmed that the net replacement ratio for the military, particularly non-commissioned officers, is 25 percent, compared to the industry recommendation of 75 percent in the formal sector. "Some soldiers did not join the pension scheme because their take-home pay was already too low. It is the government's policy that led to these issues, and thus, it is the government's responsibility to rectify them," he stated.

Meanwhile, anticipating that the veteran soldiers were going to respond, the Ministry of Defence and Security in the same statement warned the public and affected parties "against agents who might be trying through misinformation to cause unnecessary distress to beneficiaries of this exercise."

It is understood that the political leadership has rejected all advice from technocrats to engage with all parties involved equally to avert long-standing tensions and divisions. "We have made numerous attempts to advise the authorities to handle this matter thoughtfully because our main concern is that egos are undermining this noble initiative. Concerns that the association led by Generals is undermined are valid. It is true that they only see statements and public pronouncements about a matter concerning them," said a highly placed source at the Ministry.

When asked recently on whether they have engaged the parties in court, the Minister, Kagiso Mmusi said if the Generals feel the court is the best way to engage, then they cannot force them to abandon their court case.

Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



ADAM PHETLHE
ON SUNDAY!

AS PRESIDENT MASISI'S FIRST TERM in office is almost over, it is only fair that his performance during the first term is critically evaluated and interrogated. When he collected the baton from his confidante-turned-fore General Ian Khama, he created so many expectations for Botswana some of which were downright populist. This notwithstanding, the euphoria created in 2019 was breath-taking. But as the euphoria quickly fizzled out like mist in the air, it did so at the expense of many Botswana: many expectations have not been met in the first term. The two Covid-19 years are presented as the excuse. It's a fair excuse though I believe it is overly exaggerated to defend incompetence. There are many instances that can be characterised as disastrous, but I will pick on a few to drive my point home. I am referring to the second term on the assumption that he will win the 2024 general election.

To the President's credit some will justifiably argue, are his efforts to re-establish Botswana's presence in the international arena; his resolve to inculcate the spirit of Mind Set Change through the Reset Agenda. While this could be an attractive proposition, some like myself will readily counter it by saying Mind Set Change must begin with the President himself and his inner circle. The following will indicate just how far detached is the Mind Set Change through Reset Agenda from delivering the intended goals when they are so deeply entrenched and pursued by the President.

The disaster that is the BDP

The starting point should be the political party the President leads because when it is stable, that would in some way cascade to its government doing fairly well in serving the nation. Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) under the President has become an institution gripped by all sorts of instability caused in the main by appalling internal democracy deficiencies some of which are self-created. To be fair to the President, this does not begin with his tenure because such took place during General Khama's tenure but notarguably at the levels currently witnessed. But not in the history of the party has it gone into an election year with

Masisi's second term will be disastrous

its candidate list still shrouded in turmoil to the extent that party elders are reportedly concerned about the preparedness and good prospects of the party in the coming general election.

As I write, Maun East constituency is in limbo as to the how and when a candidate will be identified to represent it. It is as clear as daylight there are some party candidates who are preferred and those who are not in the bigger scheme of identifying candidates throughout the party. I accept candidates should be sellable out of integrity and good reputation. But, this line of standard appears to be selective. We have seen how Ms Pelonomi Venson-Moitsoi was insulted and vilified when she attempted to use her right as member in good standing to contest for the leadership position of the party back in 2019. While the party head-honchos try to put a brave face that the party is solid and united, the shambolic manner it has run its bulela ditswe points to the contrary. My point: Masisi's first term has rendered the BDP a pale shadow of itself in terms of the failure to foster fair inner party democracy processes.

Dealing with corruption remains a pipe dream under Masisi

One of the priorities the President sought to put high on his agenda was to meaningfully deal with corruption. In the process of doing so, I witnessed a high turnover of the Directors General of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC). The highlight of these was the suspension of the immediate past DG of the agency Rre Tymon Katholo under the most bizarre reasons who was arguably the most qualified person to lead the agency. His sin was to stand to the discredited Director General of the Directorate of intelligence Service (DIS) who sought to intrude onto the DCEC lane. The High Court and the Court of Appeal have since confirmed the intrusion and lambasted the DIS DG for this. Afrobarometer has issued a survey to say many Botswana view corruption as orchestrated from the President's office. Covid-19 Relief Fund meant to help Botswana during the pandemic era was decimated from this office so says the Auditor General Report. To this day, no one has been held to account. The only notable high profile corruption conviction is against the former Permanent Secretary to the President Rre Carter Morupisi who was prosecuted believably after falling out of favour with the President. Beyond the usual mantra that 'we detest and abhor corruption', nothing more than the mantra obtains. Masisi's first term has fallen far too short to make corruption a top priority.

Close proximity to the President renders some immune from the



President Masisi

[PIC.PRESSPHOTO]

rule of law

The President has pronounced on numerous occasions here and abroad that his administration will be anchored on the principle of the rule of law where such principle will not have eyes to see to whom it is applied. But what obtains on the ground is contrary to his assertions. When the President appointed the current Permanent Secretary to the President Mme Emma Peloletse, he was fully aware of her ongoing investigation with respect to the questionable benefit she received from the Botswana Public Offices Pension Fund. Expectedly, the President bore a duty to ensure the investigation exonerated or adversely implicated her. It is fair to conclude she was shielded from an investigation because of her close proximity to the President. The investigation from the immediate past DG of DCEC against the DG of DIS on corruption/abuse of office allegations has fizzled into thin air and nothing suggests it will ever see the light of day as long as the close proximity exists. On the other hand, it is fair and reasonable to suggest the rule of law is attempted on those deemed to have fallen out of favour with the President for one reason or the other. There are many examples one can make reference to. The point I am making is that the rule of law under the President's first term leaves a lot to be desired and this state of affairs is bound to continue into his second and last term.

The appalling state of public health facilities and that of education

One of the priorities of the President

in his first term should have been on a wholesale improvement on public health facilities and education particularly at junior and senior levels. If a public hospital in the capital city like Princess Marina not very far from the office of the Minister of Health can collapse to unbelievable levels where patients reportedly sleep on the floor and on dirty bed linen should the patient be lucky enough to receive some, you can imagine the state of similar hospitals far away from the same office. The public health sector has completely collapsed where its resuscitation will take long and at a huge cost to the taxpayer. It is not far-fetched to suggest the recently bought cattle from the United States and Australia could be receiving far much better medical attention than a Motswana in a public health facility. The appalling state of Botswana's education sector is as deplorable as that of the health sector. It is interesting to observe that the two sectors are in the top five of those who receive the highest budget allocations (recurrent and development) in each and every financial year. These budget allocations regrettably, are not commensurate with the intended outcomes.

Parliament remains under Masisi's firm grip

Not to be outdone by his predecessors, the President has followed suit by having parliament under his indirect control where the executive far exceeds the backbench. The backbench has continued to be the President's rear 'attack dogs' after the executive would have fired the first shot in the direction of enemy territory. There will be a few 'attack dogs' here and there whose

ultimate blunt bite becomes inconsequential in the bigger scheme of the President's political and other intentions. Botswana parliament has long ceased to have a true backbench to hold the executive led by the President accountable. The backbench did nothing about the controversial acquisition of the Tautona lodge at a whopping unbudgeted P 58 million neither did it do anything about the controversy surrounding the so-called review of the Constitution. One must be terrified to the marrow when the President talks about inclusivity yet he allows parliamentary committees to be headed almost exclusively by members of his party. It is a contradiction of the highest order. To the backbench, it is all about satisfying the wishes of the Emperor and craving for close proximity to be considered for this or the other position. Nothing suggests parliament will be any different during the President's second term. It will indeed continue to be an extension of the executive.

If I am correct on the above which I believe it is the case, the President's second term will be as disastrous as his first term. In fact, I will go further to suggest the second term could be more disastrous because he will be serving his final term with no fear of damaging his re-election prospects. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

*As we enter the long weekend, let us ensure we do so with all the responsibility and courage we can muster.
adamphetlhe08@gmail.com

IN THE INDUSTRIAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

IN THE DISPUTE BETWEEN:
NONOFO ISRAEL & 11 OTHERS

And
FABRIMILL BOTSWANA

APPLICANTS

RESPONDENT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to judgment of the above honorable Court the following property of the above - mentioned Respondent/Defendant will be sold by public Auction by Deputy Sheriff Zachariah F Mashamaite to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE: 25 JULY 2024
VENUE: TOTENG /KHOBMAKHAU COPPER MINE
TIME: 10:00 hours

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: 1x Chain saw, 1x Hdp excluder, 1x Slugger drill, 1x Sand Blasting Pot, 6x Pipe Stang, 2x Cable Jagg, 1x sealul, 1x Segment HDPE welding machine, 4x Step ladder, 1x Tert, 1x Ryobi chain saw, 1x Pinnacle welding machine, 1x Plastic folding table, 1x HDPE welding machine, 1x Ryobi grinding machine, 1x 315 HDPE Step & Flanch, 2x Electrical extensions, 1x Safety Hyurs, 4x packs Safety gloves, 1x 4pouces Copper harmer, 1x Dall Point Hammer, 1x Mag Driller, 1x Metal Table, 2x Pinnacle Welding Machine, 1x Jaj, 1x Battery, 2x 12m Still Container, 6m 3m Porter Cabin with Samsung Airconditioner, 2x Wooden Cabinet, 2x Office Table, 4x Office Chair, 2x File Drawer, 4x Plastic Chairs, 1x Ryobi Concrete Drilling Machine, 1x Hitachi Engine Grinder, 1x 9inch Hitachi Engine Grinder, 1x 4inch Ryobi Grinding Machine, 1x Mac Afric Tic Welding Machine, 1x Boban Span Pipe Range, 1x 16 pounce Flamer, 1x Pipe Cutter, 4x Welding Helmet, 1x Inco Drilling Machine, 2x 4pouces Harmer, 1x Tic Welding Machine with pipe and nozzle, 2x Spray Gun Pipes, 3x 6ton Shackle, 6x Electric Extensions, 1x Cabinet, 6x Safety Bolt, 3x 20L Decresser, 2x First Aid Kit Box, 1x Nylon Slins, 4x Safety Harness, 1x Chain Block, 3x 2tons Chain Blocks, 2x 32 tons Chain Block, 3x Bolt Cutter, 1x Digmark Fan, 1x Extension Trp Pole, 2x Cutting Torch Pipes and Gages, 1x Heating Torch with Gauge and Pipes, 1x stretcher, 5x Beam Clamps, 1x Dumpy Level Tripod, 1x Safety Belt Extension, 6x Sprint Level, 1x Wire Brashers, 1x Tool Box with Sockets, 1x Sand Blast Suit, 1x Ryobi Drilling Machine, 1x Office Table, 1x 150mm HDPE Welding Machine, 1x Stube Hinge Assorted, 1x 315mm HDPE Welding Machine, Bolts and Nuts, 1x First aid Box, 1x Defy Fridge, 1x Pinnacle Welding Machine, 1x Step Ladder, 2x Batters Cut, 1x Chain Block, 1x Hart Fence, 8x Nylon Strings, 3x Chairs, 1x Double Excel Flat Bed of Reg No: B175BLT, 1x Backup Generator with Trailer of Reg No: B166BLT, 1x Puntum Printer, 1x 10mm HDPE Painter, 1x HDP Power Pack, 1x Pinnacle Welding Machine, 1x 230mm Ryobi Grinding Machine, 1x Hitachi Welding Machine, 1x Mikatta Small Grinding Machine, 1x Ryobi Wood Planer, 1x electric Extension Cable, 1x Hydraulic Pump, 1x Bolt Cutter, 1x Hydraulic Power Pack, 1x 630 HDPE Welding Machine with Planer and Heater and MPE, 4x 6ton Shackle, 2x Power Pack Machine, Bolts and Nuts, 1x Stretcher, Plastic Corner Guards, 1x DB Box, 1x First Aid box, 3x Plastic Dustbin, 5x Nylon Slins, 4x Spade, 1x Shovel, 1x 500J Jojo with Stand, 1x DB Box, 1x Work Bench, 1x Plastic Roller, 1x Wheelbarrow, 1x Mobile Compressor, 1x Hard Beams, 1x Spread Beam upright Support

TERMS OF SALE: Cash or Bank Guaranteed Cheque and can further be viewed at the office of the Deputy Sheriff.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ZACHARIAH F MASHAMAITE
P O BOX 30426, FRANCISTOWN
Contact Mr. Mashamaite: #74271019, 77638433

Abuse at Saverite Pennywise

I WOULD LIKE TO RAISE A VERY BIG concern regarding some disgusting behaviour I witnessed from the operator/owner of the Saverite franchise by Phase 4 bar/PennyWise. The incident at stake was that I had entered into the store to buy a few cooking items as this was the closest and most convenient option at the time. Come time to pay for the items I had put in a basket, I heard a stark voice shout "Don't stand by this side of the till." This was to my bemusement as I had already given the lady working the till the money for the items and was simply waiting for my change and a plastic to bear my products. So I said to the man sitting in a secured cubicle "Ok no problem" to which he uttered again in a stark tone from his secured and quite boxed in cubicle "You stand on the other side, not by me." I turned towards the cubicle and asked the man why he did not have

a big warning sign to indicate to clients that they shouldn't stand by the till if it was such a big concern as he already had various signs/posters on things that were not permitted in the store. The man looks at me and says "This stupid girl should have told you" implying to his employee working the till. This is where I lost my patience with the man of Indian origin. I told him not to call his employee stupid under any circumstance, we started getting into a quarrel and he kept disrespecting his employee who generates so much money for him. I let him know that his rotten and entitled sense of pride should never let him forget that I as a customer am ensuring that he has money in his pocket and that he should watch how he talks to people, especially his own employee! decided to briefly ask the young lady how her experience has been working for this man and she said "Thank you for standing up for me, this man is

always so rude to us." This got me thinking about how the man was when there were no clients around. Unfortunately, my intuition tells me that this is an everyday occurrence for a lot of Botswana (not all) working in brick-and-mortar type stores and really I cannot let such things go. I hope some sort of investigation or analysis can be done to see how Botswana's experience is working under foreigners can be done because really it disgusts me that people can get away with such mannerisms.
Best regards
Bakang

Divide the P34 million among parties

AS A STARTING POINT, GOVERNMENT should divide the P34 million political party funding among all registered political parties in Botswana. A Bill to establish an Act regulating political party funding will be tabled in the July session of Parliament, but the P34 million has already stirred controversy before it sees the light of day.

For now, the Funds are expected to be shared among all registered political parties intending to contest the 2024 general elections due in October 2024. Because of the short period of time between now and the general election, I propose that the P34 million be divided among all political parties whether they are in a cooperation arrangement or not. If I'm correct that there

are seven legally registered political parties, each of them will receive close to P5 million. Accepting that political parties, particularly those in the opposition seriously lack resources to effectively contest elections, about P5 million will come extremely handy for them in this election. Accountability for these funds will be borne by the parties receiving them.

More importantly, political parties will have to agree what constitutes acceptable election spending through guidelines and other such instruments to prevent abuse.

In the circumstances, the balance of convenience will favour the least resourced because they're in the majority. The upcoming Bill will, with the benefit of ample time, be discussed by political parties at the

All-Party Conference & in Parliament for the next and subsequent elections. There could be a need to benchmark in countries already using political party funding system to determine which one will best suit Botswana scenario.

No political party will be prejudiced if the fund is divided equally among them for the coming general election. I'm prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always.

ADAM PHETLHE

VACANCY:

CHIEF AUTONOMOUS SECURITY OFFICER

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

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- Monitor and assess security threats and vulnerabilities specific to autonomous systems.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant regulations and standards.
- Oversee incident response and manage security breaches effectively.
- Conduct regular security audits and risk assessments.
- Provide strategic guidance to the executive team on security matters.
- Stay up-to-date with the latest advancements in autonomous technology and security trends.

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- At least 5 Years of Experience with autonomous systems or related technologies.
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Applicants may forward their applications no longer than the **29th July 2024**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Gaborone United FC are the 2024 DTC Botswana Women's Football Champions



DTC Botswana Managing Director, Mr. Sedireng 'Sed' Serumola awarding the winner's trophy to the 2024 Champions.



Gaborone United FC crowned 2024 DTC Botswana Women's Football Champions and walked away with a prize of P250,000.00

Diamond Trading Company (DTC) Botswana, in line with its purpose of "Unlocking Diamond Value, Adding Sparkle to Lives," has proudly sponsored the DTC Botswana Women's Football Championship in partnership with the Botswana Football Association for the past three years to the tune of P1,5 million each year.

This sponsorship aims to support and elevate women's football in Botswana while also contributing to the development and empowerment of female athletes in the country.

2024 marked the third edition of the championship, and the finals took place on the 6th of July 2024, at the National Stadium, showcasing the remarkable talent and skill of the competing teams. **Gaborone United FC** from the **Southern Block** emerged as the **champions, claiming the top prize of P250,000**. **Tawana Top Girls FC** from the **Northern Block** secured the **second position and were awarded P150,000**, followed by **Granada FC** from the **Eastern Block** in **third place with a prize of P100,000**. The fourth position was claimed by **Makgabz City FC** from the **Western Block, earning a well-deserved P50,000**. This sponsorship has significantly contributed to the growth and recognition of women's football in Botswana. By providing substantial rewards and resources to the competing teams, DTC Botswana has played a pivotal role in motivating and empowering female athletes to excel in the sport. The championship has not only provided a platform for these talented athletes to showcase their skills but has also fostered a sense of pride and achievement within the women's football community.

Additionally, the sponsorship also includes support for Grass Root Festivals for the girl child, which is a crucial component of DTC Botswana's commitment to the development and well-being of young female athletes. These festivals, held countrywide, aim to encourage participation in football from a young age, nurturing talent and passion for the sport while promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. The importance of these festivals extends beyond the field, as they serve as a means to instill confidence, leadership, and teamwork skills in the girls, contributing to their overall personal growth and development.

The impact of this sponsorship extends beyond the prize money and tournaments. It has sparked a renewed enthusiasm and appreciation for women's football in Botswana, inspiring young girls to pursue their athletic dreams and fostering a sense of inclusivity and opportunity within the sporting community. DTC Botswana's continued support for women's football exemplifies their dedication to unlocking potential and adding value to the lives of individuals, creating a legacy that goes beyond the field and resonates within the hearts and minds of aspiring female athletes across the nation.



Gaborone United FC players celebrating their win at the DTC Botswana prize giving ceremony.



Tawana Top Girls FC, finishing in second place, took home P150,000.00



Granada FC clinched 3rd place and earned P100,000.00



Makgabz City FC achieved 4th place and was awarded P50,000.00



Top Goal Scorer (P10,000.00) Gaonyadiwe Ontlametse of Gaborone United FC, Scoring 16 Goals



Player of the Tournament (P15 000) Gaonyadiwe Ontlametse of Gaborone United FC



Coach of the Tournament (P10 000) William Monene of Gaborone United FC



Goalkeeper of the Tournament (P10 000) Tlamele Pheresi of Gaborone United FC



Business

Botash targets double profits by 2027

AMANDA DAVID

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

AFRICA'S LEADING SUPPLIER of Soda Ash and industrial salt, Botswana Ash's (Botash) profits from their core business have shown an impressive and steady growth over the years with the business' profit increasing three times between 2017 and 2022.

Kangangwani Phatshwane, Botash's Managing Director told media personnel in a tour of the mine recently that with the introduction of new products in the near future, stakeholders should expect the mine's profit to double by the year 2027.

In 2017, Botash recorded a P103.4m profit whereas in 2018 the company recorded more than double its profits in the previous year with P257.31m. Last year alone the mine's profits had reached P527m against a planned target of P470m for the year.

Phatshwane disclosed that for the past five years, Botash has been working on introducing three new



[INSERT] Kangangwani Phatshwane, Botash's Managing Director

products in the market that are expected to further boost the mine's profitability as well as to maintain its position as Africa's leading

manufacturer and supplier of Soda Ash. Amongst the new products to be launched is Sulphate of Potash which

is currently not being produced in Africa and is a premium fertilizer for high value fruits and vegetables such as grapes. Botash also plans

to introduce Sodium Bicarbonate which is largely used in animal feed production and household cooking amongst other uses.

Another product Botash intends to introduce to the market as a way to diversify from its core line of business is Sodium Sulphate that is used in the manufacturing of detergents.

"Over the last five years we have developed three new products, which will be launched at the right time in the future, and we will continue to develop products so that the company has a basket of products to launch in the market," he said.

The partly state-owned mine – which has been in operation for over 30 years and is not only a supplier of soda ash but food grade salt in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and DRC – has a strategic five-year plan that intends to double sales. Its intention is to sustainably deliver diversified sodium-based product growth through improved logistics, plant operations, new product development and geographical expansion to double earnings before

tax by 2027.

Phatshwane highlighted that the plan's strategic pillars include reliable and predictable production, defend and grow market share, diversified product offering as well as sustainable mining operations.

Leading the mine tour was Senior Processing Engineer Modisagaarekwe Kgaodi who explained to the media that Botash's raw material is brine which exists underground in the Makgadikgadi pan and further highlighted that there are a total of 155 wells that the brine is being pumped from.

Kgaodi further noted that Botash's current mining lease runs up to the year 2039 though the resources currently available from the resource evaluation of 2014 indicate that the mine can run up to the year 2050. The resource evaluation which is done every 10 years helps the mine determine the lifespan of the soda ash mine. Kgaodi highlighted that the latest resource evaluation is currently underway and is expected to be complete by November.

Letshego sets the record straight



Aupa Monyatsi - Letshego Africa Group Chief Executive

LETSHEGO AFRICA HOLDINGS wishes to correct the false headline for the article published by the Nation Media Group on Friday 05 July 2024, "Botswana's Letshego defaults on Kenya, Uganda loans". Letshego Africa Holdings affirms that the Group has not defaulted nor failed in the servicing of any of its obligations in any of its subsidiaries. We confirm that claims of default on the part of Letshego Kenya and Uganda are false and incorrect. The Group's Annual Results for 2023, first published on 22 March 2024, affirmed that the Group's Expected Credit Loss (ECL) methodology had been adjusted, impacting 2023 results and resulting in the restatement of 2022 financial results. As a result of these adjustments and other areas of judgement, the Group breached some covenants with some of its funders which are disclosed fully in our Integrated Annual Report for 2023. Beyond the covenant breaches, the Group has not failed on its debt obligations. For the two subsidiaries falsely and incorrectly mentioned by the media house, we wish to confirm that we did proactively engage with our funders and obtained formal 'letters of no action' for the covenant breaches. Letshego Africa Holdings remains well capitalised and in a solid liquidity position. The Group wishes to take this opportunity to thank its stakeholders, including funders and investors, for their ongoing partnership and commitment in supporting the Group's pan-African inclusive finance strategy. [bse.co.bw]

BSE posts P802.8m equity turnover

- 94% growth as compared to the 2023 January- June period
- Average daily turnover also increased by 97% to P6.5 billion
- Top 3 trading companies: Sechaba, Access Bank & CA Sales

BAKANG TIRO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE BOTSWANA STOCK Exchange (BSE) has posted a record growth on equity turnover, reaching P802.8 million in 2024 in the six month to June. This is a 94.9 per cent increase from the previous corresponding period.

The BSE revealed on its market performance report for the period under review that Average Daily Turnover has increased by 97.0% to P6.5 billion from P3.3 billion recorded in 2023.

The BSE said the total market capitalisation has risen by 80.6% relative to the corresponding period in 2023, mainly on the back of an 88.4% increase in the foreign companies' market capitalisation.

It also indicated that foreign companies account for 92.9% of the total equity market capitalisation.

"During the period 1 January to 30 June 2024, the Domestic Company Index (DCI) appreciated by 5.0% in comparison to an increase of 4.3% during the corresponding period in 2023 and the Domestic Company Total Return Index (DCTRI) appreciated by 10.6% in comparison to an increase of 9.4% during the



Ag BSE CEO, Kopano Bolokwe

corresponding period in 2023," BSE underscored. The Foreign Company Index (FCI) registered a notable increase of 19.5% in comparison to a marginal appreciation of 0.1% in the corresponding period in 2023.

Furthermore, the BSE said the top three (3) traded companies during the period under review were Sechaba (P154.4 million), Access Bank Botswana (P125.9 million) and CA Sales (P88.0 million).

"The total turnover from these

three companies accounted for 45.9% of total equity turnover, with the leading counter Sechaba accounting for 19.2% of total equity turnover. In comparison to the same period in 2023, the top three traded companies accounted for 53.6% of total equity turnover with the leading counter Letlole La Rona accounting for 38.2% (P157.1 million) of total equity turnover," BSE buttressed.

During the period under review, the BSE said there has been a notable

improvement in the trading of dual-listed large-cap stocks, particularly Anglo and Investec, which are among the top five best-performing stocks on the Exchange.

The BSE said through guiding the institutional investors, it is committed to providing a conducive environment for dual-listed stocks to trade more actively in Botswana's secondary market.

According to the BSE, this effort aims to build a local shareholder base and ensure that Botswana truly participate in entities such as Anglo, which have significant investment in Botswana's diamond sector.

BOND MARKET

Delving into the bond market performance, the BSE report noted that bond trading has tripled in the period under review, driven by a 235.0% rise in the trading of Government bonds, which constitute 82.2% of bond market capitalisation.

Also, the corporate bond trades have more than doubled in comparison to the corresponding period in 2023.

The Sustainable bond market registered secondary market trading for the first time since the inaugural sustainable bond listed in December 2023. At the close of June, the number of listed debt instruments totalled 135 and comprised of seven (7) Government Bonds, 95 Corporate Bonds, 32 Commercial Papers and one (1) Sustainable Bond.

Botswana's electricity generation dips by 11.2%

BAKANG TIRO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE BOTSWANA POWER Corporation (BPC) has recorded a 11.2 percent decrease in electricity generation output during the first quarter of 2024 as compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023. The Index of Electricity Generation (IEG) stood at 188.2 during 2024 Q1 compared to the 211.9 recorded during the past Q1 quarter in 2023.

Statistics Botswana (SB) revealed on the Electricity Generation and Distribution Stats Brief Q1 2024 that the physical volume of generated electricity decreased by 11.2 percent (99,387 MWH), from 890,655 MWH during the first quarter of 2023 to 791,267 MWH during the current quarter.

The quarter-on-quarter perspective shows that local electricity generation increased by 20.9 percent (136,956 MWH) from 654,312 MWH during the fourth quarter of 2023 to 791,267 MWH during the period under review.

"This increase was mainly attributed to the higher output of both Morupule A and B power stations. During the quarter under review, Morupule A and B power stations were responsible for a significant 99.0 percent of the total electricity generated, showcasing their vital role in meeting the country's energy needs," said SB.

Additionally, Statistics Botswana noted that the Matshegagabedi emergency power plant made a modest contribution of 0.8 percent to the national grid. Furthermore, the integration of

electricity generated from solar power stations into the national grid during the first quarter of 2024 indicated a rising focus on renewable energy sources, accounting for 0.2 percent of the local electricity generation mix.

"The connection of the Bobonong, Phakalane, and Shakawe Solar Power plants to the national grid signifies a growing dedication to broadening the sources of electricity production," affirmed the report.

IMPORTED POWER

Meanwhile, during the first quarter of 2024, the physical volume of imported electricity increased by 49.1 percent (135,041 MWH) from 274,978 MWH during the first quarter of 2023 to 410,020 MWH.

According to the national statistics agency, the amount of imported electricity decreased by 20.9 percent (108,649 MWH) during the first quarter of 2024 compared to the previous quarter, from 518,669 MWH to 410,020 MWH.

"The Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (ZESCO) was the main source of imported electricity at 48.8 percent of total electricity imports. Namibia Power Corporation (Nampower) accounted for 17.7 percent while the remaining 16.5, 12.0 and 5.0 percent were sourced from Electricidade de Mozambique (EDM), Eskom and Cross-border electricity markets respectively," the agency added.

It also said the cross-border electricity markets is an arrangement whereby towns and villages along the border are supplied with electricity from neighbouring countries such as Namibia and Zambia.



JOB VACANCIES | OPPORTUNITIES AT THE GAMBLING AUTHORITY

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Closing date: 26 July 2024

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(+267) 3957672

StanChart champions Sustainability

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK HIGHLIGHTED the sustainability roadmap while participating at the 2nd Botswana Sustainability Week. The event focused on the theme, "Investing in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Sustainability: Aligning Profitability with

Positive Environmental and Social Impact," brought together industry experts from Botswana and around the globe to share ESG case studies and engage in interactive plenary dialogues. The discussions explored how investments in ESG and sustainability can positively impact

the bottom line while creating equitable opportunities for all. Sustainability is a core component of Standard Chartered Bank's strategy and one of its four Group strategic priorities. This reflects the Bank's commitment to delivering sustainable, inclusive growth in the places we call home through its:

- **Business:** As a leading financial institution, Standard Chartered leverages its deep expertise and innovative product suite to offer clients bespoke sustainable finance solutions that address challenges and support sustainable growth.
 - **Operations:** The Bank strives to be a responsible business, operationalising our net zero targets, managing our environmental and social risks, acting transparently, and investing in its people.
 - **Communities:** Standard Chartered advocates in service of its markets, applying its innovative mindset to unlock the areas where capital is not flowing at scale or not at all, and driving economic inclusion through community programmes to tackle inequality, support young people, and encourage entrepreneurship.
- "At Standard Chartered, sustainability is not just a strategy; it is a core component of our identity. As a leading financial institution, we have a pivotal role to play in delivering sustainable, inclusive economic growth for the markers we call home. Our participation in the 2nd Botswana Sustainability Week underscores our dedication to aligning profitability with positive environmental and social impact."
- Said Mpho Masupe, Chief Executive Officer



Mpho Masupe, Chief Executive Officer at Standard Chartered Bank

at Standard Chartered Bank. In line with its commitment to sustainable development, the Bank has set long-term ambitions on climate change, financial inclusion, and globalisation, collectively known as The Stands. These Stands give the Bank an active framework for positive impact across its footprint.

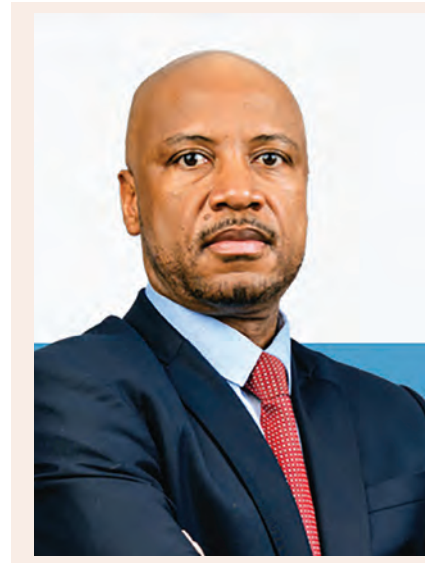
To date, the Bank has made notable strides in its Sustainability agenda, by:

- Building an expert team to help embed sustainability across the organisation: In July 2022, the Bank appointed Marisa Drew as its inaugural Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO), to act as a catalyst for the execution of the Group-wide Sustainability strategy and the operationalisation of the Bank's net zero roadmap. Client engagement is led by multidisciplinary teams across the business, who have deep expertise across key sustainability disciplines, ranging from transition finance and ESG advisory, to carbon accounting.
- Developing an extensive suite of innovative sustainability products: From green to social, to support the breadth of clients' sustainability

ambitions. To date, the Bank has mobilised USD 87.5 billion of sustainable finance, against its target of USD300 billion by 2030.

- Making progress in transforming its operations: Standard Chartered's branches in Botswana are now solar powered, reducing its reliance on non-renewable resources. It has also replaced traditional lighting with energy-efficient LED lights across all branches to significantly reduce energy consumption and minimise its carbon footprint.
- Committing to planting 12,500 trees in Botswana: As part of reforestation initiatives designed to support biodiversity and play a part in combatting climate change.

Standard Chartered Bank is dedicated to reshaping growth based on inclusivity, sustainability, and its responsibility to support people and communities for the long term, in line with its brand promise, Here for Good. The Bank looks forward to collaborating with industry leaders during Botswana Sustainability Week to further its mission of driving sustainable economic and social progress.



Know Your Corporate Leader

Full Name: Joel Duke Ramaphoi
Position: Caretaker Registrar General
Institution: CIPA
Date Started: September 2023
Nature of business: Company Registration and Intellectual Property Protection



PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMENCEMENT OF THE 2024 FILING SEASON

The 2024 Individual Income Tax Filing Season started on the 1st July 2024 and will end on September 30th 2024.

- For the 2023/ 2024 Tax Year, individuals who are required to file are as follows;
 - 1.1. Those who earn more than P480 000.00 per annum and from a single employer.
 - 1.2. Those who have more than one source of income, regardless of the P480 000.00 threshold. This includes those who have business income, rental income, investment income, earning pension and salary from another employer, directors' fees etc.
 - 1.3. Those employed for less than 12 months in the Tax year,
 - 1.4. Those who changed jobs - moving from one employer to the other,
 - 1.5. Those overtaxed or undertaxed,
- If your source of income is employment only, and is less than P480 000.00, you are not required to file, provided that the income is from a single employer, for 12 months of the Tax year and the correct PAYE was deducted from that income.
- Employers/ Payers are required to ensure to;
 - 3.1. Register and use e-services platform for filing of returns and payment of Tax due.
 - 3.2. Submit annual Withholding Tax Return and Other Withholding Tax Return (ITW10/ITW100) by the 31st July 2024.
 - 3.3. Issue certificates of Tax deducted (ITW8/ ITW9) to all employees/ payees from whom Tax has been deducted.

Employers are encouraged to file their PAYE returns online, which would automatically populate the individual employees' tax accounts, who would be then able to file their returns.

To register for e-service, please visit our BURS website; www.burs.org.bw

For more information, contact the BURS Call Centre at **17649**.

BURS, collecting for progress

Letshego Botswana donates 5 white brahmans

... supports the President's Donate a Bull initiative



LETSHEGO HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT contribution to the President's Donate a Bull initiative aimed at enhancing the cattle value chain and improving local cattle genetics. The company donated five magnificent white Brahman bulls worth P110, 000, demonstrating its commitment to improving lives and contributing to the nation's sustainability when it comes to cattle breeding.

Letshego Botswana Chief Executive Officer and Regional Executive for Eswatini and Lesotho Kgotsi Bannalotho said, "We are delighted to be given this opportunity to make a valued contribution to the President's Donate a Bull Initiative. These are magnificent bulls, and we are proud that they are going to benefit more Botswana farmers across the country and play a crucial role in achieving our goal of enhanced national sufficiency through farming."

The donation was presented by Letshego Africa Holdings Group Chief Executive Aupa Monyatsi, alongside the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Letshego Botswana, Martin Makgathe, Chief Executive Officer for Letshego Financial Services Botswana, and Regional Executive, Kgotsi Bannalotho, Group Head of

Corporate Business Development, Frederick Mmelesi, along with their teams.

Letshego Africa Group Executive Aupa Monyatsi explained, "Letshego chose white Brahman bulls for their known advantages in the cattle industry, including their hardiness, adaptability to different climates, and resistance to diseases. These traits are essential for improving the health and productivity of the local cattle population, aligning with the President's vision for enhancing the cattle value chain and improving local genetics."

In addition to the esteemed guests previously mentioned, the donation event was graced by the presence of the Honorable Minister of Finance, Peggy Serame, the Deputy Permanent Secretary to the President Dorcas Bokole and their teams, and their team members. Their attendance underscored the significance of Letshego's contribution to President Masisi's initiative and the collective commitment to enhancing the cattle value chain and improving local cattle genetics.

This donation reflects Letshego's dedication to initiatives that enhance community well-being and contribute to the nation's sustainability.

Sefalana's profit up 11%

THE BOARD OF SEFALANA IS VERY PLEASED to announce that Sefalana's Group profit before tax for the 52-week period ended 28 April 2024 will be between 9% and 11% (approximately P36 million to P44 million) higher than that reported for the comparative 53-week period ended 30 April 2023 ("prior year") which amounted to P403 million. This

is despite the year under review being one week shorter than the prior year. Sefalana will be publishing its consolidated financial results of the Group for the 52-week period ended 28 April 2024 by the end of July 2024. This will include commentary on the drivers for the enhanced performance. [\[bse.co.bw\]](http://bse.co.bw)

Botala announces a 42% increase in CBM resource

BOTALA ENERGY LTD IS PLEASED TO announce a 42% increase in the 2C Contingent Resources (best-case estimate) within its 100% owned Serowe Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Project to 454 billion cubic feet (bcf) after the latest independent recertification by Sproule in the USA (Table 1).

This increase is a result of extensive exploration and improved mapping techniques that have enhanced the understanding of the CBM potential in Botswana in terms of CBM presence and potential gas flow rates. The new low estimate of 363bcf (2C) is higher than the previous best-case estimate of 317bcf (2C).

This CBM resource upgrade comes at a crucial time when the Southern African region is facing a looming gas shortage, as forecast by Sasol for 2026. The strategic location and the substantial increase in 2C contingent resources place Botala in an excellent position to contribute significantly

to gas and general energy security in Botswana and Southern Africa.

Kris Martinick, CEO of Botala said: "I am thrilled by the significant increase in our 2C contingent resources and the vast potential of our CBM Project in Botswana to supply gas to energy hungry Southern Africa, especially the nearby industrial heart land of South Africa. This development further positions Botala as a key player in the Southern African gas market and aligns with our vision to address the region's energy needs. We are well positioned to capitalise on this opportunity, and I look forward to the encouraging gas flow-rate investigations and negotiations with potential partners and customers delivering value to our shareholders. The future of Botala is incredibly promising in today's energy hungry Southern Africa, and I look forward to sharing our progress as we advance this project." [\[bse.co.bw\]](http://bse.co.bw)

Liberty unveils Innovative Retirement Annuity

LIBERTY IS THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THE launch of a groundbreaking Retirement Annuity, a transformative tax effective product designed to empower individuals with the tools and support needed to achieve a secure and comfortable retirement. This innovative product underscores our commitment to providing comprehensive and personalised financial solutions, ensuring our clients can confidently navigate their retirement journey.

A Retirement Annuity is a long-term pre retirement investment plan designed to provide

individuals with a steady income during retirement. It allows for regular contributions, which are invested over time to grow into a substantial retirement fund. Upon retirement, this fund can be used to generate a consistent income, helping individuals maintain their standard of living and financial independence.

In an ever-changing financial landscape, planning for retirement has never been more crucial. Liberty's new Retirement Annuity offers a suite of benefits and features tailored to meet the diverse needs of clients.



The relevance of an Ecosystem Approach in Industry

HAROLD MATENGE
Head of Ecosystem Banking
Absa Bank Botswana Limited

IN AN ERA WHERE GLOBAL industries are evolving on a daily basis, the traditional boundaries that once defined business sectors are dissolving. In their place, we see the emergence of intricate ecosystems—interconnected networks of organisations, technologies, and people working together toward common goals. Embracing an ecosystem approach is no longer a luxury but a necessity for industries

(including Banking) aiming to thrive in the modern economic landscape. An ecosystem approach fosters innovation and resilience by leveraging the collective strengths of diverse participants. Through an ecosystem approach, business units are not isolated entities competing in a winner takes all style, but they are active contributors to a dynamic and collaborative environment. This shift from the silo approach to collaboration enables business units to address client's complex challenges more effectively. These could vary from



Matenge

funding instruments, employee value proposition, to even aspects such as supplier and distributor value chain considerations. A clear case in point is the technology sector, where companies have cultivated extensive ecosystems of developers, suppliers, and partners. By creating platforms that encourage and even invite third-party innovation, these companies not only expand their market share but also accelerate the pace of technological advancement.

The result is a vibrant ecosystem where big picture mentality is prioritised, driving continuous client optimisation.

Moreover, an ecosystem approach encourages agility, a critical attribute in today's highly competitive markets. It has been proven that a silo-based approach to client solutioning is not only short sighted, but it also voids an organisation the opportunity to leverage the client optimally, the result of which is client stickiness, value creation, and mutually beneficial relationships.

In an organisational setting, an ecosystem approach with its all-encompassing view, offers multiple avenues for client solutioning and

extended value proposition upsell. This therefore means that when one business unit takes a knock, not all is lost as other business units can compensate, ensuring that wholistic client primacy is attained. Banks are increasingly forming alliances with financial technology (FinTech's) firms, and (Mobile Network Operators MNO's). These ecosystems are essential for developing the sophisticated technologies required for next-generation banking, ensuring that innovation is holistic, remains agile, and well-integrated across the entire value chain.

The transition to an ecosystem approaches however, is not without its challenges. It requires a cultural shift within the organisation, moving away from siloed ways of operating (albeit internally) to more open, collaborative frameworks. A culture of trust and transparency takes centre stage, as does the ability to manage and ultimately protect the client relationship.

An effective governance structure is essential to set the tone to navigate these complexities and ensure that the ecosystem approach operates cohesively and ethically. As we

look to the future, the relevance of an ecosystem approach will only grow. The challenges facing industry, being inter alia, regulatory landscape, increased competition, technological disruptions, and shifting client expectations are too complex for any single entity to tackle alone. By embracing the principles of collaboration, flexibility, and inclusivity inherent in an ecosystem approach, industry can not only navigate these challenges but also turn them into opportunities for growth and innovation.

In conclusion, the ecosystem approach represents a paradigm shift in how businesses operate. It emphasizes the power of collaboration over competition, flexibility over rigidity, and inclusivity over exclusivity. For organisations willing to embrace this model, the rewards are significant: client primacy, big picture thinking, increased collaboration, enhanced innovation and solutioning, and a more sustainable path forward. The future of business lies in the strength of its ecosystems, and those who recognise this will be the pioneers of tomorrow's economic landscape.

Balancing Act: Navigating Sustainability and ESG Communications



BARATI PHAGANE
PR and Communications Specialist

IN THE WORDS OF SUSTAINABILITY strategist Paul Polman, "We are at a unique moment in history, where the scale and speed of change required are unprecedented. We cannot choose between economic growth and sustainability - we must have both." Effective communication is crucial for ESG engagement as it showcases the dedication, advancements, and influence of the organisation. Many businesses have recognised the importance of effectively communicating their messages and developing transparent ESG strategies. Being transparent and authentic is vitally essential today since customers are wary of greenwashing. So, businesses must be upfront and more intentional in how they communicate and embrace sustainability.

Embracing sustainability and ESG communications is integral to corporate identity and mission, organisations can leverage communication as a powerful tool for positive change and sustainable growth.

In the realm of corporate communications, navigating the complex landscape of Sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors has become akin to walking a tightrope. As companies worldwide increasingly prioritise sustainability initiatives and transparency in ESG practices, effective communication has emerged as a crucial tool in shaping stakeholder perceptions, building trust, and driving meaningful impact.

In recent years, there has been a notable shift in corporate priorities towards sustainability and ESG considerations. Beyond regulatory compliance, stakeholders—including investors, consumers, employees, and communities—now scrutinise companies' environmental footprint, social impact, and governance practices.

According to a report by McKinsey, 90% of institutional investors now integrate ESG factors into their investment decisions, highlighting the growing significance of transparent and credible ESG communications. Businesses that effectively communicate their commitment to sustainability and ESG principles not only mitigate risks but also enhance their reputation as responsible corporate citizens.

Transparency and Authenticity in Communication

Central to effective sustainability and ESG communications is transparency and authenticity. Stakeholders demand clear, honest,

and evidence-based communication regarding companies' sustainability efforts, goals, achievements, and challenges.

A survey conducted by Edelman found that 81% of respondents believe that companies must be transparent about their sustainability efforts and impacts. This transparency not only builds trust but also fosters accountability, encouraging companies to uphold their commitments and engage stakeholders in meaningful dialogue.

Integrating Sustainability into Corporate Strategy

Successful sustainability and ESG communications require integration into broader corporate strategy and business operations. PR professionals play a pivotal role in aligning messaging with organisational goals, ensuring that sustainability initiatives are not viewed as isolated projects but as integral components of the company's mission and vision.

Research published in the Journal of Business Ethics emphasises the importance of strategic alignment, highlighting how companies that embed sustainability into their core strategy achieve greater long-term success and stakeholder satisfaction. By communicating the strategic rationale behind sustainability initiatives, PR professionals enhance stakeholder understanding and support, driving alignment between corporate actions and societal expectations.

Harnessing Stakeholder Engagement and Education

Effective sustainability and ESG communications go beyond dissemination of information; they involve engaging and educating stakeholders on the broader impacts of corporate decisions. PR professionals leverage various platforms—from corporate websites and social media to stakeholder meetings and sustainability reports—to educate stakeholders about the company's sustainability journey, progress towards goals, and impacts on stakeholders and communities.

A study by Harvard Business Review underscores the role of stakeholder engagement in sustainability communications, revealing that companies with robust stakeholder engagement strategies are more likely to achieve their sustainability objectives and garner support from diverse stakeholder groups. By fostering dialogue and listening to stakeholder feedback, PR professionals enhance transparency, build credibility, and strengthen relationships based on mutual trust and respect.

Purpose and Precision

As organisations and businesses navigate the intricacies of sustainability and ESG communications, PR professionals must tread carefully, balancing the imperative for transparency with the need to showcase meaningful progress and impact. By prioritising authenticity, integrating sustainability into corporate strategy, harnessing stakeholder engagement, and embracing transparency, organisations can effectively communicate their commitment to sustainability and ESG principles, thereby enhancing reputation, driving value creation, and securing long-term success in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

BBS Bank Interest Rates Schedule 01 July 2024

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal interest rate (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates (Lowest -Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (Lowest to highest)
BBS Prime Lending Rate		6.26%	
Current	Nil	Nil	P200.00
Call	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ordinary Savings	0.10%	0.10%	P100.00
Special Savings	0.10% - 0.70%	0.10% - 0.70%	P500.00
SME Ordinary Savings	0.10%	0.10%	P1,000.00
Letsibogo Savings	1.21% - 1.76%	1.22% -1.77%	Nil
Tlanelo Mortgage Savings	1.76%	1.77%	P250.00
Lerako Savings	1.01% - 2.76%	1.02% -2.80%	P25,000.00
Paid-Up-Savings	1.61%	1.62%	P100.00
Subscription Deposit	2.26%	2.28%	P100.00
Fixed Term Deposit	1.01% - 4.11%	1.02% -4.12%	P1,000.00
3 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	1.10% - 1.40%	1.11% -1.41%	P1,000.00
6 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	1.15% - 1.45%	1.16% -1.46%	P1,000.00
12 Months Fixed Deposit	1.51% - 1.81%	1.52% - 1.83%	P1,000.00 -P200,000.00
24 Months Fixed Deposit	1.57% - 1.91%	1.58% - 1.93%	P1,000.00 -P200,000.00
Over 24 Months	1.60% - 2.06%	1.61% - 2.08%	P1,000.00 -P200,000.00
Lending Facilities		Effective Rates	
Unsecured Personal Loans	BBS Prime Lending Rate +8% - 17.5%		
Mortgage Facilities	BBS Prime Lending Rate +2% - 5.5%		
Secured Short Term Loans	BBS Prime Lending Rate +10%		

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BBS Bank

BBS Bank Quarterly Report on Public Disclosure on Actual Deposit Interest Rates Offered.

Type of Deposit Account	Month April Interest Rates	Month May Interest Rates	Month June Interest Rates	Range Interest Rates
Current	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Savings	0.10%-3.01%	0.10%-3.01%	0.10%-3.01%	0.10%-3.01%
3 months	1.35% - 1.65%	1.35% - 1.65%	1.35% - 1.65%	1.35% - 1.65%
6 months	1.40% - 1.70%	1.40% - 1.70%	1.40% - 1.70%	1.40% - 1.70%
12 months	1.76% - 2.06%	1.76% - 2.06%	1.76% - 2.06%	1.76% - 2.06%
24 months	1.82% - 2.16%	1.82% - 2.16%	1.82% - 2.16%	1.82% - 2.16%
Over 24 months	1.85% - 2.31%	1.85% - 2.31%	1.85% - 2.31%	1.85% - 2.31%

BBS Bank Quarterly Report on Actual Lending Rates Offered.

Type of Lending Product	Month April Interest Rates	Month May Interest Rates	Month June Interest Rates	Range Interest Rates
Monetary Policy Rate	2.40%	2.40%	2.40%	2.40%
Prime Lending Rate	6.51%	6.51%	6.51%	6.51%
Mortgage Facility	Prime +(2-5.5%)	Prime +(2-5.5%)	Prime +(2-5.5%)	Prime +(2-5.5%)
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Credit Card	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lease Loans	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	Prime +(8-17.5%)	Prime +(8-17.5%)	Prime +(8-17.5%)	Prime +(8-17.5%)
Secured Short-term Loans	Prime +(10%)	Prime +(10%)	Prime +(10%)	Prime +(10%)

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BBS Bank

Aviation Executives call on tourism boards to boost Africa air routes

AFRICA'S VAST TOURISM POTENTIAL remains untapped due to a lack of air connectivity, with Africa currently accounting for just 1.9% of global passenger and cargo traffic. However, aviation experts believe national tourism boards have a unique opportunity to drive new airline routes and spur economic growth.

At a recent AviaDev Africa workshop, which was hosted in collaboration with the SADC Business Council Tourism Alliance, airline executives stressed tourism boards' power lies in leveraging market data and industry relationships to convince sceptical carriers of new routes' long-term viability. "Tourism is more than just leisure; it's a critical economic activity that requires strategic thinking and collaboration across sectors," said Kojo Bentum-Williams, UN Tourism's Senior Africa Communications Expert.

Sylvain Bosc, former Chief Commercial Officer of SAA and Fastjet, stressed the importance of demonstrating sustained profitability. "Destination marketing

organisations (DMOs) must sell a long-term vision highlighting the destination's growth prospects and economic impact," he said. "Creative incentives like co-marketing, reducing airline costs, and quantifying passenger volumes can be more powerful than direct subsidies."

Bosc noted DMOs need to "bring new light" to data airlines already have by offering insights into upcoming local economic developments like new mines or infrastructure projects that could drive corporate traffic. "Local insights can provide airlines with the confidence they need to invest in new routes," he said.

Natalia Rosa, Project Lead of the SADC Business Council Tourism Alliance, underscored the critical role of aviation in regional development: "Aviation is not a luxury, it's the lifeblood of a modern regional economy. Improved air connectivity unlocks a range of benefits: it streamlines travel, opens doors for new tourism markets, and strengthens regional economic ties."

Gavin Eccles, Head of Vertical at BAE



Ventures, emphasised tourism boards must be "at the table" with compelling cases backed by local market insights, travel trade ties and unique selling points that airlines

often lack. "Tourism boards should not only provide data but also offer a local perspective that airlines may not have," Eccles said,

citing India's successful "Incredible India" branding undermined by poor connectivity. Regional coordination like aligned visa policies, joint itinerary promotion and tapping conservation funds can also help finance route development. But Tim Harris of Helm Growth Advisors cautioned: "Retaining and expanding existing airline services should be the priority before attracting new routes."

While direct subsidies face sustainability questions, Bentum-Williams said other incentives enable an "environment of trust" for profit-focused airlines.

"There's a need to change the narrative from just paying airlines to fly routes to creating an environment of trust and confidence," he said.

Jillian Blackbeard, CEO of Africa's Eden Tourism Association, highlighted successful collaboration with Proflight through local stakeholder and trade backing, building airline confidence without major incentives. "We worked closely with Proflight and local stakeholders to ensure that routes were supported by the trade and the private

sector, which helped build confidence in the airline and led to successful route development without significant financial incentives," Blackbeard shared.

Coordinated efforts leveraging DMOs' destination expertise can unlock increased connectivity - a lifeline for Africa's tourism economies long grounded by poor air links.

The AviaDev Africa workshop was designed as a platform for action to address the challenges of the aviation industry and collaborate on solutions. The intention from the outset was to examine how tourism stakeholders, including national tourism organisations and private sector tourism associations, can become involved in route development and assist airlines with route promotion. The success of the workshop and has now secured it a place at AviaDev 2025 in Zanzibar. Scheduled for the welcome reception day before the main conference, it will equip tourism delegates with essential route development building blocks and comprise two days of networking and collaboration focused on reshaping African aviation's future. [\[sadc-tourismalliance.org\]](http://sadc-tourismalliance.org)

DEBSWANA

55 More Than DIAMOND MINING

OUR DIAMOND DREAM, OUR DIAMOND TEAM



As we celebrate 55 years of existence with the tag line "more than diamond mining", Debswana Diamond Company is thrilled to witness the versatility displayed by local athletes as they take centre stage at the Paris Olympics in France. Our partnership with the Botswana Athletics Association (BAA), an affiliate of Botswana National Sport Commission, is so much more than just athletics. It is about impacting livelihoods and accelerating a high-performance culture for our athletes to reach their full potential. We are inspired to make life brilliant for our communities, and this is our diamond dream, our legacy.

Our partnership, signed in 2022, was based on the track and field development of over 900 athletes and qualifying local athletes for the Paris Olympics thus surpassing previous records. This has transcended into groundbreaking achievements as outlined below:

- Out of the 14 Botswana athletes who qualified for Paris 2024, **12 are from the BAA**
- Botswana gave the African continent its first-ever **world medal in the Men's 100m** track and field's premier race, at the 2023 World Championships in Budapest
- In 2022, Botswana set a **world U20 100m record of 9.94** at the World Athletics Championships in Oregon
- Debswana has spent **P9 million** to facilitate training for participation in local, regional and international championships for the athletics team in the last 3 years, with the BAA having received P3 million annually from 2022 to 2024
- Cumulatively, Debswana has spent **P180 million** over the past ten years on sport development

Debswana Board, Management and staff wishes our diamond team, **Team Botswana**, consisting of athletics and swimming athletes, the best of luck in the Paris Olympics.

PULA!

The man who will take over the R200 billion Oppenheimer empire



Johnathan

JONATHAN OPPENHEIMER IS THE HEIR to the Oppenheimer family's R200 billion fortune. He recently shed light on growing up in one of the world's richest and most influential families.

Jonathan was born on 18 November 1969. He is the son of former De Beers chairman Nicky Oppenheimer.

His lineage stretches back to Anglo American founder Ernest Oppenheimer, who was his great-grandfather.

Ernest was the first generation of the family to chair the De Beers diamond mining company in South Africa, founded by Cecil Rhodes in 1888.

Ernest handed the reins to Harry Oppenheimer, who became one of the world's wealthiest people and for four decades considered South Africa's foremost industrialist.

He was chairman of Anglo American for 25 years and De Beers Consolidated Mines for 27 years until he retired in the early eighties.

His son, Nicky Oppenheimer, became deputy chairman of Anglo American Corporation in 1983 and chairman of De Beers in 1998.

He retired as De Beers chairman in 2012 when the Oppenheimer family's stake was sold to Anglo American.

Jonathan Oppenheimer is the new face of the Oppenheimer family and the executive chairman of Oppenheimer Generations.

He attended the Harrow School and Christ Church, Oxford and played first-class cricket for Oxford University Cricket Club.

He started his career at N M Rothschild & Sons, after which he moved to Anglo American, where he became senior vice president in 1999.

After leaving Anglo American in 2000, he filled numerous senior roles at De Beers diamond mining company in Southern Africa and London until 2012.

Jonathan was involved in the 2001 delisting of De Beers and the 2012 sale of the Oppenheimer family's stake to Anglo American.

The deal with Anglo American ended the Oppenheimer family's 85-year controlling position in the world's diamond trade.

In 2003, Jonathan and his father published a policy paper on economic development in South Africa, which led to the launch of The Brenthurst Foundation in 2004.

He remains actively involved in all aspects of the Oppenheimer family's private, commercial, and philanthropic endeavours.

The family is also a big political contributor. Between 2021 and 2023, it donated R89 million to South African political parties - the biggest donor in the country.

Jonathan is a staunch conservationist. He bought the Tswalu Kalahari Reserve, South Africa's largest private game reserve, and immediately ended hunting.

In 2007, the World Wildlife Fund gave Jonathan an award for his conservation work at Tswalu Kalahari.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jonathan and his father committed R1 billion to creating a financial lifeline for the employees of small, medium, and micro-sized enterprises.

Growing up as an Oppenheimer Jonathan Oppenheimer revealed what it was like to grow up in one of South Africa's richest and most influential families in an interview with Bruce Whitfield.

His parents instilled a sense of humility in him from a young age despite growing up as part of the richest family in South Africa.

One example is pocket money. He often received less pocket money than most of his friends. His mother forced him to pay his own way and save what little money he had.

They also instilled a sense of value in him and ensured that his decisions were value-driven rather than him getting whatever he wanted.

"I can't recall a single conversation which said you will do what an Oppenheimer does or be who an Oppenheimer should be," he said.

"It was always you must follow what you want to do in your life and make your life a success. In doing that, you must contribute to the environment you're in."

Jonathan said he was almost hoodwinked into the family business from a young age as that was all he was exposed to and all he knew.

"My father used to collect me on the half days at school and at lunch, and instead of going home, I used to go to the office quite often," he said.

From the age of 10, he was allowed to attend any meeting at Anglo's famous headquarters in Johannesburg's CBD.

This continued into his teenage years, when, despite schooling in the UK, Jonathan would return to South Africa in summer to observe the day-to-day running of Anglo American.

"When it came time for me to start getting involved, I had a leg up on everybody else because I already had 5 or 10 years of knowledge, which I hadn't even realised," he said.

He said it was a massive responsibility to be the descendant of illustrious figures such as Ernest, Harry, and Nicky Oppenheimer.

Although the family's wealth brings many privileges, including attending the best schools and universities, it has downsides.

He said there is a perception that it is fantastic to be born into privilege. However, it comes with "massive shackles".

"You're not only responsible for the next five generations of Oppenheimer but also for a broader community," he said.

Jonathan explained that this deep responsibility is bred into him, as an Oppenheimer, with the obligation to ensure the wider environment benefits from your business ventures.

"We're here to make a profit because without making a profit, nothing is sustainable," he explained.

"However, we're here to make a profit in such a way as to benefit the people and communities with whom we operate."

He credited his great-grandfather, Ernest Oppenheimer, for instilling that principle in how the family does business.

"That dictum is the essence of everything Nicky and I do. Hopefully, my children do as they come into their adult age and take on more and more responsibilities," he said. [\[businesstech.co.za\]](http://businesstech.co.za)

lifestyle

De Beers redefine luxury

THE SHINING LIGHT Awards, a jewellery design competition under the De Beers Group Designers Initiative (DBGDI); have opened for applications targeting the most talented young and aspiring designers across De Beers Group producer countries -Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Canada.

The initiative allocates P1 million to each country, providing an opportunity for young people aged 35 and below to showcase their talents, and through the prestigious Shining Light Awards, to win world-class training opportunities to develop their jewellery design skills.

The Shining Light Awards aim to elevate jewellery

designers and businesses with substantial prizes and structured support, setting new standards in the industry.

The initiative is also part of ensuring support for Botswana and other producer countries participate in the entire value chain of the diamond industry. The P1 million award goes towards three winners of the Shining Light Awards per country.

When speaking at a media briefing yesterday, De Beers Global Sightholder Sales (DBGSS), Vice President for Corporate Affairs, Otsile Mabeo said the Shining Light Awards are part of De Beers Group's commitment as espoused in the Building Forever Framework.

Mabeo said the Shining Light Awards are under the

■ P1 million Shining Light Awards return



De Beers Global Sightholder Sales (DBGSS), Vice President for Corporate Affairs, Otsile Mabeo

[PIC: PINO KILANO]

Accelerating Equal Opportunity pillar, where De Beers commits to generating positive outcomes for the people and environments where it operates.

"We also focus on creating equal opportunity for all, across the entire diamond value chain. We recognise that it takes continuous focus on identifying and removing systemic barriers to social and economic inclusion and that equal opportunity will benefit us all," she said.

Meanwhile Stakeholder and Government Relations Manager at DBGSS, Rebecca Quartey-Papafo said at the core of the Shining Light Awards is the discovery and nurturing of jewellery design talents of young people.

By providing this platform

for the designers to showcase their creativity, the SLA aims to enhance skills development, foster innovation and promote the diamond jewellery industry.

De Beers Group has collaborated with University of Botswana (UB), Limkokwing University and Oodi College of Applied Arts and Technology to promote the initiative and participation of student pursuing design and related programmes.

Visit the link to learn more and apply! <https://app.box.com/s/yo6ux5cwym12g8rxc02ic1ue3s7j2bg>

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=the%20projects%20magazine>

Molefhi discusses theatre and film

JULY 15 MARKS UN's World Youth Skills Day.

In that spirit, Donald Molosi sat down for a chat with Botswana's 26 year-old theatre and film star Boikhutso Molefhi, the writer and star of the memorable "Ke Motswana: The Naked Truth". The history-based play premiered in 2018 at Maitisong Theatre and continued to tour the SADC region.

Molefhi's latest starring role is in "Cell 10" which is a new gripping Botswana film about incarceration and police brutality. "This conversation is reproduced with gratitude to the Upright African Movement.

Donald Molosi: It's great to catch up with you. Congratulations on all your theatre success and now film success as well.

Boikhutso Molefhi: Thank you, Donald.

DM: You always advocate for mentorship for actors. Tell me more about what mentorship means to you.

BM: I advocate for mentors as they have opened me up to many opportunities and lessons. There have been many bad things I did not experience

due to the mentors who have guided me along the right path. I was, and indirectly still am, mentored by you for example, Donald. You and I met in 2017 when I was finding my creative voice and figuring out my university pursuits.

DM: I knew then that I had to invite you to join us at Folk Tale Theatre company because you are talented and you work hard. What encouragement can you give to new actors who may be a little shy to reach out to professionals to ask to be mentored?

BM: I live by the words in Matthew 7: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." I consistently research and ask those people I believe I can be of value to and who can be of value to me. The worst thing someone can say is no.

DM: Exactly. I learnt from my 15 years in New York's Theatre District the need for those actors who have benefitted from mentorship to reach out and mentor other actors. Are you passing on the gift of

mentorship?

BM: Yes. I am currently mentoring Mohau Bontsibokae, a musician studying theatre who is on the road to becoming a triple threat: an actress, a singer, and a dancer. I work with Dramatic Scholars to build on the work done by those who came before me and help create after-school programs that give space to government students, as I already have a few students at Ledumang Senior Secondary School.

DM: Mentorship is sometimes a scary word, Boikhutso. That is because many Botswana entertainers have stories of being abused by mentors - financially, sexually etc. How does this compare with your mentoring experiences both as a mentee and as a mentor?

BM: I believe one of the issues is that people do not research their mentors enough, such as conducting background research, talking to people who have worked with them, and asking questions off the record. This way, you get a holistic insight into those people, and before engaging with them, you are better informed about the situation you might be

potentially getting into. There is nothing worse than asking someone to mentor you only to have your time wasted.

DM: Perhaps it could be worse, no? They could accept to mentor someone and then abuse someone as we keep hearing about our local industry.

BM: Yes. Personally, I have not been abused by any mentor I have had because I do my best to know what I am getting myself into. From talking to various mentors, they have mentioned that people often come to them to get plugged into spaces without wanting to do the work to get into those spaces.

DM: Some of the spaces that young entertainers get "plugged into" is awards. In Botswana, what role do awards play in an actor's career today?

BM: In Botswana, because of the limited understanding of theater and film...and also the small number of audience members, the awards actors win do not, in themselves, pull the audience to the theater or to the film.

DM: What can Botswana's many upcoming actors do then to announce their arrival on the



Donald Molosi

local industry's radar?

BM: Botswana actors should aim to win awards internationally. Those international awards could be the determining factor for them getting into certain spaces. What is challenging about local awards is that...because theater is not well marketed in Botswana, the gravity of Botswana theatre awards doesn't translate internationally.

DM: Given the numerous new awards being issued, I have to ask - are theatre and film awards important at all in creating a career in Botswana?

BM: Publicly, we rarely see the fruits of those local awards, though I am not disputing the fact that they are useful. It's just that publicly we do not see it.

DM: I recall having a great time with you and Kelly Khumalo and Terry Pheto and Akin Omotoso at Durban International Film Festival in 2018. How did you end up in such spaces back then as a teenager?

BM: DME, now defunct, had this Broadway/Hollywood Masterclass years ago, maybe 2018 or 2019, which was paid for and gave access to a four-week virtual mentorship

with award-winning actors such as Hoji Fortuna of Viva Riva. I learned so much from Mr. Fortuna, such as the value of attending international workshops at prestigious schools and attending international events.

DM: You and I both attended Maru a Pula, a school I love. For me that was the best start I could have had to performance. Perhaps Maru a Pula also played a part in shaping the actor you are?

BM: Absolutely. Around the same time that I was travelling to Durban with you, Maru-a-Pula School brought students from Juilliard School to conduct workshops, which culminated in a performance at the end of the four weeks.

Following Mr. Fortuna's advice, I took the contact information of the 4th-year student directing us, DJ, and continued speaking with him long after he returned to the U.S. Mr. Fortuna also mentioned attending the Durban International Film Festival, and through my mentor's connection and a local sponsor, I was able to attend and connect with award-winning British

director Joseph A. Adesunloye. When Mr. Adesunloye's film "White Colour Black" made its international debut in Botswana, I was among the actors chosen to perform at the screening in 2018.

DM: Have you ever paid for an audition in Botswana or South Africa?

BM: I have paid for an audition in Botswana once, and after advice from my mentor, I never paid again. It is wrong to charge for auditions because an audition is not a method for production houses to source funding. There are other means to fundraise. Furthermore, in some cases, the cast and crew have already been selected, so there are no assurances that those who auditioned will get a role. An audition is not like a competition where one would charge but rather a search that the casting director(s) or producers are on for the best person for the role.

DM: How important is it for an actor to have an agent or a manager in Botswana? In your experience, what works best?

BM: In Botswana, actors do not have a recognized body that represents their best interests at an institutional level, such as a

registered union.

DM: Facts.

BM: There is no rate card that governs how much actors are to be paid, making it hard to have an agent who will take a percentage of the little earnings from roles.

DM: Facts.

BM: It is therefore very important to have an agent who is consistently looking out for roles for you, but the shooting seasons/cycles and the amount of filming taking place do not seem financially feasible for both an agency and the actor. I know of acting agencies and managers locally who also state that to join their agency, you need to pay a fee. I have an agent in South Africa.

DM: You studied in South Africa. How does our acting industry in Botswana compare to the South African one?

BM: Because of the governing bodies established in South Africa, issues pertaining to the exploitation of crew and cast members are lower. There are governing bodies that hold relevant parties accountable. Only a handful of sets I have been on honored such things as contracts and callsheets. In South Africa, you have guilds

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Wilderness unveils Mokete in Mababe

THE NEW WILDERNESS Mokete luxury tented camp has opened in the famed Mababe wilderness area on the eastern edge of the Okavango Delta, offering an unparalleled safari experience in Botswana. Spanning over 50,000 hectares of private concession land, the Wilderness area in Mababe teems with game, and is a haven for serious safari enthusiasts seeking once-in-a-lifetime encounters with Africa's wild.

"Mababe is a prime wildlife destination in Botswana, offering uncharted territory that remains a sanctuary of natural splendour. We are extremely proud to be launching this pioneering new camp that is solely accessible through Wilderness. Designed by reMORPHED Arch & Design architects, and with interiors by Michele Throssell Interiors, it represents a captivating fusion of architectural innovation and environmental respect. In keeping with our ethos, the considered approach is truly immersive and intentionally minimalist, ensuring the lightest possible footprint", noted Joe Matome, Wilderness Botswana Caretaker Managing Director.

Wilderness Mokete follows a design narrative which intricately blends traditional textiles and a neutral colour

palette, paying homage to the surrounding bush, using contemporary forms and contrasting use of materials to create a harmonious cultural tapestry. It features nine en-suite canvas tents and a communal tented lounge area, linked by wooden walkways at ground level. Luxurious interiors and modern amenities, including inverter air conditioning and Wi-Fi in all bedrooms, complete the experience and ensure guests want for nothing during their stay.

One of the standout features of Mokete's tented suites is the retractable roof in the bedrooms, allowing guests to stargaze at night. "Integrating this feature into the bedroom design at Mokete was an inspired choice that truly sets this camp apart. It offers guests a one-of-a-kind African night-time experience, immersing them in the beauty of the surrounding landscape", added Jacques Viljoen of reMORPHED Arch & Design team.

"While we're confident the camp will offer an extraordinary stay with warm hospitality and a unique African-fusion menu, our focus is on the out-of-camp experience. Unusually, lions often spend the daylight hours on the hunt in Mababe, taking

with lawyers from reputable firms who take on certain matters pro bono.

DM: That is a shame. My generation of actors went through that and it is a shame that your generation is still enduring a lack of professionalism on theatre and film sets. Tell me more.

BM: In South Africa, showreels are important because sometimes, before you get your agent or if you are auditioning without one, the showreel speaks on your behalf. It articulates what you cannot express through words. However, since clips in Botswana are gate-kept, actors are crippled. I have advocated that actors talk to cinematographers to shoot monologues and scenes to have their own showreels independent of the films/shows they have done.

DM: I wonder what an entertainment lawyer would advise but I digress. As an actor and theatre practitioner, do you feel appreciated enough in Botswana?

BM: This one is tricky to answer because of the position I've chosen to take.

Due to my experience, I know what I carry, and there have been works I have turned down. Producers would call you at the last minute and expect a groundbreaking performance even though you haven't had time to rehearse.

DM: Are you frustrated?

BM: Amongst the acting community, this is a mutually shared frustration: the respect for the craft is not present. Producers don't respect the actor's craft.

I believe that in due time, appreciation will come, but amongst the theatre community, I do feel appreciated.

DM: Botswana still doesn't have a national theatre. Does this have any impact on your career as a theatre actor?

BM: The lack of a national theatre in Botswana significantly impacts my career as a theatre actor. Without a dedicated national theatre, there is limited space to consistently perform and develop one's craft. The role of a national theatre is vital to the success of the theatre industry in a country. When I was working in Cape Town, I was in conversation

with theaters to incubate me for a duration of time to do a production.

DM: In Botswana the best theatres are either on school or military grounds, unfortunately.

BM: You are right. The reality is that Botswana theaters are located in either a school, military base, or museum. Such locations restrict the growth the theatre culture could have, as they have certain mandates that prevent certain bodies of work from entering those spaces. Additionally, these institutions have high booking fees that an upcoming theatre practitioner cannot afford. Although exceptions are sometimes made, it's not always the case.

DM: What would a national theatre offer?

BM: A national theatre would also provide an opportunity to incubate local practitioners and attract international practitioners who could bring shows that further expand the audience and cultural landscape. Amongst the many values that a national theatre brings, change is at the center. Without this dedicated space, we lack the infrastructure to foster a thriving theatre community.

DM: What do you say to people who are concerned that an acting career doesn't pay enough to make a living?

BM: The concern is understandable because of the tender system in Botswana, which results in a large pool of actors but a narrow pool of funds. Additionally, producers often aim to pay the lowest possible to maximize their take.

DM: What can a Motswana actor do in the face of that sobering reality?

BM: A Motswana actor needs to strategically position themselves to receive the available money. Familiarizing oneself with and understanding contractual language is crucial to avoid exploitation. The reality is that only a few people might say it pays well because they can leverage their following to make money. The unfortunate truth is that one needs to venture into all platforms to see where their work can be consumed and leveraged.

DM: I enjoy and respect your work and I look forward to seeing more. Thank you for this conversation.

BM: *Ke a lebogla.*



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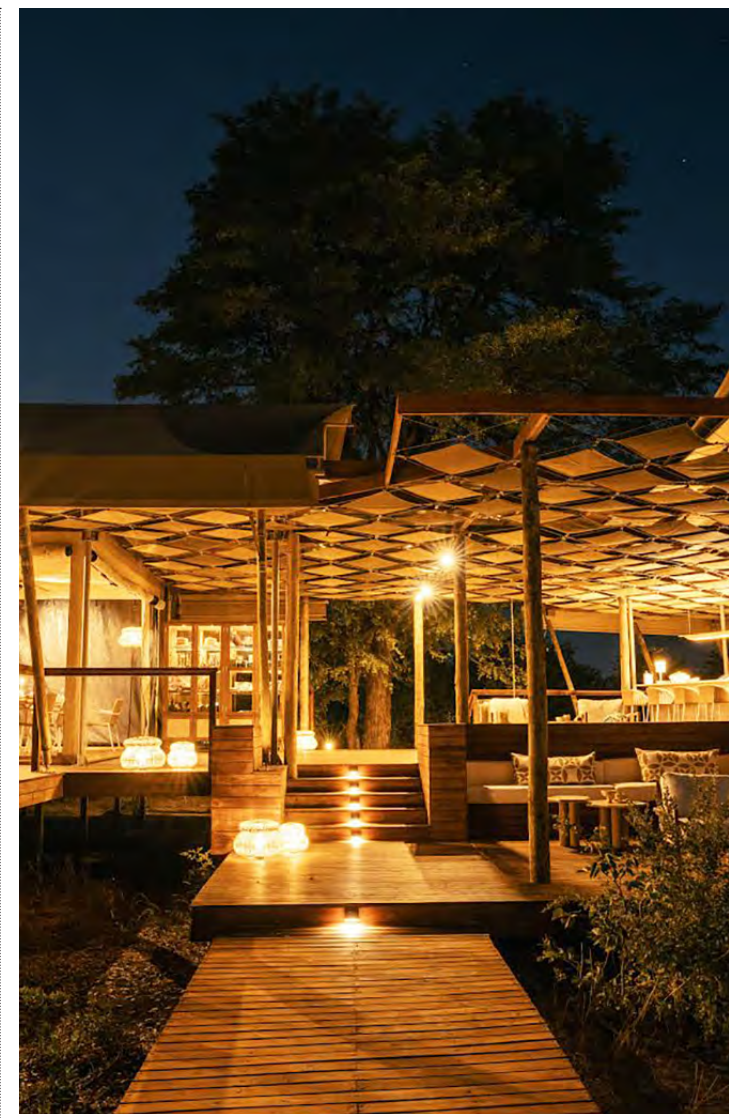
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down buffaloes in and around the marsh, with hyenas in clans of up to 60 seen competing with them. With no other commercial properties in the area, our guests can choose to stay out on drives as long as they wish. Here, time is dictated by nature, not the clock", Joe added.

Mababe is an area of tremendous ecological significance, made up of three key habitats: grassland, wetlands and mopane woodland. It harbours a marsh which fills in the summer season, creating a wetland of some 2,600 hectares, serving as a sanctuary for diverse wildlife in search of this precious life source, and vital habitat for numerous bird species.

Herd of buffalo in the thousands, the largest gathering in Africa, alongside abundant predators and massive elephant herds (occasionally accompanied by migrating zebras), all converge on the Mababe Marsh.

Aptly named "Mokete" (meaning "feast"), the camp embodies an abundance of wildlife, varied landscapes and pristine natural beauty. Mokete guests will encounter truly remarkable vistas, unlike

any other wilderness areas in northern Botswana.

Standing as a beacon of sustainability, the camp is fully off-grid, utilising exclusively renewable PV energy systems. Passive design principles, including maximised natural ventilation, wide overhangs for shade, and a layered roof system further mitigate the camp's environmental impact, while enhancing guest comfort, inviting nature in and blurring the distinction between indoor and outdoor spaces.

Working closely with the Mababe community, Wilderness is thrilled to include this beautiful part of the country in its luxury safari circuit. Residents will benefit from employment opportunities, and future initiatives will ensure that the community partners also share in the advantages of this development.

"We are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to extend our warm welcome to guests in this unparalleled wildlife sanctuary. Through our dedication to high-value, low-impact tourism, we aim to continue playing our part in preserving one of the Earth's few remaining untamed sanctuaries at Mokete," said Joe.

BIHL, Bomaid bring 2024 Fit for Life Campaign

A PARTNERSHIP between Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited (BIHL) Trust and Bomaid, the 2024 Fit for Life campaign aims to continue fostering a supportive environment where individuals can thrive, conquer non-communicable diseases and cultivate a culture of lasting wellness.

BIHL Trust Representative Gofhamodimo Sechele said; "The Fit for Life Campaign is a testament to the power of community engagement, driven by the collaborative spirit between Bomaid and BIHL Trust to improve livelihoods. With a shared commitment to holistic health, we continue to encourage communities to embrace healthier lifestyles and priorities both physical and mental well-being."

Launched in September 2023, the campaign targeted individuals between the ages of 21 and 60 living sedentary lifestyles and battling weight management, with a particular focus on combatting non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The Fit for Life campaign saw overwhelming interest, with over 1,000 applicants initially showing interest. However, after rigorous health screenings, 400 individuals met the criteria and were eligible to participate. Among them, 268 participants successfully completed health screenings and proceeded to the engagement in various aspects of the

programme. "Together, we champion healthier choices and embrace physical and mental well-being, inspiring individuals to overcome challenges and thrive against NCDs. Our partnership symbolises the transformative power of unity in promoting lasting wellness for all," said Tebogoo Keepetsoe BIHL Group PR Communications & Marketing.

The Fit for Life 2023 campaign culminated with a prize-giving session to honor the achievements of nine outstanding participants. Each participant won a cash prize ranging from P 1,500.00 to P 10,000.00. Atlarelang Koikoi was the overall campaign winner, walking away with P10,000 cash.

"Through comprehensive health screenings and dynamic community engagement, the Fit for Life campaign has empowered participants to embrace holistic health practices. From expert guidance provided by healthcare professionals like Dr. Thato Ntswaneng and Mrs. Canny Johnson to collaborative efforts with Fitness Candy, we have fostered a supportive environment for individuals to make meaningful lifestyle changes. This campaign underscores our commitment to promoting wellness and combatting noncommunicable diseases effectively," said Bomaid Representative Tsaone Tlalanyane.

Sport



Stanbic ditches Township Rollers

STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA AND Township Rollers Football Club (TRFC) have announced the end of their long-standing partnership which has been running since 2016. The decision marks the end of an era characterised by shared dedication to community development and the promotion of sports excellence in Botswana.

Since inception in year 2016, the partnership between Stanbic Bank and Township Rollers Football Club has yielded significant achievements, fostering growth not only in sports but also in

various community initiatives. Through this collaboration, TRFC has risen to prominence, securing numerous accolades on various football leagues, while the Bank has reinforced its commitment to supporting local talent and fostering a culture of excellence.

Speaking on behalf of Stanbic Bank Botswana Stephanie Sandridge, Head of Brand and Marketing expressed gratitude for the fruitful collaboration, stating, "Our partnership with Township Rollers Football Club has been immensely rewarding, allowing us to contribute

meaningfully to the development of sports and community engagement in Botswana specifically football. We are proud of the accomplishments we have achieved together with TRFC, leaving a legacy we are equally proud of". Similarly, Township Rollers Football Club Chairman Bafana Phephethe Pheto reflected on the journey shared with Stanbic Bank Botswana, remarking, "We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Stanbic Bank Botswana for their unwavering support since 2016. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones and have become synonymous

with excellence in Botswana's football landscape." As the partnership ended in June 2024, both Stanbic Bank Botswana and Township Rollers Football Club reaffirm their commitment to continuing their respective missions of fostering community development and empowering Botswana. "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders, partners, and supporters who have been instrumental in our shared success over the past nine. Your dedication and hard work have been invaluable, and we thank you for your unwavering support," said Pheto.

'The Beautiful Game' returns

THE EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING UP FOR THE 2024-25 league football season! Imagine this; pristine green pitches, the sound of die-hard fans chanting in the stands, the ripple of the ball going to the back of the net, your teams star player 'scoring a brace' and so much more. It's not just football, it's our all - we live and breathe.

Maybe your pick is the pace and power of the Premier League, the tactical master-classes that only Serie A can provide, or the class and composure characteristic of La Liga. Take in the continental class of the UEFA Champions League, or enjoy Africa's own interpretation in the form of the Zambian Super League and the Ethiopian Premier League. Or, if you're a real addict, see it all!

Manchester City, led by the wily Pep Guardiola, have dominated the Premier League in recent seasons, but their hopes of a fifth straight title will come under major pressure from a determined Arsenal and a resurgent Chelsea. And who knows what Liverpool will produce in the post Jurgen Klopp era, as Arne Slot looks to step into the shoes (and baseball



cap!) of the German tactician who was so beloved by the Reds. Newcastle United, Aston Villa, Tottenham Hotspur and even Manchester United all have ambitions of their own for a 2024-25 season which could be a legendary campaign in the history of English football.

And talking of legendary, Real Madrid's La Liga and Champions League double last season

marks them out as the standard bearers in Spanish and European football... but somehow, they are going to get even better in 2024-25!

That's because they will welcome the talents of French forward Kylian Mbappe, who has left Paris Saint-Germain and will fulfil his long-held dream of playing in the all-white kit of 'Los Blancos'. Did you just hear an audible 'gulp'? That

was all of Real's European rivals wondering how they will ever dethrone Carlo Ancelotti's charges.

One such rival is Internazionale, who have been sensational under the guidance of Simone Inzaghi in the past two seasons (reaching the Champions League final in 2022-23 and waltzing away with the Scudetto in 2023-24) but could face a domestic insurrection from the likes of AC Milan, Juventus, Atalanta and Napoli - with the latter having gambled on hiring divisive manager Antonio Conte.

2024 Paris Olympic games

▪ Skorokoro costs 4x100m Relay team



BAA Vice President Oabona Theetso

BOTSWANA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION (BAA) is unhappy with the way the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) has handled the results of the 4x100m men's relay heat 2, which was won by Botswana. During the CAA Senior Athletics Championships held in Cameroon recently, the quartet of Thapelo Monaiwa, Mothusi Boitshwarelo, Tumo van Wyk and Letsile Tebogo registered a national record of 38.18 to win their heat.

The time meant that Botswana displaced The Netherlands and was in joint 15th position with Brazil, and had the status quo remained until Sunday, the relay team would have made history and qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

However, the tables have turned, and CAA has submitted the manual timing to World Athletics, a time which is not recognised by the world athletics governing body to qualify for major events. The reason given by the CAA technical delegate, Suren Ayadassen, in one of the communications to both the CAA president and World Athletics is that, after the results were published, an in-depth research, simulation and enquiry both on site and CAA technical delegate and remotely by World Athletics, competition department, of the available video, revealed that the timing returned was inaccurate.

Ayadassen said the decision was taken to keep the results on hold pending investigation and was given the status of uncleared by World Athletics. He said trying to retrieve the backup photo finish by the service provider was unsuccessful due to

a camera setup malfunction. Ayadassen further said the official manual timing by the backup timekeepers for that event returned a performance of 38.7 seconds for Botswana which was coherent with the video evidence available and the timing simulation carried out by both World Athletics and the CAA.

"Hence the decision taken by the CAA technical delegate to declare the photo finish electronic timing as obviously inaccurate in accordance with World Athletics Technical Rules 2024,TR 19.2, and to consider the timing of the backup timekeepers as official. In that regard, BAA vice president Oabona Theetso said they were disappointed because all the mix up happened in the presence of the CAA president, Hamad Kalkaba.

"As the president of CAA, he should have done better to make sure that he delivers a competition that other areas of World Athletics will cherish, but for him to deliver a substandard competition, whereby he knew the competition was an Olympic qualifier and timing becomes a problem is disappointing to say the least," he said. Theetso said Kalkaba was aware that timing played a crucial role in athletics, and it was something that could not be taken for granted. "So in a nutshell, Kalkaba has failed us as Botswana. He has failed Africa and the world because he has denied Africa an opportunity to have more representatives at the Olympics," he said. Contacted for comment, Kalkaba said he was aware of Botswana's appeal but had been watching the competition just like everyone. ENDS.

Tennis Men for Davis Cup

BOTSWANA NATIONAL TENNIS MEN'S TEAM has reported for camp to prepare for the upcoming Tennis World Cup (Davis Cup) Africa Group V games that will be played in Gaborone from July 17 to 20.

The team is made up of US-based Tsholofelo Tsiang, Denzel Seetso, Batsomi Marobela and locally based players, Mark Nawa, Esi Molefe and Seabo Saleshando.

Team captain, Petrus Molefe said preparations were going well and he was happy with the support they got from the Botswana Tennis

Association (BTA). He said the players' performance at the recent Botswana Open Tennis Championship proved that they were ready for the Davis Cup. Having played in the Davis Cup before, Molefe said he knew what was expected; hence he would impart some of the tips on his players. "In the Davis Cup tie, a match against one country is made up of three matches and we have to balance our best singles and our best doubles," he said.

Molefe said in the tie they would play two singles and one double match, adding that the

camp would assist him come up with a good mix as to which players would play doubles.

He said the camp would also help to judge as to who was more consistent in singles, adding that they were also preparing for any country they would play against. Botswana is in Group V with Ethiopia, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, Congo, Gabon, Seychelles, Mauritania, Lesotho, Djibouti, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan and Libya.

The countries will be competing for two slots for promotion to Africa Group IV. <https://dailynews.gov.bw/news-detail/80488>



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