



The Patriot

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P13.00

Choppies to award Letsile P1 million

CONGRATULATIONS LETSILE TEBOGO

CHOPPIES

IEC sues UDC

- Demand settlement of P573 000 bill for legal costs
- UDC, IEC must work on rebuilding their relationship - Analyst



UDC President, Duma Boko

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TROUBLE IS FAR FROM OVER for the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) 2019 election petitioners as the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is demanding

payment of the P573 000 debt in legal costs, IEC Secretary Jefferson Siamisang has revealed.

In 2019 UDC launched 14 petitions for its Parliamentary candidates including its president Advocate Duma Boko while Alliance for Progressives (AP) council

TO PAGE 3

Hard times are here!

- GDP growth at 0%; Diamond sales plummet; Budget deficit widens; Foreign reserves decline

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BOTSWANA'S ECONOMY HAS fallen on hard times as per the findings of a new report which paints a gloomy picture of a nation that is projected to run double the figures of its budget deficit in the foreseeable future, with dwindling mineral revenues and foreign reserves.



TO PAGE 6

Dr Keith Jefferies

NEW KFC ALL STARS

75⁹⁰ EACH

UB new strategy

To strengthen research and innovation for global impact



Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire

DEPUTY VICE Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, says the newly University of Botswana (UB) strategy focuses on enhancing research quality and innovation to achieve national impact and gain regional and global recognition.

Professor Masire was speaking during a workshop under the theme, Amplifying

Research Commercialisation Through Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Transformative Societal Impact held at the UB Conference Centre on the 25th of July 2024.

She said the newly organisational implemented structure sought to make research the conner stone of UB. She also noted that the previous university strategy was primarily focused on teaching and learning.

Farmers' Day bridges gender equality gap

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LIVESTOCK FARMER'S DAY held recently at Letlhare farm in Serowe has been seen not only as a youth livestock farmer's empowerment initiative but also a gender equality gap bridging platform. This was further deliberated on by the event manager and public relations personnel, Kushatha Moesi who is also a beef cattle breeder. As an active advocate for youth and women in agriculture, Moesi shared that the men dominated space is wide open for women and in fact presents vast employment opportunities that lie within the agricultural value chain.

As it stands, farming embodies a blend of independence, empowerment and connection to the land. According to Moesi, it



represents a source of personal and financial growth which offers an opportunity to carve a sustainable livelihood while contributing to the food security of the country at large. "Access to education, training and resources is empowering more young women to engage

in and lead agricultural activities. Furthermore, policy reforms and support initiatives such as ISPAAD, Thuo and Temo Letlotlo are increasingly addressing gender disparities, ensuring that we all have better access to land, credit and technology

equally. This progress fosters greater economic equality and improves Botswana's agricultural productivity," she said. By narrowing the gender equality gap, the agricultural sector is not only becoming more inclusive but also harnessing the full potential

of its workforce, driving innovation, sustainability and resilience. As further indicated by Moesi, the gradually closing gap between men and women in agriculture is a testament to the growing recognition of women's essential contribution to the sector. "Farming is not just an occupation for me but a testament to my commitment to preserving my cultural heritage and paving the way for future generations of women in agriculture. Botswana is probably one of the only countries in Africa that offers women more attractive incentives in efforts to lure them into agriculture, from larger funding packages to lower interest rates, a space quite advantageous," the young farmer stated. Officiating at the youth livestock farmer's day, President Mokgweetsi Masisi donated five Brahman bulls during the official opening of

the three-day event. Masisi explained that the donation is in line with aspirations of vision 2036 which speaks of human and social development as well as sustainable economic development among other pillars.

"I congratulate you and wish you all the best not just as the president but also one championing the vision of this country which indicates that men and women are made equal by their own nation because both are human and therefore both have a role to play," he said. The bull donation was spread equally among both men and women farmers in Serowe. The beneficiaries included enard Gaowetse (Serowe west), Ogolotse Bantole (Serowe north), Selwana Seetswane (Serowe north), Temo Dintwa (Serowe south) and Refilwe Ramasokola (Serowe south).

Restrictions on Thamalakane water usage

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THE OFFICE OF THE District Commission, Northwest District has taken a major decision by temporarily halting the unsustainable abstractions from the Thamalakane river and its associated rivers comprising of Gomoti, Boro, Nhabe and Boteti.

In a public statement issued by North West District Commissioner, Thabang Waloka stated that the decision was arrived at because of growing concerns from the public about the ecological deterioration of the river and the compromised water security

around Maun. Waloka further explained that of recent the river has been experiencing low flows due to low rainfall and the prevailing drought conditions in the river basin.

He added that hydro-logic experience shows that no more flows can be expected this year, therefore, it is considered important to put in place security measures to safeguard the availability of the available water in light of scarcity.

He however stated that the suspension does not cover abstraction for domestic uses such as watering livestock, drinking, cooking and use in a vehicle.

A hydrologist from Okavango

Research Institute in Maun, Professor Mike Murry-Hudson believes It's important to get a sense of proportion. 'what are the volumes being abstracted compared to those being delivered by the river?', he rhetorically questioned noting that this is a relatively simple calculation which nonetheless needs to be made, and will be help to demonstrate how sustainable the abstraction is (how do the volumes of abstraction compare with other water losses?)

He further stressed that it is necessary to try to quantify the current abstraction, and also to obtain river flow values from Department of Water and Sanitation. Professor further



stated that this will involve identifying abstraction points and monitoring them to estimate volumes of abstraction. Murry-Hudson says although the Department of Water Sanitation may have started monitoring Boro River flows at the old Rice Project station,

they will also need to monitor Thamalakane river flows at the Secondary School Bridge. 'From those figures we can estimate net losses along the section of river - but as you can see, that is only a small part of the river - there is abstraction taking place upstream and

downstream of that section, he stated. He also stressed that the impacts from abstraction around Maun will primarily be felt by people in the downstream reaches in areas such as Boteti. 'It is difficult to separate the impact of "natural" losses (evaporation, infiltration, transpiration) from that of human abstraction,' he stated.

Prof Murry-Hudson stated that it is illegal to abstract water without a water right allocation, which must be issued by the Water Apportionment Board. 'That said, the process of allocation should be made easier and more transparent, so that people are not encouraged to simply ignore the law,' he stated.



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 - Diploma in Education will be an added advantage.
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 - Diploma in Education will be an added advantage.

VACANCY

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Feasible Investments (Pty) Ltd T/A Iqube, a full ICT solutions company based in Botswana, that provides hardware, software and networking solutions, to a growing client base of varying size and requirements across Botswana, is looking to fill the above position.

The successful candidate should have a minimum of nineteen (19) year's proven IT experience in Enterprise managed IT infrastructure includes on premise data centers and cloud, project management and support network & custom software applications, with minimum Bachelor's degree in Computers Science, Preferred Certifications like Microsoft, CISCO, MCP, MCTS, and MTCNA, especially 15 years of experience handling supermarket chain infrastructure, WAN/LAN Network and Software applications.

The successful candidate will be tasked with leading a IT technical team, Projects and supporting enterprise LAN/WAN Networks & Custom ERP Software application and infrastructure

Key Responsibility

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- Building complex data center and CCTV control center; operate, manage and maintain
- Strong ERP software knowledge and implementation must have at least 7 years end to end implementation on Polaris I-retail, Tally ERP Technical implementation and Sage ERP solutions and knowledge on LS Retail and Microsoft Dynamics
- At least have 10 years' experience in migration of different OS Windows server, Linux, Emails and cyber security solutions.
- Strong knowledge in server-Virtualization implementation and configurations especially Citrix Xen server Data center, VM Ware suite, Windows Hyper V.
- Experience is implementing and administrating O365 and especially hands on experience on migrations to Office 365 and setup hybrid setups.
- Perform Exchange server, CCTV, Access Control, MDaemon deployment & problem solving Should have worked with Microsoft SQL Server, A professional approach to time, costs a deadline. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal in English. Have the confidence and ability to lead, train and mentor a team, Be a self-starter with strong presentations skills
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The Director
Feasible Investments (Pty) Ltd T/A Iqube
P O Box 53286 Broadhurst, Gaborone
Or hand deliver at Plot 53609, Unit 4
Gaborone West Industrial
Or email to recruitment@iqube.net.bw

Closing Date: 26 August 2024

Botswana caught in transboundary pollution

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BOTSWANA HAS BEEN ACCUSED of transboundary pollution through the discharge of insufficiently treated effluent from wastewater treatment plants in the main tributaries of the Limpopo River basin, posing a health hazard to human health and the environment downstream.

Chief among concerns is the presence of heavy metals from wastewater which could pose a significant threat to the environment and the disposal of sludge that were previously found to contain heavy metals at the treatment plants as there are no facilities where sludge can be disposed in Botswana.

Botswana has several municipal wastewater treatment plants along the basin which is comprised of Glen Valley, Tonota, Selibe Phikwe and Mambo that discharge wastewater in the Limpopo river basin.

At the height of possible transboundary pollution fears, the Water Utilities Cooperation (WUC) has refuted the allegations while the shared water basin commission between the four riparian states that share the water course - Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM) admit that the river basin has not been spared by anthropogenic pollution.

Despite WUC refuting possible pollution, the Auditor General (AG) performance audit report in 2020 signaled warning about the insufficiently treated waste water from Glen Valley Wasterwater Treatment Plant and other treatment plants that pose a pollution risk to the water resources in Notwane river which one of main tributaries of Limpopo river basin that 18 million people who reside in the basin rely on for domestic use and agriculture production among four member states, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe that share the Limpopo river basin water resources.

The audit warned that WUC is insufficiently treating wastewater to the required quality standard for disposal into the environment, posing a pollution risk to the environment especially the water resources that the wastewater was discharged into the river basin.

WUC Strategy and Cooperate Strategy Director, Peter Sedingwe has dismissed any possibilities of discharging insufficiently treated wastewater that poses pollution risks into the river basin. He disagreed, despite AG performance report audit that indicated that WUC treatment facilities were not adequately treating wastewater to the right quality standard rendering effluent a persistent pollution risk to the environment.

He indicated that their wastewater and its end products are environmentally safe. Sedingwe said the cooperation hired an independent international company in 2018, for a period of 12 months to conduct a feasibility study of the Glen Valley treatment plant to assess the possibility of wastewater reclamation. "One of the requirements was to conduct intense wastewater analyses for among others presence of heavy metals. There were no heavy metals detected in the wastewater for the entire study period," said Sedingwe.

Sedingwe also disagreed that WUC lackluster approach in disposing sludge at the Glen Valley Water Treatment could result in heavy metals reaching the Notwane river which is located 500 metres



Peter Sedingwe

away from the sludge.

WUC maintains that it is not possible despite research studies showing that the disposal of sludge at WUC treatment plant pose a threat to the environment. Sedingwe disagree with a research paper that found the presence of heavy metals in the sludge that WUC dispose at the treatment plant which could lead to presence of heavy metals in the river leading to heavy metals entering the food system such as fish that most of the inhabitants river basin rely on for their own survival.

He posit that there is no possibilities of leaching which could result in heavy metals from sludge entering the river mainstream.

"Sludge from the Glen Valley wastewater treatment plant goes through a sludge treatment process, a stabilization process to remove biogas-a combination of methane and carbon dioxide gases and eradication of pathogenic organisms that can causes diseases. The sludge then is dried by mechanical de-watering and stockpiled in a designated and controlled area within the treatment plant. The sludge beds area where sludge is stockpiled are properly lined to avoid seepage" said Sedingwe.

He further noted that the corporation has commenced monitoring chemical composition of the sludge for its major facilities

including Glen Valley WWTP.

He said that samples from the sludge were collected and analyzed last year where the results outcome revealed that there was no presence of heavy metals in the sludge disposed at the treatment plant.

Sedingwe dismissed the presence of heavy metals in the sludge disposed at the treatment plant despite a research paper authored by Johanna Norup and Ellen Åberg from Lund University in the Department Water and Environmental Engineering titled "Quality assessment of sludge from Glen Valley wastewater treatment plant and its potential as fertilizer," which found toxic heavy metals such as arsenic, copper, lead and zinc in a sludge used as fertilizer.

He said that WUC has also put in place a regulatory measure dubbed Trade Effluent Agreement (TEA) that forces industries to sign and adhere to regulated wastewater discharge limits which is monitored regularly for individual industries to ensure compliance.

Meanwhile AG report noted that while it was evident from the audit that WUC had entered into TEA with different industries to regulate their wastewater discharged into public sewers, WUC was not sufficiently controlling the industrial wastewater discharged into sewers.

The report further indicated that

the effluent quality monitoring monthly reports availed during the audit from the wastewater treatment facilities shows that the treatment plants were not up to standard.

"This was also confirmed by the fact that none of the WUC treatment facilities visited had been licensed by the Department of Waste Management and Pollution Control, primarily because of the noncompliance," state the report.

The four riparian states commission - LIMCOM could not want to be drawn on WUC disposal of sludge within the treatment plant which pose a health hazard to human health and the environment in the basin, but admit that the basin is contaminated with heavy metals from anthropogenic activities along the basin.

LIMCOM Regional Coordinator, Dr. Eddie Riddell admitted that they are aware that there a number of infrastructure along the basin especially in South Africa and Botswana which discharge effluent water that pollute the river basin such as heavy metals.

Riddell indicated that it is correct that the Limpopo River Basin is subjected to pollution such as heavy metal in several of its tributaries, but not all.

"The impact of these on various socio-ecological goods and services has been well studied, such as in the Olifants sub-basin where prolonged exposure to heavy metals and toxins is known to pose a risk for subsistence fisher people. There are various mechanisms available in domestic legislation in the four member states in the basin that focus on compliance monitoring and enforcement of water use license conditions including discharge standards."

He said that the four countries can also pass legislation such as zero discharge policies which incentivize industries and mines to move to closed-circuit water management systems in their operations.

He noted that this has proved successful already in some cases such as certain mines in the Olifants sub-basin. Riddell noted that however more work needs to be done to

ensure that these incentives reach all the industrial users, both large, small and emerging.

He further noted that the commission takes stock of the important work that has focused on water quality in the Limpopo basin, both through research by universities within and close to the Limpopo Basin when quizzed whether they are aware of anthropogenic pollution implications on human health and environment.

"There have also been a number of international funding programs which LIMCOM has been a driver, where basin wide understanding of water pollutants have been determined and quantified.

Importantly LIMCOM is currently undertaking two important aspects that will highlight these challenges at the transboundary level, notably a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and a Joint Basin Survey focusing on water quality and aquatic ecosystem health. In both cases this will provide the current status on water quality issues of a transboundary concern, whilst also establishing opportunities to resolve these challenges, through highest level political support," added Riddell.

He said that it is imperative to move to closed-circuit water systems and thereby move to zero discharge when quizzed whether there any alternative ways to address water scarcity as opposed to discharging effluent water and polluted water from other industries in the river basin

He further noted that this is easiest to undertake with larger established operators.

Riddell is of the view that funding and other technological incentives need to be developed for emerging operators that pose a potential water quality risk in the basin.

"Importantly, the role of corporate water stewardship programs is now prominent and progressively we are seeing the impact of these responsible water management practices take shape within the Limpopo Basin, but of course, there is much more to do, and LIMCOM as a River Basin Organization advocate for these," he said

IEC sues UDC

FROM PAGE 1

candidate for Mosolotshane ward Mogalakwe Mogalakwe was the only petitioner outside the coalition. All the petitioners lost with costs.

Briefing the All-Party Conference (APC) meeting on Thursday, Siamisang said IEC is still chasing the debt from some of the 2019 general elections parliamentary candidate. He said IEC will soon reach out to the debtors to settle. "The petitioners are expected to settle as soon as possible before the 2024 elections approaches. We are appealing to them to settle their outstanding debts. That money is important for the commission," he said.

However, Siamisang could not divulge how the IEC intends to take action against the petitioners should they fail to pay but impeccable sources within IEC intimate that the Commission will soon look out to drag the petitioners to court and bank on the Deputy Sherrifs to help it in recovering the money owed to it by the petitioners should the court rule on its favour.

It is said the IEC would first write to the petitioners and ask them to show their commitment to settle the bill depending on how they owe and would also write formally to the UDC which approached the court as collective organization on behalf of its candidates who petitioned the election outcomes.

The UDC approached the court and contested the outcome of the elections citing "irregularities in some of the constituencies. The UDC argued that there was rigging of elections in some constituencies, but the High Court thrown out the petitions on the basis that UDC has failed to provide sufficient evidence to support its case.

The coalition later moved a step further and appealed at the Court of Appeal (CoA) but the court dismissed the matter citing that it doesn't have the jurisdiction to preside over politically related matters.

UDC Head of Communications Moeti Mohwasa did not respond to the inquiries sent to him on Thursday and by Friday could not answer calls into his mobile phone.



IEC Secretary, Jefferson Siamisang

Rivalry

Political analyst, Kitso Morekisi said the IEC pursuit for the debt would fuel the rivalry that exist between it and UDC, but said it is important for UDC to engage with the commission and amicably settle the issue.

According to him, UDC and IEC relationship has rocked a rock bottom since the 2019 general election, and it is now or never for the two critical parties to rebuild their relationship as they need each other as stakeholders in the local political scene.

"UDC is very big and powerful political formation which is alternative government in the waiting. It is an election year, and its sympathizers would ask why IEC is making mention of the petitioners outstanding debt now. Such move will be deemed politically motivated, but UDC must just act professionally and engage with the IEC on how best the situation could be addressed. The two needs each other," he said.

Morekisi also said UDC should be not deterred by the debt and focus on its campaign after it was expected to launch its 2024 elections manifesto yesterday (Saturday) in Gaborone.

Causes of GBV uncovered

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A NEW STUDY ON THE ROOT cause of Sexual Gender Based Violence, SGBV, conducted by Botswana Red Cross Society has placed the Northwest District at the top with high prevalence of violence compared to other districts in Botswana.

The study which was conducted on three districts in Botswana being Chobe, Northwest and Palapye aimed to explore knowledge, attitudes, and perception of community members on SGBV in their community.

The study reveals that all forms of violence were most prevalent in the North-West District compared to Chobe and Palapye. It further notes that specifically, marital rape was reported highest in the North-West District with 44.5% compared to Chobe with 28.0% while Palapye had (27.3%).

The Botswana Red Cross Society has engaged a lecture from University of Botswana, Dr

Mpho Keetile as their consultants in the study. In his presentation at the root cause analysis study validations meeting in Maun, Dr Keetile said the study is not yet final but preliminary results shows cultural norms and gender stereotypes are the root cause of SGV, noting that cultural norms often perpetuate toxic masculinity and the submissiveness of women, normalizing GBV.

He added that tradition and culture teach women to endure hardship and comply with all their husband demands to avoid punishment. "Marriage problems, including abuse, are expected to be kept within the family, leading women to suffer in silence", he stressed Dr Keetile said one of the cause gender dynamics, the rigid gender norms which instill believes that women should be subordinates to men and men often see women as sexual objects and do not involve them in family decisions. "Patriarchal attitudes and societal failure to respect and value women create power imbalances and enforce

male dominance," he stated

He also stressed that economic factors are the main cause of SGBV, with women living in fear of reporting abuse due to financial dependency on men who control resources. "Men tend to hold better-paying jobs, especially in villages, while women often work lower-paying jobs, making them more financially dependent and vulnerable to abuse," he stated

noting that socioeconomic status and financial control by perpetrators leave victims with no choice but to endure abuse and Passion killings and abusive relationships are often driven by financial conflicts and economic dependence. Among the key findings, it reveals that high awareness and understanding of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) among respondents. "An overwhelming majority (97.5%) have heard of SGBV, and 94% recognizes sexual harassment as a form of GBV. Additionally, 88.5% are aware of the laws protecting individuals from

SGBV, and 79.5% know what constitutes sexual assault. A significant majority (79.5%) agree that intimate partner violence is a type of GBV, and 96.9% acknowledge that both men and women can be victims of SGBV"

On the forms of GBV The study participants identified several common types of violence against women/girls and men/boys in their communities. The most frequently reported form of gender-based violence (GBV) was physical assault (hitting, slapping, burning, etc.), reported by 79.7% of respondents.

This was followed by sexual assault (78.8%), rape (78.5%), threats of physical violence (77.7%), unwanted touching (73.7%), threats of sexual violence (73.6%), psychological and emotional abuse (69.2%), online harassment (54.3%), and marital rape (50.9%).

Botswana Red Cross,

Programme Manager, Tshepo Dixon highlighted that Gender-based Violence is one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the world, including in Botswana.

She revealed that sadly, Botswana ranks second highest in the incidence of rape, at 92.93 per 100,000 people, and 1 in 3 women reports experiencing violence in their lifetime. "This paints a sad picture of our society,"

Dixon further highlighted that Botswana Red Cross Society has been working closely with Chobe, Northwest, and Palapye Districts, implementing a project supported by International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), led by the District Gender Committee, which is a rightfully placed multi-stakeholder entity.

"We, as Botswana Red Cross Society, have been working with the Gender Committees in the

districts to define the outlook of SGBV in their respective districts, determine the interventions that work best in their context, and prioritize communities where those interventions would be most impactful", she said

The programme Manager further revealed that in pursuing their auxiliary role to the Government of Botswana, Botswana Red Cross Society has been working in a collaborative mode with the districts for the past 10 months to address Gender-based Violence.

"We have managed to create awareness for 5,985 community members in person and 17,920 online through social and behavior change communication, built the capacity of 90 service providers and community workers, and conducted a root cause analysis study to promote evidence based GBV response, she said.

Bosso ke mang?

#bossokemang



Assessing Outcome-Based Education



LAGAGO TAMOCHA*
EDUCATING THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNER

OUTCOME-BASED Education (OBE) is a student-centered learning philosophy that bases each part of an educational system around goals, or outcomes. By the end of the educational experience, each student should have achieved these goals. Unlike traditional education models that emphasize the means, OBE focuses on the end results. This educational approach has gained traction globally, prompting a re-evaluation of assessment procedures to ensure they align with the principles of OBE.

Understanding Outcome-Based Education

OBE shifts the focus from the content of the curriculum to the results of the learning process. It demands that educators define what learners are expected to know, understand, and be able to do by the end of their educational experience. This model encourages flexibility in teaching, promoting creativity and critical thinking among students.

Key Features of OBE

Clear Learning Outcomes: These are specific, measurable goals that students are expected to achieve.

Flexibility in Teaching Methods: Educators are encouraged to use diverse teaching strategies to meet the needs of all students.

Student-Centered Learning: The focus is on what the students learn and how they demonstrate their learning.

Continuous Assessment: Regular assessments are used to gauge students' progress towards achieving the outcomes.

Assessment in Outcome-Based Education

The assessment procedures in OBE are crucial as they ensure that the learning outcomes are being met. Effective assessment in OBE requires a departure from traditional examination methods, embracing a more holistic approach that considers various forms of evidence of student learning.

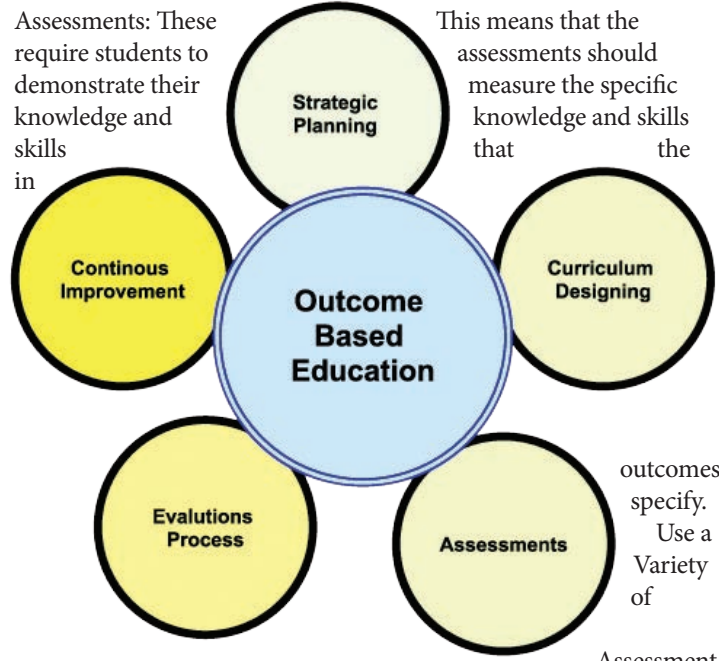
Types of Assessments in OBE

Formative Assessments: These are ongoing assessments that provide immediate feedback to students and teachers. They help identify learning gaps and areas that need improvement. Examples include quizzes, class discussions, and peer reviews.

Summative Assessments: These assessments evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against a standard or benchmark. Examples include final exams, end-of-term projects, and standardized tests.

Performance-Based

Assessments: These require students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in



This means that the assessments should measure the specific knowledge and skills that

outcomes specify. Use a Variety of

Assessment Methods:

a practical or real-world context. Examples include presentations, experiments, and role-playing activities. **Portfolio Assessments:** These involve the collection of student work over time, providing a comprehensive picture of their progress and achievements. Portfolios can include essays, lab reports, artwork, and other relevant artifacts.

Developing Effective Assessment Procedures
To develop effective assessment procedures for OBE, educators must follow a systematic approach:

Define Clear Outcomes: Start by clearly defining the learning outcomes. These should be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART).

Align Assessments with Outcomes: Ensure that all assessments are directly aligned with the learning outcomes.

Employ a mix of formative, summative, performance-based, and portfolio assessments. This variety ensures a more comprehensive evaluation of student learning. **Provide Timely Feedback:** Feedback should be timely and constructive, helping students understand their strengths and areas for improvement. It should guide them in their learning journey.

Engage Students in the Assessment Process: Involve students in self-assessment and peer assessment. This engagement fosters self-regulation and a deeper understanding of the learning process.

Review and Revise Assessments Regularly: Assessment procedures should be reviewed and revised regularly to ensure they remain relevant and effective. This

includes analyzing assessment data to identify trends and areas for improvement.

Challenges and Considerations

Implementing effective assessment procedures in OBE is not without challenges. Educators must be adequately trained to develop and administer these assessments.

There must also be a balance between flexibility and standardization to ensure fairness and consistency.

Moreover, institutional support is crucial. Schools and educational bodies must provide the necessary resources, including professional development for teachers and access to

diverse assessment tools. Outcome-Based Education represents a paradigm shift in how education is delivered and assessed. By focusing on the end results, it aims to produce graduates who are not only knowledgeable but also capable of applying their learning in real-world contexts. Effective assessment procedures are

at the heart of this approach, ensuring that learning outcomes are met and providing a clear measure of student success.

As education systems around the world continue to evolve, embracing OBE and its associated assessment strategies will be key to developing learners who are well-prepared for the challenges of the future.

BPOPF pursues looters

NOT SINCE THE LATE former Debswana boss Loui Nchindo reportedly died under mysterious circumstances while facing corruption charges at a Magistrates court has a case been so full of intriguing drama as that of Capital Management Botswana (CMB), which is currently unfolding before the courts albeit in separate court rooms. The case involves the country's high-profile figures who allegedly fleeced the pensioner's worth of P477 million through graft for self-enrichment. The judicial probe into the CMB saga has lasted more than five (5) years and whilst just one successful prosecution of former Permanent Secretary to the President (PSP) Carter Morupisi was successful, the state has expressed confidence in that is moving pawns in the right direction and it's only a matter of time before other king makers are pinned down.

This week the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) vividly made it clear that those who thought they had escaped the dragnet and retreated to a hideout will soon be dragged to the courts as fresh charges loom in the umbrella case for the alleged money laundering and fraud.

Details of the looming CMB charges were disclosed by the DPP on Wednesday at the Morupisi appeal before a panel of the Court of Appeal (CoA) comprising Judge President Justice Tebogo Tau, Justices Bess Nkabinde and Lakhvinder Singh Walia. Morupisi's case was one of the many related to CMB where he had been found guilty in all the three (3) counts relating to corruption and abuse of office. As a result, he regarding sought to appeal his conviction.

As the state pushes to finally nail culprits central in the alleged raiding and looting of P477 million from the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) through the now defunct Capital Management Botswana (CMB), key figures in dealing the shipplasters Timothy Marsland and Rapula Okaile are still being pursued as the DPP is widening its net and will not rest until every alleged culprit including the former BPOPF Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Lesedi Moakofhi is charged in the main CMB case. Correspondent **KABO RAMASIA** reports



Morupisi

The state is represented by Kentse Molome, Priscilla Israel and Moagi Ndlovu. Briefing the court after Morupisi's lawyer, Busang Manewe of Bogopa, Manewe, Tobeza & Co had informed the court that they would not partake in the proceedings, the state made its intentions clear of forging on with more charges.

According to Israel, former BPOPF Acting CEO/ Principal Officer, Lesedi Moakofhi case relating to the CMB is before the Regional Magistrates Court. Whilst Israel had told court that the judgement on the matter was due on 31 August 2024, The Patriot on Sunday has established that the matter was postponed to 14 August 2024. Moakofhi who had been listed

as one of the state witnesses was dropped and subsequently charged on a single count of corruption. Moakofhi would then have her charges dropped by Magistrate Goodwill Makofhi before the state pressed on with the matter.

Asked by court about the role she would have played as a state witness, Israel stated that the state managed to prove its case without Moakofhi and the other witness who was in South Africa and could not travel during the trial due to COVID-19 restricts. She indicated that Moakofhi had proved hostile but was informed even during investigations of possibilities of being charged. "She had a role in the commission of the offence hence we charged

her separately," stated state prosecutor Israel.

DPP further stated that as for one of the CMB Directors, Rapula Okaile, he faces more serious charges not similar to that of Morupisi. The DPP stated that at the time charges were proffered against Morupisi, Okaile had not yet been charged. "We are fighting the Timothy Marsland extradition for them to be charged in the main case," she added.

However, at this point, Justice Walia interjected to ask if Moakofhi will be charged in the CMB umbrella case to which the DPP replied in the affirmative. "Yes, she is likely to be charged. The prosecution is still waiting for the Marsland extradition," said Israel.

Clarifying to the CoA, the DPP said Okaile had never been listed as a state witness. The state further explained that there was a need that the accused persons could have been jointly charged. However, the DPP was of the view that Okaile's charges were more hence the separated cases. "If the Marsland extradition takes longer will decide to charge Okaile (representing CMB)," divulged Israel.

The DPP believes that although Moakofhi was to tell the court that the CMB contract was signed when the business of the board was suspended her absence did not prejudice their case. Consequently, they argued that Morupisi had a choice to call her if he was of the view that it would have boosted his case.

Marsland extradition

Botswana has officially submitted a request to the South African authorities to help in the extradition of Marsland. Marsland was on July 12 2019 arrested by Interpol at OR Tambo airport as he attempted to flee to Germany. Meanwhile, the DPP stated that should it delay, Marsland will be charged at a later stage when he is finally extradited to Botswana. At the moment, he remains a fugitive.

In 2021 both Okaile and Marsland had their charges reviewed and set aside by the Lobatse High Court after they had filed a review application. The court stated that their charges ought to have been reviewed and was irrational. Nevertheless, the DPP would then appeal the case wherein the CoA overturned the verdict of obtaining by false pretences and money laundering in favour of the DPP. Handing over the judgement in December 2021, Justice Lesedi stated that the High Court erred in granting the duo freedom. He stated that both Okaile and Marsland had not gone to trial on the charges and therefore had not taken plea.

The CMB case entails siphoning off millions from the pension fund under the watch of Okaile and Marsland whom together with Morupisi and former CEO Moakofhi are accused of signing the asset management deal when the business board was suspended. The asset management firm has since been liquidated.

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Kaboeamodimo confident of BPF, UDC victory

KABOEAAMODIMO IS confident that BBPF and Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) stand a good chance to topple the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP).

Q: Who is Mogomotsi Kaboeamodimo (MK)?

MK: Ke Mongwaketshe born and bred in Kanye – Goora Sebege ward. I am a proud father of four (04), three boys and a daughter. Professionally I am a Communications specialist with a solid background in Broadcasting and Telecommunications.

Q: Take us through your BPF activism journey?

MK: I wouldn't say I have been active in politics as such, except for the fact that I have offered my services – media work expertise, writing and programme planning to individual political parties when requested. But of course, for the fact of former President Khama being the Patron of the BPF and an accomplished statesman that I support and honour without reservation, and whose vision for Botswana I share, I have facilitated his engagements to the extent that they impact his schedule of engagements.

I would also add that having grown up in the media space I have always been aware of the world of politics and the brand of our politics in Botswana. Therefore, it is not a strange territory for me as I immerse myself in contesting for Parliament in the 2024 general election on the BPF ticket.

Q: What inspired you to join politics and contest for elections?

MK: My inspiration to contest on the BPF ticket is motivated by the party's focus on important considerations for our country, because they will shape our livelihoods and the future of our children. These include real democracy and good governance. Democracy starts with the holding of free fair and credible elections. That is what in turn legitimizes

As the 2024 elections approach, local political parties are positioning themselves by fielding candidates in constituencies around the country. In this first series of On the Couch with your Candidate, **STAFF WRITER BKANG TIRO** speaks to Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) candidate for Good Hope- Mmathethe constituency, Mogomotsi Kaboeamodimo.

a government. Already our electoral processes right from the registration of voters is tainted with the hand of the ruling party, the BDP, which is the party in government, doing everything to manipulate the process to favour themselves. Despite the technicalities that were used to deny the opposition a proper hearing in the courts of law all evidence points to this having been the case in 2019 where the BDP clearly lost the clean poll. Three examples of manipulation of the 2024 electoral process are the BDP's suspected control of the IEC based on the refusal to allow the opposition coalition to publicly observe the registration of voters; the BDP's refusal to have the ballots counted at polling stations among others; and the complications to a simple model of political party funding that the BDP has brought into the discussion about the funding of political parties. The BPF stands against this and is focused on helping to wrestle Botswana back from a brewing dictatorship under President Masisi.

My other motivation, I was in the public service for more than 2 decades. I also had a good stint in the business environment during my time at BOCCIM as well as at Botswana Telecomms. During that time I served not just my community in the Kanngwe – Mmathethe – Metlobo and neighbouring areas that fall in the Good-Hope Mmathethe constituency, but served the Botswana economy as a whole. I became aware of the challenges of leadership and service delivery for especially non-urban Botswana or rural communities if you like.

Q: What are some of the key



challenges that affect Good Hope Mmathethe constituency electorates and what is your plan to tackle them when elected to Parliament?

MK: I would like to use my experience of service to benefit my people and Botswana as a country. The constituency I wish to represent is among prime areas for food production and job creation through agro-businesses to the levels achieved in Pandamatenga, Tuli Block and Gantsi for example. I want to contribute to revival of crop production in Kanngwe, Mosi, Metlobo, Barolong Farms and many other areas to complement the achievement made with the

Mosisedi farms for example. It is possible through properly targeted government support. The uplift of interlinking roads network and water reticulation cannot be always just an election imperative as is the case with the BDP every time elections come up.

Q: You are the CEO of SKI Khama Foundation. Are you still active on the position since you announced decision to contest for elections? How do you strike balance between SKI Foundation assignment and campaigning?

MK: This is a charitable Trust set up by General Khama to help Botswana. I have had the privilege of leading it and I am proud of the

achievements we have made in the areas of advocacy for justice and the rule of law, health delivery especially during the Covid 19 pandemic, and basic day to day needs of the underprivileged.

The work of a Charitable Trust does not stop with the taking up of any other calling as I am about to do with my contest for the 2024 elections. What will change at the right time obviously is my role as CEO of the Trust and of course by mutual arrangement with the Chairman and Board.

I do have a campaign team that is working the ground in my support and that of candidates for Councils that a running with me. This has ensured that my busy schedule with the work of the Foundation does not affect my presence on the ground.

Q: Why contesting at Good-Hope Mmathethe and not Kanye, your home ground?

MK: Except for attending school in my home village Kanye, the bulk of my active life has been in Kanngwe in the heart of the constituency. In my early life when my late father Ketumile Kaboeamodimo was a Revenue Officer for the Bangwaketshe Tribal Administration we lived in Phitshane-Molopo and later in Good-Hope.

Subsequent to this I supported my father in the coordination of resources for the University of Botswana Campus Appeal (BUCA) for the Southern part of the country and our base was Kanngwe. I have also spent quite a lot of time in Mmathethe village which is the nearest service centre so to speak to our farming home in Kanngwe. I have social linkages and relationships born

from political ties in Digawana, Hebron, Dikhukhung, Mokatako and Mabule.

Therefore, this is the area with which I am more familiar in comparison to my home village Kanye. I do also have a footprint of service to my community there with respect to improvement to farming and communication facilities including Radio Botswana reception and Botswana Television reception in the area, hence my choice to contest there.

Q: There are suggestions that BPF lacks Strength in the Constituency compared to BDP and UDC. Your view on this?

MK: The suggestion that BPF cannot win the constituency as it may not be as strong as other contesting parties will be tested on polling day. What I can say is that based on my own observation on the ground we have had good reception and support from people who have registered to vote in many of the wards in the constituency.

Q: You are close friend of former president Ian Khama. Do you believe his influence or popularity can work in your favour as BDP candidate in Good Hope- Mmathethe?

MK: Yes, many of the families and homes across the constituency where I have reached so far have expressed their appreciation of life in Botswana during the presidency of General Khama on account of the programmes he delivered for them, among these constituency sporting tournaments which they call "dibolo tsa ga Khama" which benefitted the Youth, as well as livestock under LIMID and the ISPAAD programmes that the BDP under Masisi has since caused to decline or collapse altogether resulting in impoverishing many families. This is in sharp contrast to President Masisi's so-called reset

agenda programmes that exist on paper by nothing on the ground in many instances.

On the basis of this many have pledged their vote for us in the hope that we can restore Botswana to the vibrant economy on the Agricultural sector that it was under Khama and his predecessors, and to the political environment of tolerance, freedom of association and speech, and Botho that they say has since died under the BDP as currently led by Rre Masisi.

As for me personally, many have given their commendation for my supporting the former President in his absence in Botswana such that his legacy of service, Botho and upliftment of the less privileged regardless of tribal affiliation remains in credit.

Q: Do you think the Government Political Party Funding can aid opposition to cause upset for BDP and its long-time dominance?

MK: It is such a pity and a sad state of affairs that the BDP continues to use its numbers in Parliament to prevent achievements that would enhance our democracy as a country, and by extension the health of our economy when Parliament passes laws that would benefit the majority.

There can be no justification other than the BDP appetite for selfishness and abuse of privilege to want to dictate in their favour the terms of political party funding. The whole object of the bill on this would ideally have been to level the playing field in light of the BDP's unlimited access to public resources through the privileges accorded to members of Cabinet and the President. Political parties should be free to use the funds however they wish to promote their own political programmes including preparations for elections. This can always be subjected to periodic audits by the Auditor General as the money comes from public funds. To impose the kind of limits or restrictions that the BDP has done through their majority

in Parliament is a mockery of democracy and a clear indication to Botswana that anything that does not favour the BDP in Parliament will never pass as long as they have the numbers, even if it may be good for our democracy and our people.

Q: What is your plan after 2024 elections, will you still avail yourself in the next elections, 2029?

MK: If I get the privilege of victory at the October 2024 election I do intend to run the full race of service up to the 2029 electoral cycle, which will constitute 2 terms of service. Beyond that I consider it will be time to give space to fresher ideas and younger people to take our country forward. I will naturally then continue with my farming business and my writing.

Q: Any other important information is welcome

MK: I have completed my autobiography which chronicles my public service experience for the most part, with an important chapter on issues political. I had intended to publish before the end of the year. It has proven a bit of a challenge to publish in physical book form. I am currently considering options for release and the permutations thereof. I will shortly make my decision.

Lastly I wish to implore all Botswana who have registered for the election to please go out and vote for the future you wish for yourself and your children. Remember the choice you make will determine the quality of your life for the next 5 years.

I do hope the vote goes to my party the BPF wherever we are in contest and where we are not contesting to cast your vote for any other party except the BDP. Not only has the cost of living worsened under the BDP, but the economy is also in ruin and unlikely to recover for the foreseeable future; self-enrichment of the elite has become normal, while our people wallow in poverty and suffering since 2019.



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Hard times are here!

FROM PAGE 1

This is compounded by a stubborn GDP that has been stalling amid economic uncertainties.

The recently released report by Econsult reviewing the second quarter (April –June) has laid bare the sad reality of a nation tethering on the brink/cliff edge of economic collapse. According to the report compiled by Dr Keith Jefferies, prolonged diamond slowdown led to slower growth and fiscal stress. The report states that the second quarter of the year saw the global diamond market causing intensified economic pressure. Jefferies notes that although the global diamond sales improved in late 2023, the first half of 2024 saw sales being down on a year-on-year basis.

“This is feeding through to government finances, due to reduced mineral revenues, with a substantial increase in the budget deficit and the depletion of government savings balances. Reduced diamond sales are also leading to reduction in diamond output, which has resulted in zero GDP growth for the year to March 2024, and a sharp reduction in projected GDP growth for 2024 as a whole,” notes the report.

Diamonds plummet

In the outlook, Dr Jefferies notes that exports are under pressure, which means the trade balance has remained in deficit, albeit with some improvement from the last quarter of 2023. However, the outlook states



JWANENG MINE: Diamonds are the backbone of Botswana's economy

[PIC: PRESSPHOTO]

that inflation has declined and monetary policy reduced. According to Jefferies, the diamond market is a cause for concern. The report highlights that the continued weak sales in the second quarter of 2024 was occasioned by competition from lab grown (synthetic) diamonds, a weak demand in China and a disruption of the supply chain owing to the Russian invasion of Ukraine as well as G7 countries sanctions on Russian diamonds.

“The combination of all of these factors means that there are high levels of diamond

inventory throughout the diamond supply chain. Lower sales combined with high inventories mean that there is less demand for the output of diamond mining companies. De Beers have reduced planned production volumes for 2024, as compared to 2023, which has resulted in lower GDP growth forecasts for Botswana due to a projected contraction in diamond mining output,” states Econsult.

It is projected that whilst recovery is anticipated, it will be slow owing to the global demand. Therefore, the second

quarter will not be any better than the first one, although it should be better than the second half of 2023, stated the report. Econsult advises that from a policy perspective it ought to be determined whether the situation is a result of a short-term volatility or long term structural change. According to the economic experts, this will determine how the country adjusts in the long-term. Further posing a threat is the uptake of synthetics or lab grown diamonds (LGDs) which have structurally adjusted the market. To this end, the report

states that in the face of the declining demand for natural diamonds, there will be a need for policy intervention. Econsult suggested that to deal with this challenge there will be need for intensify marketing efforts to in line with natural diamonds. “Traditionally the bulk of such generic marketing has been undertaken by De Beers, but in future it will increasingly become the responsibility of other key players in the global diamond industry, including the Government of Botswana. But competing against a product that is physically

indistinguishable and sells for one quarter of the price will remain a challenge.

The uncertain environment and outlook for natural diamonds and the likelihood that any recovery will be slow adds to the difficulties faced by Anglo American in pursuing their planned sale of De Beers before the end of 2025,” notes Econsult.

GDP decline

According to the data, overall GDP growth has been poor as the 12-month GDP growth fell to 0% in the first quarter of 2024. The GDP fell from 2.7% in 2023, as per the Econsult data.

Accounting for this negative outlook, the report highlights mining sector, and reduction of the mining output. Further, non-mining private sector fell by 0.7% in the previous year to March 2024. This data is corroborated by the African Development Bank (AfDB) outlook on Botswana which when assessing the macroeconomic and financial developments in Botswana stated that real GDP growth shrank to 2.7% in 2023 due to the decline in water and electricity production. AfDB added that diamond trade also slowed in the period. Denoting hard times, the report stated that drought and weak global diamond demand characterised the outlook. “The 2023/24 fiscal deficit widened to 2.5% of GDP, driven by lower -than -expected mineral earnings and higher -than -planned

recurrent spending. Public debt was sustainable at 22.0% of GDP. The decline in the current account surplus to 0.9% of GDP in 2023 reflected lower mineral exports and Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenues,” states the AfDB

AfDB disclosed that International reserves improved to \$4.8 billion in January 2024 (8.7 months of import cover), going up from \$4.0 billion at the end of 2022 (7.6 months). Year -on- year, the pula appreciated by 0.8% against the South African rand and depreciated by 3.4% against International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights in March 2024, states AfDB.

Budget deficit widen

Meanwhile, Econsult projects a widened budget deficit. According to the firm, diamonds decline had a huge impact on government finances. Consequently, the new data underscored that lower mineral revenues together with highly expansionary budgets in 2023/24 budget and the current 2024/25 financial year (FY) negatively impacted the budget. Against this background, Econsult projects that the deficit would widen to P17 billion or 6% of GDP. “The drop in revenues and increased spending have led to a rapid depletion of Government balances held at the Bank of Botswana. The Government Investment Account (GIA) balance has fallen from P19.1 billion in July 2023 to P5.1 billion in April 2024, a drop of

P14 billion in only nine months. Clearly this rate of depletion is unsustainable,” reads the report.

Econsult further anticipates that the budget deficit will widen to P17 billion due to expansionary budgets in 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years. The firm noted that cash balances have been depleted such that future drawdowns will not be possible. To remedy the dwindling fiscus, Econsult recommended a further increase in net domestic borrowing.

Over and above the aforementioned, the report has cast a dim light on the future economic prospects of Botswana highlighting poor performance by many economic sectors. However, since assuming power in 2018, President Mokgweetsi Masisi has been heavily criticized for presiding over an ailing economy amidst continual promises to reform it. Botswana's economy is of present characterized by poverty, high unemployment levels, social inequalities, HIV/AIDS, a lack of inclusion for women, children, youth, people living with disabilities and marginalized communities.

Despite policy interventions on unemployment, a number of scholars have argued that they remain ineffective largely because they do not address the real issue of the elephant in the room being unemployment and a lack of economic diversification which has to this end haunted the country.

Colonial powers' time is up

DMITRY MEDVEDEV*

PART 1

NEOCOLONIALISM: OLD threats in a new era In February 2024, a forum was held in Moscow for supporters of the fight against modern neocolonialism practices. This forum, called For Freedom of Nations, was organised by United Russia. Around 200 representatives from more than 50 countries took part in the event, whose main outcome was the establishment of a global

■ Humanity should get rid of colonial system heritage

anti-neocolonial movement, For Freedom of Nations, which will fight to eradicate modern practices of exploitation and hegemonism.

The meeting starkly demonstrated the urgent need to drastically intensify cooperation among all progressive forces against neocolonialism, which hinders many countries from embarking on a path of steady and just development. Neocolonialism

is a long-standing and complex problem that requires a special approach and, most importantly, collaborative efforts to resolve.

Neocolonialism has long been a challenge in human history. The term was firmly established in the mid-20th century to describe the strategies employed by former colonial powers to contain the development of younger nations that had recently gained formal independence. These



Nicolas Maduro

strategies were implemented in order to compensate for the metropolises' own losses caused by de-colonisation.

There is brazen interference in the affairs of independent states, which, unfortunately, still continues in various forms. Despite humanity's persistent efforts to eradicate neocolonialism, the Western world vehemently resists it.

It aims to transition from isolated and national to global neocolonialism – a system of unequal economic and political relations imposed by Western countries on the rest of the world, a system that rests upon their military power, Western capital, international financial organisations and multinational corporations (Anatoly Gorelov. From the Colonial System to Global Neocolonialism. 2014. No. 2, p. 60). The former colonial powers persist in exploiting dependent countries, enhancing their own comfort through the humiliation and oppression of others – albeit employing more sophisticated tools and methods. This is not a new phenomenon. Consuetudo est altera natura, or “Habit is second nature.”

I will cite just a few figures that eloquently describe the political component of neocolonialism. According to experts (American experts, for all their bias), between 1946 and 2000, the United States

interfered in elections in other countries more than 80 times. Since 1945, there have been more than 50 attempted coups and military interventions (Dov H. Levin. Partisan electoral interventions by the great powers: Introducing the PEIG Dataset. Conflict Management and Peace Science, 2019, Vol. 36(1), pp. 88-106; William Blum. Overthrowing other people's governments: The Master List. URL: <https://williamblum.org/essays/read/overthrowing-other-peoples-governments-the-master-list>).

One of the primary tools that the neo-metropolises are using to accomplish their goals are unilateral sanctions that run contrary to international law. Of the 174 cases of restrictive measures applied in the 20th century, the United States was responsible for 109; in 80 cases, they sought to change the policies of undesirable states (Haufbacher G., Shott J., Elliott K., Oegg B. Economic Sanctions Reconsidered, 3rd edition. Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2009, p. 248). In fact, America has become a global sanctions neo-metropolis. In its activities, Washington makes extensive use not only of primary sanctions, but also secondary sanctions (based on the principle of extraterritorial jurisdiction), seeking to undermine third countries'

foreign, trade and economic policies, thereby openly violating their sovereignty.

Below are a few examples of the consequences of these illegal restrictive measures. As of October 2023, the total damage to the Cuban economy from the embargo imposed in 1960 amounted to \$159.8 billion. During the period of US unilateral restrictions against Iran in 1984-2000, the average annual cost of those sanctions was \$80 million (Sanctions related to Iran//The White House official press-release. Fact-sheet. 31.07.2012). Between 2006 and 2012, during the period of multilateral sanctions, the annual toll on Iran was \$5.7 billion (O.V. Komshukova. Sanctions against Iran: Goals and Consequences. Economic and Social Problems of Economic Growth, Moscow, INION RAN, 2016, No. 2-11). Over the seven years since the first sanctions were imposed on Venezuela in 2015, they have caused losses of \$642 billion to the Latin American country's GDP, as President Nicolas Maduro said in his annual address to the nation in January 2024 (Maduro called US sanctions economic genocide, RIA Novosti, January 15, 2024).

By doing this, the United States blatantly disregarded the 1927 judgement by the Permanent Court of

International Justice, which highlighted the importance of respecting the sovereignty of other states in the legal context and pointed out that “the first and foremost restriction imposed by international law upon a State is that, failing the existence of a permissive rule to the contrary, it may not exercise its power in any form in the territory of another State” (Permanent Court of International Justice. The Case of S.S. Lotus (France v. Turkey). Judgement. Publication of the Permanent Court of International Justice, pp.18-19). Similarly, the United States acted contrary to the 1965 UN General Assembly Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States, the 1970 UN General Assembly Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States, and Resolution 27/21 of the UN Human Rights Council, dated September 26, 2014, which says that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, and the UN Charter.

Washington's attempts to find a justification for its aggressive and illegal actions in the broad interpretation of the territorial principle do not stand up to scrutiny. (When hearing the case of The Republic of Nicaragua v. The United States of America, the UN International Court of Justice clearly demonstrated that it was against the broad interpretation of actions that constitute a threat to national security. During the interpretation of the term “essential foundations of security,” it was established that US claims about Nicaragua's alleged attempts to overthrow the governments of neighbouring states that went on for two years were not sufficient to incur the exception since the United States had not proved that Nicaragua's policy constituted a threat to the “essential security interests.”)

In this context, Judge Jeffrey Meyer (a judge of the US District Court for the District of Connecticut, a Senior Counsel to the Independent Inquiry for the UN Oil-for-Food Programme in Iraq in 2004-2005, a professor of

law at Quinnipiac University School of Law, and a Visiting Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School) pointed out that “the United States itself is prone to exaggerated claims that secondary sanctions measures can be justified by the protective or effects jurisdictional principles, even when these measures aim to redress <...> conduct that occurs in distant lands and that has no real prospect of jeopardising the safety of or causing any substantial effect in the United States.” (Meyer J.A. Second Thoughts on Secondary Sanctions//University of Pennsylvania. Journal of International Law.Vol.30.Iss.3., p. 909). In fact, this can be described as attempts to destroy entire countries or as quasi-genocide. Nevertheless, the masterminds of these sanctions have not been called to account.

Western countries have not only been obsessed with the idea of political control over the rest of the world but also with domination on the international stage. In the second half of the 20th century, Latin American and European economists, such as Raul Prebisch (Argentina), Theotonio dos Santos and Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brazil), Andre Frank (Germany) and Gunnar Myrdal (Sweden), shaped the dependency theory, which proved that there is a direct connection between the underdevelopment of Third World countries and the prosperity of advanced capitalist countries. Their works showed convincingly that the exploitation of underdeveloped nations by advanced nations was a major obstacle on humanity's path towards progress (Baran, Paul A. The Political Economy of Growth. Moscow, 1960, p.53). According to calculations, the West drained over \$62 trillion worth of raw materials from the Global South countries between 1960 and 2018 (Hickel J., Sullivan D., Zoomkawala H. Plunder in the Post-Colonial Era: Quantifying Drain from the Global South Through Unequal Exchange, 1960-2018. New Political Economy, 26(6), pp. 1030-1047).

*Article by Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation

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NALEDI MOTORS

Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



ADAM PHETLHE
ON SUNDAY!

I HAVE IN THE RECENT PAST accommodated the idea that Botswana should take care of the former Presidents' welfare after leaving office. I have also said the same about the same with respect to the former Vice Presidents. I have since turned against the idea as will be discussed hereunder. I will concede this conversation is prompted by the recent brouhaha over the now purportedly withdrawn Bills on the Presidents Pension and Retirement (Amendment) Bill No 12 of 2024 and the former Vice Presidents (Pensions and Retirement Benefits) Bill No 13 of 2024. Before delving on the subject matter, it is important to reflect on the 'purported withdrawal' of these controversial two Bills.

To start with, one more Bill was scheduled to be presented to the National Assembly by the Minister for State President Hon Kabo Morwaeng. And that is the Amendment of the Ministers and National Assembly Gratuities Act. This amendment was to be brought about by the creation of the Vice Presidents (Pension and Retirements) Bill whose effect would be the removal of the former Vice Presidents from benefiting from the Ministers and National Assembly Gratuities Act. The import of removing the Vice Presidents would not equate to the Ministers and Members of the National Assembly benefiting financially or otherwise from the Bill as would be the

Batswana shouldn't be burdened with welfare of former Presidents

former Vice Presidents.

With respect to the withdrawal of the former Presidents and Vice Presidents Bills, Hon Morwaeng peddles some blatant untruths about the withdrawals and, he must be called out. He says in his statement of withdrawal that 'Accordingly, the conduct of our national affairs as a sovereign State, has always been, and continues to be, gauged, assessed, critiqued and validated by invoking democratic principles, amongst them, being broad-based participation and consultation in decision-making on issues of national concern, and in the public interest.' This is a blatant untruth regards being had to the withdrawn Bills. There was no broad-based participation and consultation about these Bills and he knows it. If there was any, he would have mentioned where and when such took place, what the terms of reference were and who participated. He must be reminded lest he believes I have forgotten that the country is saddled with a flawed Constitutional (Amendment) Bill where he and his government blatantly refused 'broad-based participation' by inter alia, civil society organisation and other key stakeholders. Hon Morwaeng goes further to talk about the timing of presenting the Bills by saying 'The common sentiment is that this is not the time to bring such Bills'. The common sentiment is that there was no need to bring them in the first place and that Botswana cannot afford to continue to sponsor two individuals together with their immediate and distant family members to enjoy opulent lifestyles when we (Botswana) wallow in perpetual, desperate socio-economic circumstances.

He concludes by saying '... We will withdraw the Bills from Parliament pending further consultation.' Further consultation with whom and for what purpose because people who should be consulted have already spoken hence the purported withdrawal? Nothing suggests Botswana



Morwaeng

who are speaking against such Bills will change their minds anytime soon if at all. The prevailing sentiment is that Botswana are fully aware that similar Bills whether downgraded or otherwise could resurface in the future and that importantly, they will offer the same if not heightened push-back against them. Hon Morwaeng must be reminded of the saying 'you cannot fool people all the time'. The sum total of the Bills for former Presidents and VPs is a sign of a tone-deaf government whose intention is to loot Botswana to the last. Thebe to fund the opulent lifestyles of the privileged. A government that has overstayed its welcome will behave this way: arrogant, complacent and falsely entitled. It's a stink that will be in the air for the longest time. Back to the subject matter. I argue very strongly that Botswana should no longer be burdened by providing for the welfare and upkeep of former Presidents post their retirement.

The current salary of the President of the Republic is P110,425 per month. I am excluding the P 20,000 constituency allowance and some other such allowances I am not aware of. Added to these are the substantial allowances like per diem the President earns when travelling abroad and probably internal allowances for their internal travels. The nation will be shocked if the true amounts of per diem the current President has earned this far since coming to office were revealed. It probably far exceeds his annual salary. The cumulative earnings of the President in Botswana terms, are good enough for him/her to create a comfortable retirement package for when he would have left office. Needless to mention that during his time in office, the President's daily needs whether he is at the State House or his/her masimo are all catered for by us the taxpayers predictably at a huge cost. In a nutshell, the Presidents

of Botswana do not use their salaries for their daily upkeep as is normally the case for gainfully employed persons elsewhere who over and above using their salaries for such upkeep, use it as well to contribute for their retirement upkeep. What are Botswana rewarding former Presidents for? Presidents' main performance indicators are the quality of the socio-economic circumstances their compatriots experience. And these will be inter alia, the quality of education and health care; that unemployment levels are kept as low as possible by creating sustainable and decent jobs; that corruption is meaningfully and effectively dealt with not through word of mouth but demonstrable and tangible interventions. As the term of the President is in its late afternoon, his performance indicators for these issues are well below the bare minimum standards. I will concede there will during any President's tenure, unforeseen tragedies like the Covid-19 pandemic. But such tragedies should not be a scape goat because even where such never existed, socio-economic circumstances of the population remain as bad. I will not be averse to a once off thank you to a retiring President if during their tenure, the socio-economic circumstances of their compatriots would have remarkably improved. The common thread that weaves retiring Presidents together is the destruction they leave their countries in. In some instances, they leave the presidency with the country worse off than they found it while they themselves leave 'stinking rich' than they were when getting into office. And this I must add, is not peculiar to Botswana. Nevertheless, the focus is on Botswana. Why should Botswana be burdened to reward a former President in whose office corruption was institutionalised-to this day, no one involved in Covid-19 corruption has been brought to book to account; why should Botswana be burdened to reward a former President who found it fit to amend/review the Constitution on his own terms

and with his own hand-picked people; why should Botswana be burdened to reward a former President who is alleged to be influencing Court of Appeal justices to rule in a particular manner-remember Kgosi Mosadi's allegations that have not been convincingly refuted and, why should Botswana be burdened by a former President who would have enhanced his retirement benefit double fold for no good cause?

Gone is the era where Presidents were said to have sacrificed their precious time to serve the nation. This era has come and gone. In came the era where offices of the President in Africa and elsewhere are used to cut high-end deals for them such that when vacate office, they are far richer than when they came into office. The case in point amongst others is the former President of Angola whose daughter was regarded as one of the richest women in Africa with a reported net worth exceeding US\$ 2 billion until her world came down tumbling after the departure of her father from office. If the daughter was worth this much, it should be scary to imagine what the value of the father was.

I argue that Botswana should not be burdened with looking after former Presidents, particularly that in some cases they leave office when their compatriots are wallowing in humiliating socio-economic circumstances amongst others -the very thing they would have promised to prioritise when they took office but neglected due to the trappings of the high office to cut their own deals. Dumelang Salehandho has consistently told us how the President and his immediate family members have become rich since he came into office. If this is true, then the President is well endowed with financial resources to cater for themselves upon leaving office. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

adamphetlhe08@gmail.com

Condemnation of Water Disconnection in Teachers' Houses and Call for Immediate Action

MASUNGA, 31/07/2024 — THE TATI West Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) Parliamentary candidate, Justin Hunyepa strongly condemns the recent disconnection of water services to teachers' houses by the Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) in the Tati West constituency. A letter by the City of Francistown Town Clerk dated 20th July 2022 to WUC General Manager North stated that the City council will take responsibility of the bills in council staff houses which affected more than 50 officers, including around 18 teachers. Despite the City Council's commitment to pay, and acknowledgment of responsibility for the situation, teachers who have since transferred into Tati West constituency have had their water disconnected by the



Hunyepa

WUC and some are going for the third month now without water as the council has not upheld its payment promises to WUC. This unjust action of denying teachers water is not only a gross violation of fundamental human rights but has also severely impacted educators already facing demoralising and poor working conditions.

Teachers, who are essential to the development of our nation, should not be further burdened with the lack of access to a basic and essential need such as water.

The citizens of this country have long suffered under the burden of exorbitant and unreasonable water bills imposed by WUC since this basic fundamental resource was privatised. The privatisation of water has resulted in substantial barriers to accessing this vital resource. It is unacceptable that profit motives are prioritised over the well-being of the population, denying many their right to clean and potable water.

The government of Botswana must take full responsibility for ensuring that all citizens have uninterrupted access to clean and safe water. Water should not be treated as a commodity for profit but as a public good essential to life and dignity. Denying citizens access to natural water is an inhumane and cruel treatment which violates fundamental human rights.

We call upon the government of Botswana to reconsider the privatisation of water services and to prioritize the rights and welfare of its citizens. It is the unquestionable government's duty to protect and uphold this fundamental right for all citizens.

These fundamental rights are found in the Constitution of Botswana, The United Nations Organisation (UNO) Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. In addition, the 2010 UN General Assembly resolution 64/292 also states that water and sanitation are fundamental human rights. And Botswana is a member of the UNO. We further call for the immediate reconnection of water services to the affected teachers' houses and that the council pay the promised outstanding balance to WUC. We will not hesitate to escalate the matter to other international organisations who will not be impressed by this gross violation of human rights.

Justin Hunyepa
UDC Tati West Parliamentary candidate
(267 72304922)

Copied: Teacher organisations and respective councils

Neighbourhood First Policy

INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY reflects the truism that neighbours are a primary foreign policy priority for any country. India has historically committed its largest and best resources to its neighbourhood, be it economic, political or diplomatic. Today, India's Neighbourhood First Policy is the foundation of its global outreach.

Within the country, the Policy has helped to raise awareness about the importance of the neighbourhood, above all in the Government of India. Given the diverse nature of the country and cross-border linkages rooted in history and culture the Policy is paying dividends by promoting regional integration and advancing peace and stability.

The decision by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to invite the Heads of all neighbouring countries for his swearing-in ceremony on three successive occasions in 2014, 2019 and 2024 was unprecedented and represented an altogether new way of engaging with neighbours. The presence of the Leaders was a celebration of a common sub-continental identity. It was also a celebration of democracy.

India, by virtue of its size and resource endowments, is the partner of choice for its neighbours. India's aid programmes amounting to billions of dollars at highly concessional terms extend to all walks of life and all sectors. These range from hard infrastructure to skilling and education to disaster preparedness. They have impacted millions of beneficiaries and transformed the remotest regions in a sustained manner. Over time, the Neighbourhood First Policy has evolved into a well-knit and integrated system.

The Policy is rooted in the philosophy of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' or the world is but one family and the policy of 'sabkasath, sab ka vikas sab ka vishvas'. It thereby embodies the principles of universality, equity and fairness. Apart from development, regional integration is a key objective. This is achieved by putting in place asymmetric and resilient connectivities involving people to people movement, air, rail, road links, energy pipelines and supply and value chains. Neighbours are given the first right of access to the Indian market, Indian educational institutions and Indian medical facilities.

The growth of the Indian economy serves as the engine of regional growth. It commits India to share its economic successes and enable neighboursto benefit from economies of scale. The Neighbourhood



Member of National Security Advisory Board, Pankaj Saran

Policy is the embodiment of the principle of 'prosper thy neighbour'. The record shows that the economic performance of those who have moved faster with integration has been better than others. Conversely, those countries who have integrated more with India have better withstood external shocks.

India has come to the aid of its neighbours in times of difficulty such as during the Covid crisis or the energy and food price shocks after the Ukraine conflict, or even in time of natural disasters. Notable examples in the recent past include provision of urgent humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, economic bail out of Sri Lanka, supply of vaccines and essential commodities to Bangladesh and budgetary support to the Maldives immediately after the pandemic. India is thus not only a first responder but also a safety net for itsneighbours.

The Policy is characterized by country specific targeted interventions rather than a one size fits all approach. Focus on building mutually beneficial bilateral partnerships lies at the heart of the Policy. Where necessary, mechanisms have been put in place to promote sub-regional cooperation. A sub-regional power grid is taking shape between Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh passing through Indian territory.

It is recognized that peace and security are indispensable conditions for progress. The Policy is geared to be sensitive to and respect each other's sovereignty and

security concerns. The philosophy is that security is mutual and not a zero-sum game, whether it relates to terrorism or climate change. Capacity building is a key means to achieving security for all.

In recent years, the vision of the neighbourhood has extended to regions beyond the sub-continent. These include the Indian Ocean Region, West Asia and the Gulf States, Central Asia and East Asia. These regions are given priority in allocation of resources and attention so as to rebuild the linkages that existed in the pre-colonial era and to shape new ones. India's influence and imprint in this wider geography is growing rapidly.

For reasons of its own making, Pakistan has remained an outlier in the sub-continent's integration process. China, which also shares a long border with India, has to come to terms with a rising India and needs to abandon the policy of trying to contain India in its neighbourhood.

India's Neighbourhood First Policy is ambitious and bold. It is neither dogmatic nor doctrinaire. It is successful because it is responsive and sensitive to the needs of the times.

Pankaj Saran
Member, National Security Advisory Board
Former Deputy National Security Adviser
Convenor, NatStrat, India



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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NOTICE OF THE AWARD OF BOOKMAKER AND TOTALISATOR LICENCES

AWARD OF BOOKMAKER AND TOTALISATOR LICENCES

Notice is hereby given in terms of the provisions of Section 37 of the Gambling Act No. 7 of 2012 that the Board of the Authority at its sitting of the 9th August 2024, resolved to award Bookmaker licences, as follows:

Bookmaker Route Operator Licences

1. Bet Pula (Pty) Ltd
2. Sunbet Botswana (Pty) Ltd
3. Pstbet Botswana (Pty) Ltd
4. Mecaville Enterprises (Pty) Ltd

Bookmaker Independent Operator Licences

1. Direct Wholesale (Pty) Ltd
2. Delta Bay (Pty) Ltd
3. SNB Investments (Botswana) (Pty) Ltd
4. Pula Fela Investments (Pty) Ltd
5. J & Q Investments (Pty) Ltd
6. Hollywoodbets Botswana (Pty) Ltd

Date: 09 August 2024

Signed.....

Emolemo Peter Kesitilwe
Chief Executive Officer

Business

BSE champions sustainability in capital markets

▪ Unveils Sustainability Disclosure Guidance framework ▪ BSE listed companies to voluntarily adopt the guidance ▪ BSE confident on additional green bonds listing

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE LOCAL BOURSE, BOTSWANA Stock Exchange (BSE) has encouraged the listed companies to prioritise sustainable financing and bonds listing as the BSE launched its Sustainability Disclosure Guidance.

Speaking at the launch on Thursday, Chairperson of Central Security Depository Board (CSDB) Pascaline Sefawe said the Sustainability Disclosure Guidance is for voluntary adoption by listed entities.

However, Sefawe said going forward it would be determined if the adoption would be compulsory for all the listed entities, adding that that sustainability is very important.

"This is a great milestone by the BSE, and it has shown commitment to promote sustainable financing. The global agenda shifted from poverty eradication when Millennium Development Goals were replaced by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that speak to sustainability across different sectors of economy," said Sefawe.

In addition, Sefawe said the Sustainability Disclosure Guidance as adopted by the listed companies will be positioning them at the top of the transformation agenda towards sustainable development by driving Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) principles.

For her part, the Managing Director of Wise Leadership and consultant partner of the BSE Sustainability Disclosure Guidance project, Mpho Kgosietsile said sustainability reporting by companies is very pivotal for economic development.

Kgosietsile said the sustainability reporting is going to enhance good governance and transparency within the listed companies, adding that good governance and transparency is key to eliminate risks.

She said the BSE counterpart, Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE)



BSE acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kopano Bolokwe

has been doing very well in terms of the Sustainability reporting and they reviewed the BSE while compiling the BSE Sustainability Disclosure Guidance framework.

BSE acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kopano Bolokwe said BSE is committed on integrating sustainability into capital markets and one of the few African Stock Exchanges that is advanced in that regard.

Bolokwe said the stock exchange is confident that the listed companies will respond positively in terms of adopting the BSE Sustainability Disclosure Guidance although it is not mandatory but its voluntarily to do so.

He said BSE would continue to promote the listing of sustainable bonds that tackle issues such as climate change with emphasis on green bonds listing.

BSE revised the Debt Listings Requirements [mainly to include Rules for Sustainable Bonds] and in 2023 alone, more than P13.0 billion in Note Programmes have been approved including a \$500 million Programme from Zambia).

Over the years, BSE has emerged as a pivotal player in advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its strategic partnerships and proactive initiatives.

Since 2016, the BSE has collaborated closely with international bodies like the United Nations, particularly through the UN's SSE (Sustainable Stock Exchanges) initiative and the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) office in Gaborone.

A significant milestone for the BSE was joining the SSE's Green Finance Advisory Group in 2017, aimed at promoting green finance within Botswana's capital markets.

The exchange also signed the Marrakech Pledge to bolster green capital initiatives in Africa, showcasing its dedication to environmental stewardship and sustainable finance.

Manufacturing sector upbeat

- Local Manufacturing Summit unlocks opportunities
- Mining sector, Govt affirm commitment to grow the sector
- Masisi promises supportive manufacturing focused legislation



Moncho

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING SECTOR is adamant of growth underpinned by the 2024 Local Manufacturing Summit that has presented lot of opportunities to the sector particularly coming from the mining sector.

The Summit spoke to the challenges that affect the manufacturing sector such as lack of access to the market and financing as well as the challenging regulatory framework etc.

It is organized by the Botswana Chamber of Mines (BCM) and its industry partners such as Debswana Diamond Company. The two-day summit was held under the theme "Shaping the Future of Botswana's Manufacturing Sector: Facilitating Growth, Diversification and Job Creation."

The sector commended the mining sector for its continuous support and capacity building through Citizen Economic Empowerment Programmes (CEEP) adopted by mines such as Morupule Coal Mine (MCM) and Debswana which their

Matebesi said Debswana has so far spent the P20 billion target on CEEP and large amount of spending was distributed to the manufacturing sector which bolstered sector growth.

Furthermore, Matebesi underscored Debswana's commitment towards strengthening the capacity of the manufacturing suppliers listed on its database, adding that the major hurdle facing the sector is lack of access to the market.

"The manufacturing sector has quite good number of producers and the major challenge is that they don't know where to distribute their products. As a mining entity, Debswana has made a priority in its CEEP that the local manufacturing companies from all scales including SMMEs benefit from our CEEP procurement," highlighted Matebesi.

Govt

Officially opening the summit on Tuesday, president Mokgweetsi Masisi said it is important for the country to boost its productivity and that include through fully unlocking manufacturing potential.

Masisi highlighted the government's intent to create meaningful participation of citizens as investors, manufacturers, traders and retailers to drive and position Botswana as a private sector led economy.

He also said the government will continue to review its policies or legislation such as the ease of doing business to ensure that the local manufacturing sector thrives to its full potential and create necessary needed jobs while also improving its value proposition in contributing to the Gross Domestic Product.

The Local Manufacturing Summit offers networking opportunities for local manufacturers drawing key players in the industry and further provides cutting edge developments in the manufacturing industry and to explore new opportunities.

BotswanaPost, FSG launch partnership

ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH AUGUST 2024, FSG and BotswanaPost officially launched their partnership which will enable FSG funeral cover policies premium collections across the postal network. At the core of this collaboration is BotswanaPost's strategic efforts to diversify postal offering and simultaneously forge smart partnerships in order to drive socio-economic diversity in both urban and rural areas by leveraging its wide geographic postal footprint. On the other hand, for the leading funeral services provider, FSG, the key objective is to streamline premium collections and enhance accessibility for its clients. FSG aims to expand their premium collection channels through this partnership with BotswanaPost.

The partnership will capitalize on the Post's technical and physical infrastructure to enhance convenience for clients and improve the efficiency of premium collection operations. BotswanaPost with its far reaching network, boasting 137 Post Offices, 19 postal kiosks in select Choppies stores, 82 postal agencies, 6 Virtual Teller Machines (VTM) and its technological prowess is strategically positioned to drive FSG agenda of expansion and



Ferguson

accessibility for the benefit of its customers.

When welcoming guests to the launch, the Group Managing Director of FSG, Ferguson

Ferguson said, 'FSG is a premier funeral services provider in the region, with 31 years of experience in delivering exceptional services to our partners. We offer comprehensive and enduring financial and care solutions, ensuring an outstanding customer experience. The FSG Group operates multiple subsidiaries in Botswana, Zambia, and South Africa, boasting a distribution network of 35 branches (22 in Botswana), and supporting a workforce of over 500 full-time employees. Under FSG Assurance, the Group serves more than 165,000 policyholders, covering over 655,000 lives.

Speaking at the launch, the BotswanaPost CEO, Cornelius Ramathlakwane highlighted the shared similarities of the two entities in reference to its clientele, the commitment to serving their customers and undeniable impact they have in the local communities countrywide. "The Post Office has been and continues to be an integral part of the communities which we operate in across the country. The Post Office has always been a cornerstone in the communities we serve, and this partnership reinforces our dedication to being there for our people when they need us the most," elaborated Ramathlakwane.

De Beers cancels August Sight

DE BEERS HAS CALLED OFF ITS August sight and rescheduled sale dates for later in the year as the diamond industry battles an oversupply, Rapaport News has learned.

The miner has combined its August and October trading sessions into one sight that will take place in September, it told customers Thursday.

The move reflects sharp production cuts in India, with executives estimating a reduction of around 50% year on year for July and the first week of August. Kiran Gems is among the manufacturers planning extended vacations this month, which is usually a quieter time for the sector.

"Following extensive discussion and feedback from sightholders, this decision has been taken to support sightholder businesses in navigating the prevailing midstream trading conditions, as well as to avoid timing issues with a UN conference set to take place in Botswana in mid-December," the company wrote in a note to sightholders, seen by Rapaport News. The merged sight 7 and 8 will run from



September 23 to 27, according to the note to sightholders. Previously, sight 7 was scheduled for August 26 to 30, while sight 8 was due to take place from October 7 to 11.

Sight 9 will occur from November 4 to 8, having previously been set for November 11 to 15. Sight 10 will take place from

December 2 to 6, instead of December 9 to 13 as planned.

"We believe this revised scheduling will better support [sightholders'] business needs as we head towards the end-of-year season," a De Beers spokesperson added in a statement. [rapaport.com]

Impact of Data on Decision Making



TUMISANG MAYISELA
BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH MANAGER

What is the Data Protection Act?

The Data Protection Act 2018 which commences on the 17th of September 2024, seeks to provide for the protection of personal data obtained in the processing of an individual's personal information; by providing the necessary security safeguards required in the processing of such personal information in Botswana. Organisations are expected to develop a Data Protection Policy which will ensure that personal data is processed fairly and lawfully. This is with the knowledge or consent of the customer, in addition, personal data should be collected, processed, and stored for legitimate purposes. Contravention of the Act is an offence, and data controllers are liable to a fine not exceeding P300 000 or imprisonment of a period not exceeding 7 years or both.

How data can be used

Using data, organisations are able to obtain the right information at the right time, which can then be used to develop strategies that address customer concerns, boost profitability, enhance customer experiences, create customised products, target marketing efforts effectively, and prevent fraud. Banking customers generate an enormous amount of data daily through their transactions. This data holds untapped

potential for understanding our customers, product performance, and market trends. By collecting and analysing this data, organisations gain a comprehensive view of their customers, which allows them to segment clients based on profiles, understand their spending habits, personalise product offerings, develop retention strategies, and address customer needs through feedback.

Data-driven decisions are effective because they are based on verified facts, this helps reduce bias, increase accuracy, and boost profitability. Data provides meaningful insights that help validate courses of action and anticipate market shifts and customer needs. For example, MIT research from 2011 found that companies using data to drive their decisions saw a 5-6% increase in productivity. Similarly, companies like Netflix use data analytics to understand viewer preferences, aiding in the selection and production of popular shows.

How to protect your data

When operating a business, it's key to have protocols and fail-safes to protect the client data. Preventing data breaches requires a multi-faceted approach. For instance, an organisation might want to consider implementing the following:

- Advanced encryption techniques are

used to protect data both in transit and at rest, making it difficult for unauthorised parties to access sensitive information.

- Routine security audits to identify and address potential vulnerabilities within their systems.
- Employee training on data protection best practices and cybersecurity awareness to mitigate the risk of human error leading to data breaches.
- Access controls to ensure that only authorised personnel can access sensitive data. This includes multi-factor authentication and role-based access controls.
- Intrusion detection systems monitor network traffic and detect any suspicious activities that could indicate a potential breach.

Even with the most robust measures in place, data breaches can still occur. In the event of a data breach, it is crucial to act

quickly to prevent further compromise and mitigate the potential impact. The first step would be to contain the breach to prevent further data loss. This may involve isolating affected systems and shutting down unauthorised access points, followed by a thorough assessment to determine the extent of the breach then identifying the compromised data, and finally understanding how the breach occurred.

While investigations are being conducted, it is key for the business to maintain a clear communication line with customers and relevant authorities about the breach, providing information about the data compromised and steps being taken to address the issue. After resolving the immediate threat, a business would need to review and update their data protection policies and procedures in order to prevent future breaches.

How individuals can protect their data

Data protection is not just for business.

For the individual who is concerned about their data privacy and wants to understand how they can be more cautious, here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Avoid using personal information such as birth dates or family names as passwords; rather, opt for complex passwords instead.
- Avoid using free public Wi-Fi to access banking platforms.
- Limit sharing and posting sensitive personal information on social media
- Stay informed about cybersecurity threats and best practices.

Whether you are an organisation or an individual who is curious about the importance of data or unaware of its impact, data is a powerful tool that drives decision-making and innovation in your daily life. Recognising its value and safeguarding personal data are crucial steps to harnessing its benefits while ensuring privacy protection.

**Business Intelligence and Research Manager, Bank Gaborone*

IN THE DIGITAL AGE, DATA IS OFTEN referred to as the new currency. Data has become a medium of exchange and a measure of worth, much like money, due to its undeniable value. Its importance in decision-making, especially for financial institutions like Bank Gaborone, cannot be overstated. To the average person, the term "data" might first bring to mind the data used for cell phones. However, in this context, data refers to information, whether numerical or non-numerical, that can be analysed to generate insights. In order to understand the critical role data plays, it's key to unpack the implications of the soon to be implemented Data Protection Act in Botswana, and how data collection benefits financial institutions and individuals alike.

Stanbic sponsors Local Manufacturing Summit

IN A CONTINUED EFFORT TO SUPPORT AND grow the local manufacturing industry, Stanbic Bank Botswana is pleased to announce its sponsorship value of P250,000.00 for the next three years to the Local Manufacturing Summit. The summit took place on the 6th and 7th of August 2024 at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC) under the theme, "Shaping the Future of Botswana's Manufacturing Sector."

This commitment follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and partnership with the Botswana Chamber of Mines (BCM) earlier this year. As part of this MoU, the Bank will also provide financial resources in the form of grants totaling up to five hundred thousand Pula (P500,000.00) per year. These grants will be awarded to potential manufacturing entities identified by both BCM and Stanbic Bank Botswana. Additionally, the Bank will offer the use of its Accelerate Incubator to BCM for project facilitation. This is in line with the Bank's purpose to drive Botswana's growth, and its Social, Economic and Environmental (SEE) agenda.

"Manufacturing is a pivotal sector for Botswana's economic growth, not only as a substantial revenue generator but also for its potential to create hundreds of jobs. Our participation in this summit highlighted Stanbic Bank Botswana's dedication to fostering economic development and supporting initiatives that lead to sustainable growth. Botswana is our home; we drive her growth by making strategic investments, advancing innovation, and empowering local enterprises to thrive in the global market. This, we believe, offers more sustainable value creation," said Stanbic Bank Botswana Head of Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP), Kushatha Chilisa.

The Local Manufacturing Summit is a premier event bringing together key stakeholders from Government, private sector, and academia to discuss strategies for advancing the manufacturing sector in Botswana. The summit was graced by His Excellency President Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi as the highlight speaker and also featured key industry players. There were panel discussions, and workshops focused on

innovation, technology adoption, and policy frameworks essential for the sector's growth. It serves as a platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and forging partnerships that will drive the future of manufacturing in Botswana, building a stronger local manufacturing base in Botswana, and thus supporting greater industry growth and manufacturing independence and self-sufficiency. This supports Government's ambitions for greater economic diversity, and the tenets of the National Vision.

"Stanbic Bank Botswana is dedicated to Botswana's growth, continually seeking opportunities to contribute to the nation's economic prosperity. Through strategic partnerships and investments, we aim to empower local enterprises, support job creation, and stimulate innovation. By sponsoring the Local Manufacturing Summit and providing financial grants, we reinforce our commitment to building a resilient and diversified economy. This reflects belief in the potential of Botswana's manufacturing sector and its role in shaping a brighter, more sustainable future for all Batswana," said Chilisa.

Know Your Corporate Leader

Full Name: Therisanyo Masuga
Position: Head of Investment Banking
Institution: Rand Merchant Bank
Date Started: 1 June 2024
Nature of business: Banking



Expression of Interest for Appointment to the Board of Directors of Botswana Savings Bank (Subsidiaries)

About Botswana Savings Bank

Botswana Savings Bank (BSB) is a pioneering institution wholly owned by the Government of Botswana, dedicated to enhancing national savings and delivering inclusive financial services. Our Head Office is in Gaborone at Tshomarelo House, Broadhurst Mall, with an extensive network of branches in Gaborone, Francistown, Mahalapye, Serowe, Hukuntsi, Gumare, Kanye, Molepolole, Maun and Palapye. We also reach clients through a robust network of BSB agents nationwide.

As an institution governed by a Board of Directors reporting to the Ministry of Finance and supervised by the Central Bank, BSB adheres to the highest standards of commercial practice in line with the Banking Act. We are also a proud member of the World Savings Bank Institute (WSBI), connecting with over 90 countries globally.

The Opportunity

BSB is excited to announce new growth avenues with the recent acquisition of licenses for insurance brokerage and micro-lending businesses issued by the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA). We are seeking visionary and dynamic leaders to join our Board of Directors for these new subsidiaries. The role of the Board is crucial in providing strategic oversight and governance, ensuring that our subsidiaries not only meet but exceed their strategic objectives and serve the best interests of all stakeholders.

Who We Are Looking For

We invite expressions of interest from outstanding individuals who are passionate about making a difference in the financial sector. Ideal candidates will possess:

- **Advanced Qualifications:** Postgraduate or higher qualifications in finance, credit risk management, information technology, governance, human capital or related fields.
- **Extensive Experience:** A minimum of 10 years in the financial or insurance sectors, with at least 5 years in executive or senior management roles within competitive environments.

Key Competencies:

Joining the Board of Directors for BSB's new subsidiaries offers a unique opportunity to:

- **Shape the Future:** Influence the strategic direction and growth of innovative financial services in Botswana.
- **Drive Impact:** Contribute to the financial empowerment of communities and support BSB's mission to provide accessible financial solutions.
- **Collaborate with Experts:** Work alongside a team of dedicated professionals committed to excellence and integrity.

Application Process

If you are an experienced leader with a passion for governance and strategic oversight, we encourage you to submit your resume and a compelling cover letter detailing your qualifications and vision for the role. Please send your application to recruitment@bsb.bw by **30th August 2024**.

We look forward to receiving your application and exploring how your expertise can contribute to the success of Botswana Savings Bank's new ventures.



www.bsb.bw



PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING OF APPLICATIONS FOR GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENT LICENCES

Pursuant to Regulation 68 of the Gambling Regulations 2016, the Gambling Authority will convene a public hearing in respect of applications for Gambling Establishment licences submitted by the following applicants.

	NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE
1.	Mossvie Consultancy (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Independent Site Operator
2.	Greenslate Holding (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Independent Site Operator
3.	Greenslate Holding (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Independent Site Operator
4.	Time Flies Ville (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Independent Site Operator
5.	Time Flies Ville (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Independent Site Operator
6.	Time Flies Ville (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Independent Site Operator
7.	Slotluck (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Independent Site Operator
8.	Slotluck (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Independent Site Operator
9.	Slotluck (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Independent Site Operator
10.	Slotluck (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Independent Site Operator
11.	Slotluck (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Independent Site Operator
12.	SNB Investments (Botswana) (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Independent Site Operator
13.	SNB Investments (Botswana) (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Route Operator
14.	Slotluck (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Route Operator
15.	Goldrush Slots Botswana (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Route Operator
16.	VPB Gaming (Pty) Ltd	Gambling Establishment Route Operator

The hearing will be held at the Travel Lodge, Plot 28295 in Block 3, Gaborone from the **20th to 22nd August 2024 from 0800hrs.**

Notice is further given that the applications for Gambling Establishment licences were published in the Government Gazette, Sunday Standard, Daily News and The Voice to allow any interested party to lodge objections with the Gambling Authority within a specified period of time and four (4) objections were received. In view of the aforesaid, only the objectors will be allowed to make representations on the applications during the hearing.

If you are interested in attending the public hearing, please contact the Licensing Services Manager by calling 3986600 or 3957672, or by email at lpm@gamblingauthority.co.bw and reference Gambling Establishment Licence Public Hearing as the subject line, and state your name, phone number and number of the intended attendees.

Your faithfully



Emolemo Peter Kesitilwe
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 01 August 2024

Gambling Authority Has Zero Tolerance For Corruption
Toll Free: Orange: 1144 Mascom: 71119603 BTC: 0800600644
Email: gamblingauthority@tip-offs.com
Website: www.tip-offs.com



For details, contact the Gambling Authority on info@gamblingauthority.co.bw or (+267) 3957672



GIFT IFSC: Preferred new age global financial centre



DR DIPESH SHAH*

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA implemented a major financial sector reform by establishing the country's maiden International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gujarat. The IFSC has been developed as a unique international financial jurisdiction within onshore India, which has been designated as a non-resident zone under the Foreign Exchange Management (FEM) Act. This special status enables financial transactions to be carried out in any of the notified fifteen foreign currencies, including USD, GBP, Euro and Yen.

The IFSC has been set up with two primary objectives namely:

- Onshoring India-centric international financial services business, and,
- Serve as a preferred gateway for channelising global capital flows into and out of the country.

Over the last few years, GIFT IFSC has made remarkable progress in positioning itself as a 'New Age Global Financial Centre', providing an ideal platform for the global financial services industry to integrate more efficiently with the Indian economy. A key landmark in IFSC's journey so far has been the establishment of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) as a unified statutory body for the development and regulation of IFSCs in India. Since October 2020, IFSCA has assumed its statutory powers and has notified over 29 regulations and more than 14 frameworks encompassing the entire spectrum of financial services, including - banking, capital markets, insurance, the fund industry, fintech, aircraft leasing, ship leasing, and global corporate treasury centers. The Government endeavours to develop GIFT IFSC as an internationally recognised financial centre with trusted business regulations, competitive tax regime and ease of doing business.

Today, the GIFT IFSC initiative is a testament to India's firm resolve to undertake bold and transformative reforms in the financial sector. This ambitious project is envisaged to catalyse global capital flows into the country and accelerate the integration of the Indian economy with the global financial ecosystem. As of July 2024, more than 600+ entities across banks, capital markets, insurance, fintech, aircraft leasing, ship leasing, bullion exchange, etc. have been registered with the IFSCA. The financial service market is gaining momentum with healthy and growing participation of global and domestic financial services institutions. The business growth in some of the key sectors is highlighted below:

Banking Sector: The Banking ecosystem in GIFT IFSC is rapidly evolving with a healthy mix of foreign and domestic banks, primarily catering to the foreign currency borrowing requirements of Indian corporates and public sector enterprises through external commercial borrowing, trade finance, etc. Transactions under these heads, previously booked from overseas financial centres are now being booked out of GIFT IFSC. As of March 2024, the total asset size of IFSC Banking Units (IBUs) crossed USD 60 billion, and the cumulative value of transactions undertaken by IBUs crossed USD 795 billion.

Fund Industry: The growth of a robust fund industry in GIFT IFSC is having a transformative impact in catalysing global

capital inflows into India, including for the start-up ecosystem. Previously, pooling of international capital for investments in India was structured through funds (private equity, venture capital, hedge funds, etc.) set up in offshore jurisdictions. Now, with enabling regulations, a competitive tax regime, and beneficial cost of operations, GIFT IFSC is emerging as a preferred jurisdiction for the pooling of global capital by foreign and Indian fund managers. In the last three years, there has been rapid growth in Fund Management Entities (FMEs) and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) registered with IFSCA. The cumulative FMEs and funds registered rose from 39 and 33 in September 2022 to 114 and 120, respectively, in March 2024.

Aircraft Leasing: The aviation industry in India is on the cusp of unprecedented growth, with a strong order book of more than 1500+ aircraft placed by Indian airlines and a projected demand for over 2,200 aircraft by 2042. Currently, most aircraft operated by Indian airlines are leased from offshore lessors that have access to competitive capital costs. The aircraft leasing and financing business, the most profitable segment in the aviation value chain, was entirely residing in foreign jurisdictions. Recognising the immense potential of aircraft leasing and financing business, IFSCA introduced the enabling leasing framework, and the Government supported the endeavour by providing several tax incentives. In three years, green shoots have been visible in IFSC with more than 28 aircraft lessors already registered. These have leased more than 120+ aviation assets, including commercial aircraft, helicopters, aircraft engines and ground support equipment.

Foreign universities initiative: The IFSC, being an offshore jurisdiction is uniquely positioned to become an 'International Higher Education Hub' by attracting top-quality international universities which are keen on exploring India for its talent and demographic profile. IFSCA achieved a significant milestone in FY24 when Australia's Deakin University became the first foreign university to be granted final registration for their International branch campus in GIFT IFSC under IFSCA (setting up and operation of international branch campus and offshore education centres) Regulation, 2022. University of Wollongong of Australia became the second foreign university to receive in-principal approval for their international branch campus in GIFT IFSC.

Global In-House Centres: Globally, information technology and digital practices have facilitated the cross-border flow of services such as - accounting, auditing, taxation, book-keeping and has fuelled the growth of Global In-House Centres (GIC). GIFT IFSC, is uniquely positioned to offer such services to global clients. A leading US institution, i.e. Bank of America has already set up a large GIC unit in GIFT IFSC, which is providing in-house support services to the bank's global operations.

Several other international firms are now looking at the GIC opportunity in GIFT IFSC.

In the future, GIFT IFSC is slated to play a significant role in achieving the vision of a developed India@2047.

**Dr. Dipesh Shah is Executive Director (Development) at International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), GIFT City*



Hold High the Banner of Reform and Opening Up, and Break New Ground in China-Africa and China-Botswana

Friendly Cooperation

THE 20TH CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE Communist Party of China (CPC) convened its third plenary session in Beijing from July 15 to 18, 2024. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPC, delivered an important address. This is a very important meeting held at a critical period for our endeavor to build a great country and move toward national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. The session delved into the new circumstances and challenges facing Chinese modernization, formulated systemic plans for further deepening reform across the board.

This meeting has sent a strong message to the world about China's steadfast commitment to reform and opening up in the new era. A review of China's development history shows that China has made great strides to catch up with the times thanks to its reform and opening up. After the 18th CPC National Congress, China has successfully achieved its first centenary goal, also as a result of reform and opening up. Now to usher in a new phase of Chinese modernization and achieve the second centenary goal, China still needs to rely on reform and opening up.

China's reform and opening up is guided by principles and has a clear direction, and the overall objectives are to continue to improve and develop the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernize China's system and capacity for governance. The Resolution adopted by the plenum has more than 20,000 characters, covering all aspects of promoting Chinese modernization, and offers a panoramic view of further deepening reform comprehensively. The Resolution lays out more than 300 important reform tasks, and makes it clear that all of them shall be completed by the time the People's Republic of China celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2029, which will provide a solid guarantee for Chinese modernization.

An open China is an important engine of global development and prosperity. In the first half of this year, China's imports and exports exceeded RMB 21 trillion for the first time, up 6.1 percent year on year, with some indicators achieving double-digit growth. In light of China's robust foreign trade, the International Monetary Fund revised up its 2024 Chinese GDP growth forecast to 5 percent in the latest update to its World Economic Outlook. Despite the rising instability and uncertainty in the global economy, China's economy continues to benefit from a solid foundation, strong resilience, enormous potential and robust driving forces and plays an important role as an anchor and source of strength.

The long-term trajectory remains steady and sound. China's economy still plays an important role as an anchor and source of strength.

China's endeavor of further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization will create new opportunities for China and Africa to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and thrive and prosper together. China is the largest developing country in the world, and Africa is the continent with the largest number of developing countries. Shared past experiences and similar aims and goals have brought China and Africa close together. China and Africa will always be a community of shared future. China has stayed committed to the principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, and of pursuing the greater good and shared interests for China's relations with Africa proposed by President Xi Jinping. Together with the African friends and drawing strength from the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation, the two sides have pressed ahead on the path of solidarity and cooperation and taken China-Africa relations to new heights.

China has remained Africa's largest trading partner for 15 years in a row. China-Africa's two-way trade in 2023 exceeded 282.1 billion US dollars, reaching a record high. China-Africa cooperation continues to develop in an all-round, multi-level and high-quality manner.

The 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will be held in Beijing from September 4 to 6. It will be an event to celebrate China-Africa friendship, explore cooperation and chart the course for the future under the theme of "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future." With the joint effort of China and Africa, the 2024 FOCAC Summit will be a great success, open up new vistas for China-Africa relationship and write a new chapter of building a China-Africa community with a shared future.

China's endeavor of further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization will create new opportunities for China-Botswana friendly cooperation in the new era. Botswana is an important country in Africa, and has always been a true friend and good brother of China. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1975, China and Botswana have expanded cooperation in agriculture, health care, education, infrastructure, digital construction and other fields. In 2023, the total trade



Ambassador H.E. Fan Yong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of The People's Republic of China to the Republic of Botswana

volume between China and Botswana increased by 15.7% year-on-year to US \$710 million with an optimized trade structure. Recently, the 17th Chinese Medical team has arrived in Botswana, which will definitely write a new chapter in the medical and health cooperation between China and Botswana. What's more, the Ramaeba Primary School in Kazungula built with China's assistance will be put into use this year, and the Legolo road project supported by China will also be launched this year.

Next year, China and Botswana will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. China stands ready to share with our Botswana friends the experiences and opportunities of China's development. We welcome Botswana to get on board the express train of China's development and jointly create a new chapter of China-Botswana friendly cooperation.

Given the enormous challenges facing economic globalization, countries in the world have a shared responsibility to oppose unilateralism and protectionism, uphold the global economic order, and keep industrial and supply chains secure and stable. China will further deepen reform across the board and, pursue high-standard opening up to galvanize Chinese modernization, deliver more benefits of our opening up to African countries including Botswana through such platforms as Belt and Road cooperation and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, so as to build an even stronger China-Africa community of shared future.

Business and Leadership Expo 2024

A dynamic exchange of Idea and Innovation

THE RECENTLY HOSTED Business and Leadership Expo at BA ISAGO University in Gaborone proved to be a phenomenal success. The event, a confluence of industry professionals, thought leaders, and aspiring entrepreneurs, created a vibrant atmosphere of learning and networking. With a focus on the diverse dynamics of business and

leadership in Botswana, the Expo offered a unique platform for sharing insights, experiences, and strategies. Mokgethi Ramolelekwane, the event's organiser, expressed his gratitude to all participants. "We are thrilled with the success of this year's Expo," he said. "Our heartfelt thanks go out to our sponsors, speakers, panellists, moderators, and everyone who

attended. Your contributions have made this event a resounding success and provided learnings to ensure we have an even bigger event next year. We are especially grateful to Orange for sponsoring the internet and to Leap Frog for their exceptional work with the stage, sound, lights, and graphics." The event featured a series of panel discussions, including a



standout session titled "Women in Marketing: Breaking Barriers and Shaping Strategies to Advance the Field." Bomaids's Corporate Communications Manager, who was a panellist in this discussion, shared her enthusiasm:

"An absolutely incredible two days spent engaging in great conversations about the diverse dynamics of business and leadership in BW. Kudos to the Business & Leadership Expo organizers for bringing together

countless professionals from various industries to share not only their companies' mandates but also firsthand experiences, creating rich, applicable messages for both the young and seasoned." The attendance which was free was also a drawcard that saw many young people starting out in the work of work, recent graduates, tertiary students, and even high school learners attending the expo. As part of Bomaids's mandate to encourage health screenings,

attendees were encouraged to take advantage of the Abby machine to do their health screenings and engage with the Bomaids team over the plethora of available health plans to suit everyone's rhythm of life. This integration of health and business underscored the importance of holistic well-being in professional success.

The Expo also featured business stalls that allowed the audience to engage with local product and service

owners, most of whom were young entrepreneurs. This setup provided a wonderful opportunity for attendees to explore innovative solutions and support local businesses. Overall, the Business and Leadership Expo 2024 was a resounding success, fostering a spirit of collaboration and innovation. As Mr. Ramolelekwane highlighted, the event's success is a testament to the power of community and the importance of creating spaces for meaningful dialogue and growth.

VACANCIES

Strides of Success (Pty) Ltd is looking for following candidates at their paper manufacturing plant at Plot 33184, Nkoyaphiri, Mogoditshane, Botswana.

The successful candidates will be responsible for the day to day operations of the Paper machine and Pulp mill.

1) Shift In charge: Vacancy- 2 Nos.

Qualification and Experience:

- Form 5 (V) Grade or equivalent passes with more than 10 years' experience in a reputed Paper Mills both Kraft and Tissue machines, and should have in-depth knowledge of Supervision, Plant Commissioning, Trouble shooting, and handle the plant independently.
- Should have knowledge regarding chemicals and chemical dosing efficiently.
- Knowledge regarding M G dryer cylinder and steam inputs.
- Should have knowledge regarding Press part and clothing and smooth operations efficiently.
- Knowledge regarding operations of the equipment's like Pulper, Centricleaners, De inking systems.
- Knowledge regarding supply of ready stock to Paper Machine as per the requirement.
- Knowledge regarding Water Treatment, Krofta, and proper utilizations of fresh water and process water treatment for reuse in the system.
- Should have knowledge regarding Approach Flow system and Fresh water utilization efficiently.

Roles and Duties:

- Manage plant shift operations.
- Maintain records of Paper Machine clothing and Doctor Blades, Pulp Mill Equipment Centricleaner Nozzles, Disc Filter and Thickner Clothing's.
- Willing to work extra hours/ over time.
- Must be self-motivated and well disciplined.
- Support the Process Manager and related departments for smooth running of the plant.
- Manage the Training and Development of Personnel.

2) Paper Machine Operator: Vacancy- 7 Nos.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Form 3 (III) grade or equivalent pass with more than 8 years of working experience in Paper Machine both in Kraft and Tissue machines, and in-depth knowledge regarding Commissioning, Trouble Shooting and operate the Paper Machine efficiently.
- Knowledge regarding start up and shut down of paper machine.
- Knowledge regarding Approach flow system, Mold Former operation, Press part operation, MG cylinder operation and Steam inputs and water handling.

Roles and Duties:

- Maintain all records of Process Parameters.
- Must be willing to work extra hours/over time.
- Must be self-motivated and well disciplined.
- Support the Shift In charge and related departments for smooth running of the plant efficiently.
- Manage Training and Development of Personnel.

3) Pulp Mill Operator: Vacancy- 5 Nos.

Qualification and Experience:

- Form 3 (III) Grade or equivalent pass with more than 8 years of working experience in a reputed Paper Mills both in Kraft and Tissue machines, with in-depth knowledge of Commissioning, Trouble Shooting and able to handle the pulp mills efficiently.
- Knowledge regarding start up and shut down of the plant efficiently.
- Knowledge regarding operation of Pulpers, Centricleaners, Refiners, Disc Filters, Deinking, Plant and Thickeners.
- Knowledge regarding water treatment plant and Krofta.

Roles and Duties:

- Supply of good quality of Pulp to paper machine.
- Maintain all record of process parameters
- Must be self-motivated and well disciplined.
- Willing to work extra hours/over time.
- Support the Shift In charge and related departments for smooth running of the plant efficiently.
- Manage training and development of Personnel.

Successful candidates will have a competitive remuneration package plus accommodation offered. Applicants should enclose current CV, copies of their certificates and transcripts, copies of identification and two traceable referees.

All applications must be addressed to:

The Chief Executive Officer.

Strides of Success (Pty) Ltd

Private Bag 00278

Gaborone

Or hand deliver at **Plot 33184, Nkoyaphiri, Mogoditshane, Botswana. Contact No. +267 3904495.**

Closing Date: 25th August 2024.

Hot dip galvanizing solutions safely extend life-of-mine

THE HOT DIP GALVANIZERS Association of South Africa (HDGASA) spends a significant amount of time liaising with the mining sector where the tough environment - characterised by acidic fissure waters, humidity, fumes and gases, as well as dust and abrasion - takes its toll on pivotal steel infrastructure.

HDGASA Executive Director Robin Clarke advises that, although hot dip galvanizing is primarily favoured for economic reasons, the collateral outcome is improved mine safety:

"The design criteria are largely economical: how long will a mine last and be safely serviceable? The key elements are cost to build, cost to operate and cost to maintain. Hot dip galvanizing is competitive across all these criteria," Clarke points out.

The mining sector faces many challenges, including economic turbulence, fluctuating commodity prices, the entrance of new investors and skills scarcity.

"We can never assume that knowledge and experience are embedded. Much of what we do is informative and educational," Clarke says.

Lessons from the past

While it has now really taken hold in the sector, hot dip galvanizing only began to gain traction within South Africa's deep-level mining sector comparatively recently. During the 1990s, Clarke's HDGASA predecessors set out to demonstrate that this was the best corrosion control mechanism for mining.

A forward-thinking engineer at a large mining house collaborated with the HDGASA and the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) to scientifically investigate the impact of hot dip galvanizing over a 10 period. Up until then, a tendency to over-design steel sections to compensate for probable levels of corrosion prevailed.

"During 1995 and 1996, various tests and simulations were performed to establish probable real-world performance outcomes for hot dip galvanized steel in deep-level mining applications. The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) performed tests with both natural and service mine water, extracted from shafts in service.



Clarke

Outperforming expectations and safely operating beyond LOM

The testing process occurred over a 500-day period. Steel test pieces, with a hot dip galvanized coating averaging 200µm thickness were used. The loss of zinc on the test pieces exposed to natural water equated to 4µm/per annum, which equated to a probable coating life of 50 years. The test pieces subjected to typical mine service water suffered a loss in the order of 8µm per annum, which translates into a probable service life of 25 years, easily meeting the 25 year life-of-mine (LOM) estimate which the design engineer was briefed to achieve," he explains.

In January 2003 and 2006, further tests verified these original

predictions. Corrosion levels remained low, with only some isolated spots (where the galvanized coating had been mechanically damaged during installation) showing marginal deterioration.

"On these spots, no corrosion creep was evident and a portion of the zinc-iron alloy - still at about 24 µm - provided corrosion protection. The bottom line was, that 10 years after being applied, the corrosion control of zinc had outperformed expectations - except for a very particular application, where the vertically-oriented steel buntons had eroded, after being subjected to direct impingement of water droplets, dust and debris at high velocity."

Mining engineers undertook either

to minimise this falling material, or redesign shields over the buntons.

The HDGASA has subsequently published papers addressing corrosion challenges in deep-level mining, particularly in instances where corrosion cells develop due to the accumulation of debris at catch points in crevices, and surfaces of various hollow section components. However, even these illustrated the positive impact of utilising a corrosion control hot dip galvanized coating.

Clarke says lower levels of corrosion mean that many mines are now safely operating beyond their originally envisaged LOM. At feasibility level, design engineers are even considering designing for durability beyond the original LOM specification - which is even more reason to hot dip galvanise.

"It is very gratifying that hot dip galvanizing has now gained traction to the extent that it has, with virtually all steel work either being galvanized or considered for galvanizing," he says.

'Hot' solutions to corrosive challenges

The HDGASA's role in the mining sector did not stop there: the Association recently addressed challenges in coal washing, due to the presence of high levels of extremely corrosive sulphur. The solution extended beyond merely galvanizing, with the HDGASA proposing a combination of galvanizing and paint, known as a duplex system.

"Pioneering work was done in response to engineering requests for solutions to extremely corrosive challenges. We therefore compiled operating procedures for preparation and painting, and we also collaborated with paint manufacturers. After 10 years, the duplex system which we recommended remains in exceptional condition - and is expected to provide another 15 years' service life," he advises.

"The HDGASA will continue to play an important role in mining, supporting what is now widely accepted in the sector as an embedded corrosion protection technology backed by sound science, and with a proven ability to extend life-of-mine and improve return-on-investment," Clarke concludes.

Botswana's ticking time bomb

Youth unemployment at 38.2 percent

- Perceived as a ticking time bomb, threat to economic security
- Tertiary graduates find it difficult to penetrate the job market

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

BOTSWANA'S UNEMPLOYMENT AGONY continues to deepen, worsened by high youth unemployment, which currently stands at 38.2 percent, according to Quarterly Multi-Topic Survey Labour Force Module Quarter 1 report compiled by Statistics Botswana (SB).

According to the report, the youth labour force decreased by 2.1 percent between Q3 2023 and Q1 of 2024, from 520,582 to 509,683, adding that youth unemployment rate went up by 3.8 percentage points over the period, from 34.4 to 38.2 percent.

SB said unemployment rate (persons aged 15 years and above) increased by 1.7 percentage points, from 25.9 percent in Q3 of 2023, to 27.6 percent in Q1 2024.

According to observers, high unemployment particularly amongst youth indicate that the government doesn't have a comprehensive plan to create employment or facilitate that for the private sector despite more young people being sponsored every year to pursue tertiary education.

Market Saturated
Economist Lame Bothata said government employment initiatives especially for graduates are not sustainable such as Internship, adding that remuneration that comes with it is not attractive at all.

Bothata also said the private sector on the other hand also doesn't have capacity to create well-paying jobs buttressing that graduates attributes more often are not

matching skills that employers look up for. "The job market in Botswana is saturated or suppressed. The government since COVID-19 lessened its spending in terms of new employment creation. Our private sector is not strong enough to absorb at large numbers the unemployed youth. Unemployment is economic ticking time bomb threat," he said.

He also said with the introduction of the Development Manager Model introduced by government in this current financial year, one would hope that contractors will create employment opportunities although it won't be permanent/ long term. "We also noted the introduction of the Chema Chema funding initiative for the informal sector which we hope it will come handy for the sector. News programs like Thuo Letlotlo and Temo Letlotlo are also initiatives in place aimed at encouraging people to venture into agriculture as a way of fostering economic development with the hope of being self-reliable," he said.

However, Bothata said these are programmes that cannot guarantee employment creation especially to young people.

Furthermore, SB said the total estimated employment for 2024 Q1 was 754,146, of which 371,638 (49.3 percent) were males while 382,509 (50.7 percent) were females.

These results showed that there was a slight decrease in overall employment from 788,616 persons in Q3 2023 to 754,146 persons in Q1 2024 (a decrease of 34,499 persons).



Education Problem

In their joint study titled "The Elusive Search for Employable Graduate: The Case of Botswana" Dr Patrick Molutsi and Mogotsa Kewagamang argue that Botswana has lost great opportunities presented in early years of independence to diversify its school curriculum for it to be relevant.

The study findings indicate that by emphasizing "elitist" curricula, the country has created a dilemma where vocational and technical education has become lowly rated or perceived as "education of poor school performers" or education of the last resort for the uneducated.

Dr Molutsi and Kewagamang study recommended that in order to fix high unemployment level among graduates, there

is need to adopt the policies or strategies by that would make a higher education graduate more skilled to make maximum use of a modern difficult Labour markets.

In addition, University of Botswana (UB) two academics Dr Mpho Pheko and Dr Kaelo Molefhe also conducted a study titled "Addressing employability challenges: a framework for improving the employability of graduates in Botswana."

The two UB scholars established that while the students at tertiary education might be aware of the general employability skills, they may not be aware of the most important employability skills that are critical for their entrance into and performance in the evolving competitive labour market.

Bokamoso receives Cardiology Heart Failure Accreditation



BOKAMOSO PRIVATE HOSPITAL IS proud to announce that it has been awarded a formal Heart Failure Accreditation by the American College of Cardiology - the first facility in Botswana and Africa to receive this recognition and the only hospital outside of the United States of America.

Bokamoso Private Hospital has been accredited based on a rigorous evaluation of the hospital team's ability to evaluate, diagnose, and treat patients who may be experiencing heart failure.

Heart disease accounts for many deaths in Botswana, in fact, cardiovascular disease accounts for over 18% of deaths in the country. Heart failure can be defined as when the heart is unable to pump blood through the body correctly. Heart failure risk factors include older age, being male, having a family history of heart failure, smoking, unhealthy diet, high blood pressure/hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, a sedentary lifestyle, stress, and poor dental health. Heart failure is often not recognized early and treated appropriately. Early identification and appropriate treatment of hypertension and heart failure according to the international best practice will reduce the mortality and morbidity related to Heart Failure in Botswana.

Hospitals receiving the heart failure accreditation from the ACC improve their clinical processes for the early assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care for the heart failure patient. ACC heart failure accredited hospitals, after a year-long accreditation journey, attain proficiency in caring for their heart failure patients and provide valuable resources within the community, through awareness and education drives, to help manage the disease. By adopting the ACC heart failure accreditation standards and being committed to the implementation of process improvement methodologies, Bokamoso Private Hospital reduce variations of care, enhance the patient journey, reduce length of stay, decrease readmissions, and increase patient experience and satisfaction.

Lenmed CEO, Amil Devchand said "We are incredibly proud of Bokamoso Private

Hospital in achieving this accolade, a testament to the incredible dedication of our cardiologists and clinical teams to saving lives and improving our patients' quality of life. We are honoured to be the first hospital in Botswana and Africa to receive this accreditation and to continuing our mission to ensure the best possible outcomes for our communities."

Dr Gontle Molelele, the hospital's Superintendent reminded the public to check for symptoms of heart failure, "always seek immediate medical attention for any symptoms of heart failure which may include chest pain or discomfort, shortness of breath, fatigue and weakness, swelling in the feet, legs and ankles, rapid or irregular heartbeat, reduced ability to exercise, wheezing and a cough that won't go away."

Dr Boitumelo Nkoane-Kelaeng, lead cardiologist on the team added, "Our success in achieving the ACC accreditation is a testament to the collective effort and dedication of our entire team. Every individual in the system, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, porters, the hospital management, and the administration team, played a crucial role in this accomplishment. This united commitment has ultimately led to improved patient care and long-term benefits for those who come to our hospital with heart failure. We must always remember that our primary goal is to optimize care for better patient outcomes. I am personally proud to be part of this hardworking team that has achieved these significant goals."

Bokamoso Private Hospital is an ultra-sophisticated and digitally integrated hospital in Gaborone, Botswana, boasting an extensive and leading adult and paediatric cardiac and cardiothoracic service offering. The hospital is part of the Lenmed Group of hospitals, and local Botswana funder Group Botswanan Public Officers' Medical Aid Scheme (BPOMAS). Lenmed owns and manage 19 hospitals in South Africa, Botswana, Ghana and Mozambique.

Bokamoso Private Hospital Cardiology team:
Dr B. Nkoane-Kelaeng - Cardiologist
Prof K.S. Rao - Cardiologist
Dr O. Moedi - Cardiologist



Stanbic Bank

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

Stanbic Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate (SBBPLR) - 6.26%



BWP Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance
Current	NIL	NIL	P50
Youth Account	2.00%	2.02%	P50
Call	0.05% - 1.00%	0.05% - 1.00%	P10,000
Premium Call	0.30% - 1.30%	0.30% - 1.31%	P50,000
32 Day Notice	0.25% - 1.00%	0.25% - 1.00%	P1,000
Savings (Pure Save)	0.25% - 0.75%	0.25%-0.75%	P50
Koketso Savings	2.40%	2.43%	P100
Matshelo Savings	0.50% - 1.50%	0.50% - 1.51%	P500
Maitlamo Savings (12 - 36 months)	2.30% - 2.80%	2.32% - 2.84%	P100
91 day fixed deposit * ²	1.90%	1.92%	P1,000
6 month fixed deposit ²	2.10% - 2.30%	2.12% - 2.32%	P1,000
12 month fixed deposit ²	2.20% - 2.35%	2.22%-2.38%	P1,000
24 month fixed deposit ²	2.55% - 2.80%	2.58% - 2.84%	P1,000
Over 24 month fixed deposit ²	2.80% - 3.30%	2.84% - 3.35%	P1,000
Stanbic Bank Prime Lending Rate	6.26%		

* Reference rate
* Rate applies to Flexi - Access Account
All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)
MoPR	2.15%	2.15%
SBBPLR Lending Rate	6.26%	6.26%
Mortgage Facility	SBBPLR +2% - SBBPLR + 5%	SBBPLR +2.02% - + SBBPLR 5.12%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit lines)	SBBPLR +5% - SBBPLR +12%	SBBPLR +5.12% - SBBPLR +12.68%
Credit Card	28% - 32%	31.89% - 32.14%
Lease Loans	SBBPLR +2% - SBBPLR + 6%	SBBPLR +2.02% - SBBPLR + 6.17%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	SBBPLR +8% - SBBPLR +20%	SBBPLR +8.30% - SBBPLR +21.94%
Other Long-Term Loans	NIL	NIL

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

Foreign Currency Deposit Interest Rates

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

All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Member of Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

lifestyle

Xere cultural festival returns



KEITUMTSE SETLANG, THE Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) says Xere Cultural Festival is designed to stimulate economic activity in the area. It provides a fantastic opportunity to interact with the

locals, learn about their rich cultural heritage, and support them by purchasing unique crafts.

The preparation and tasting of traditional cultural cuisine, offering a delicious exploration of culinary heritage. Mesmerizing cultural performances by the 'Xere Group'

at the Xere cultural night dances, bringing local stories and traditions to life through dance.

An enchanting stargazing and navigation experience, allowing attendees to connect with the night sky and ancient navigation practices.

A crafts and paintings auction sale,

where beautifully crafted items and artworks will be available, supporting local artisans and celebrating their creative spirit.

Botswana's first-ever drone show, a groundbreaking spectacle that will light up the sky and add a modern twist to our cultural festivities.

Film makers trained

NANCY RAMOKHUA
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THE FILM OFFICE FROM THE Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture (MYSC) recently conducted a two-day stakeholder engagement with film makers at Desert Sands Hotel in Palapye. The capacity building session was held as part of ongoing efforts to promote and develop the film industry in Botswana.

According to MYSC film office content acquisition and aggregator Legae Digwaamajwe, the ongoing tour is an extension of a creative summit which was undertaken in 2023, with a mandate to close the gap in the film industry.

The initiative involves the visitation of 12 districts around the country, aimed at capacitating film practitioners, to identify talent and inspire those with passion for the craft. "We conducted a script development competition where we had 33 submissions from around the country through which only 13 qualified for proof of concept and funding. The winner will be empowered to develop their concept further, for possible collaborations and potential funding."

The tour covers areas such as Shakawe, Maun, Kasane, Francistown, Selibe Phikwe and Palapye whereas the second phase will then cover the Southern part of the country including Gaborone and surrounding areas. As revealed by Digwaamajwe, NOW channel is a developmental platform



One of Botswana's renowned film maker, Tumie Sejoe (on camera)

which acts as an exhibition for the creative industries. He said it is crucial for creatives to utilize the platform to its maximum in order to develop Botswana's creative sector. Explaining further Digwaamajwe indicated that a total of P150,728,332.00 has been used through Now channel to procure content from local companies. He said to date, Now channel has acquired one hundred and sixty eight (168) full program series and twenty-nine (29) sets of filler series.

One of the attendees, a creative from Palapye, Kopo Lephutshi who is a script writer of one of the selected films 'six to six' by Tshapiro Monnawaletsatsi, shared that such initiatives are key for nurturing young talent in Botswana. "This was such a great opportunity for me because first of all putting together a film requires a lot of resources, but the government pitched in and helped us move close to the dream by giving us a hand.

Platforms like these are crucial, ideal and are needful not only for film but for all aspects of creativity," Lephutshi explained. He also emphasized the importance of growing the film industry in Botswana, noting the need for experience and skill as key factors. "I have not been to film school and being a part of this is motivation on its own. Everything I have ever learnt was from TV.

Television has always fed my curiosity and sparked so much in me. Therefore, it would be meaningful to have such inspiring activities happen consecutively and not just once off," highlighted the creative.

Filmmakers were advised to appeal to the film office for mentorship programs, to acquire training in various film production roles and techniques. In addition, they were also encouraged to form groups and collaborate, as a way of achieving the goal of boosting the creative sector.

Queens of Comedy 2024

MAJOR MOVES COMEDY IS back with an all-female lineup for the next installment of the #NotSoDryComedyTour. Following success of the past 2 installments, the Queens of Comedy event will showcase female comics from different countries who will share the stage with local heavyweights. The stellar lineup includes female comedians from Botswana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe who will take to the stage at Protea Hotel Gaborone Masa Square on Friday the 9th of August.

The event aims to showcase the best Queens of comedy in a relaxed and buoyant environment. The rib cracking lineup features Mbali Gudazi (South Africa), Tanya Alex (Zimbabwe), alongside Botswana's Queens Kelekwang

'Rekunde' Mophaleng, Ponoal 'Van G' Ngwanawamonna, Mamito and Lebo 'English' Legkowa. Queens of comedy will also bring upcoming female comedians to the forefront as new comedians will be introduced and given a chance to share stage with the established acts.

Mbali Gudazi is a 2-time nominee for the prestigious Savanna Comics Choice Awards. She is one of the busiest comedians in Johannesburg and brings clean, high energy, fun and clever comedy. Rekunde is definitely one of the funniest and most active female comedians to come out of Botswana. The maun born comedian has graced many events and has been engaged by corporate where she always leaves the audience in stitches. Lebo English is a firebrand in the local comedy circles and always delivers



Rekunde

spectacular performances. Harare's premier female comedian Tanya Alex is determined to scale the heights and take comedy to another level. A raw gem from the capital city, she is one of the stand-up comedians that always stands out wherever she performs

"We are excited to be hosting the all-female lineup during the #NotSoDryComedyTour. We want to develop and encourage female participation in the comedy industry as currently we have very few Batswana female comedians. Queens of Comedy offers a platform for local comedians and international comics to collaborate to find different challenges faced and come up with ways that can greatly improve female participation," said events coordinator for Major Moves Comedy Gaolathe Kedimetse.

BARATANI (The Hill of Lovers)



Big Brother Naija House Premieres

BIG BROTHER NAIJA'S NINTH season launched in a truly spectacular fashion on Sunday night as 28 housemates were welcomed into the house, kicking off an unforgettable season.

Hosted by the charismatic Ebuka, the premiere opened with a live performance by Nigerian superstar Niniona, who dazzled the audience with her hits 'All Eyes on Me' and 'Formula.' The show then gave viewers an exclusive tour of the lavish and visually stunning "biggest Big Brother house," adorned in white with vibrant splashes of colour.

The house features two bedrooms named Sunset and Sunrise, a gym, a fully stocked spacious kitchen, and open-plan lounges equipped with foosball, table tennis, and pool table. Outside, a bar, lush greenery, and a pool area offer a perfect retreat. The house also includes the iconic Arena for challenges, a storeroom for treats, the infamous Diary Room, and a Head of House space.

Titled "No Loose Guard," the show introduced audiences to the 28 housemates who will compete over the next 71 days for the N100 million grand prize.

■ Lovers, Friends, Siblings, Relatives, Colleagues, and a Plotting Married Couple



First to enter were lovers of five months, Chinwe and Zion, dubbed the 'Zinwe' pair. They were followed by gym enthusiasts Femi David and Micky, who proclaimed themselves 'Radicals' and declared they were "virgins." Next, female friends DJ Flo and Rhuthee, calling themselves 'Floruish,' shared their loyalty to each

other despite admitting to "trust issues." They were soon joined by the aunt and niece duo, Chinne and Nne, who called themselves 'Ndi Nne.'

Colleagues Sooj and Topher, who see themselves as 'Tom & Jerry,' were the fifth pair to enter, followed by the boy and girlfriend pair Shaun and

Victoria, known as 'Shatoria,' who met in Dubai in 2022.

The excitement continued with identical twin sisters and DJs, Wann and Handi, who described themselves as "single and ready to mingle" and "double trouble." Next came Team Beta - Ben, who claimed he wouldn't miss anyone, and Tjay,

BARATANI (THE HILL OF LOVERS) a short film that premiered at the Durban Film Mart 2024 during the NEFTi All Stars Competition 2024, has been presented by Mainane Studios. Back with a twist, the 2024 edition of NEFTi brought the winners of the past editions.

NEFTi is a highly competitive short film competition by Austrian vodka brand NEFT and the International Emerging Film Talents Association (IEFTA), in sponsorship with Durban FilmMart, Panavision, and Panalux. Representing Botswana, Mainane Studios' Moreetsi Gabang was up against three other winners: Nahom Abraham (Ethiopia), Minenhle Luthuli (South Africa), and Cheyi Okoaye (Nigeria). Unlike the traditional NEFTi Competition, the All Stars were challenged to create their films from the same log line, and they each had to draw the genre randomly.

Even though they were already selected, the filmmakers still had to pitch their concepts to the NEFTi panel of judges, including acclaimed Hollywood producer and actress Vivica A. Fox, Academy and Tony Award-winning producer Bruce Cohen, and President of Postproduction at 21st Century

Fox/Disney, Ted Gagliano. Having picked romance, Gabang, pitched BARATANI (The Hill of Lovers), a romantic film based on the Lentswe la Baratani folktale. The romantic film, produced by Tricia L. Sello, was up for the NEFTi All Stars Competition Best Film main prize and Audience Choice award, and BARATANI (The Hill of Lovers) secured both prizes, making Moreetsi and Mainane Studios the only contestants to secure both NEFTi prizes twice in a row.

The team at Mainane Studios would like to give a special appreciation to Paul Robinson, Marco Orsini and Zunaid Mansoor for their support, and NEFT Vodka, NEFTi Competition, IEFTA, Panavision and Panalux for creating this platform. As well as our cast; Tshepie Olds, Bernard Morapedi, Mme Gaolape 'Ausi G' Basuhi, Dr Leleba Molefhe, with the support of Mrs. Nelly Pule and Sikwane community, Mrs. Victoria Massey and the Bahurutshe Cultural Village community, as well as the Gabane youth and Mafitlhakgosi Dance Troupe.

Proctor Eyewear unveiled

COLLECTIONS BY BK Proctor has unveiled the latest addition to its luxury fashion line: Proctor Eyewear. Crafted with unwavering dedication to opulence and quality, these eyewear pieces are meticulously fashioned using exquisite acetate and feature 100% UVA/UVB protection lenses. Each pair of Proctor Eyewear is a testament to Proctor's commitment to luxury and style.

Proctor Eyewear's bold, face-framing silhouette is bordered with fashionably wide temples adorned with the chunky Collections by BK Proctor 3D logo signatures, forged in gold or silver. These luxurious frames are designed to make a statement, blending elegance with a touch of audacity. "It is important for Botswana fashion creatives to come up with such initiatives," says BK Proctor. "Proctor Eyewear is a testament to our commitment to pushing boundaries and setting new standards in the industry."

Elevating the eyewear experience, each meticulously

crafted acetate frame arrives in exquisite packaging, including a branded matte black box, a black faux leather foldable case, a drawstring cloth pouch, and a cleaning cloth. This attention to detail ensures that every aspect of Proctor Eyewear exudes refinement and enduring strength.

The journey of Proctor Eyewear from concept to final product is a testament to Proctor's dedication to quality and style. The design process involved intricate sketches, digital renderings, and a careful consideration of style, shape, color, and materials. Acetate was chosen as the primary material for its durability and common usage in high-end eyewear frames.

Prototyping and rigorous testing followed, ensuring that each design not only looked impeccable but also met the highest standards of fit, comfort, and functionality. Quality control checks were meticulously conducted, focusing on frame alignment, lens clarity, hinge functionality, and overall

finish. Enhancements such as polishing, coating, and branding were added to ensure that every pair of Proctor Eyewear met the brand's exacting standards.

The decision to include eyewear in the Collections by BK Proctor product line was inspired by market trends, customer demand, and a strategic plan to expand the brand's offerings. "Our eyewear caters to fashion-conscious individuals, professionals, and anyone seeking stylish eyewear options," says BK Proctor.

The number of designs and the inspiration behind each were determined by lead designer BK Proctor and the creative team, drawing from diverse sources such as nature, architecture, art movements, and cultural influences. Each design aims to offer a unique style or feature that sets it apart in the market.

Collections by BK Proctor is committed to innovation and will continue to introduce new products based on market trends, customer feedback, and brand strategy. Future



offerings may include an expanded accessories line, new clothing items, and exciting collaborations with other brands and designers.

"Proctor Eyewear embodies not just elegance but also enduring strength—a true embodiment of refinement," says BK Proctor. "Our goal is to provide our customers with eyewear that not only enhances their style but also stands the test of time."

With the launch of Proctor Eyewear, BK Proctor has set a new standard in luxury fashion, blending meticulous craftsmanship with bold design. "We believe that eyewear is not just an accessory but a statement of one's personality and style," adds Proctor. "Proctor Eyewear promises to elevate your style to new heights, offering an unparalleled blend of luxury and functionality."

Whether you are a fashion enthusiast or a professional seeking the perfect accessory, Proctor Eyewear promises to elevate your style to new heights.

All new Tubu Tree and Little Tubu



WILDERNESS IS PROUD to reveal the transformed Tubu Tree and Little Tubu camps, nestled deep within the heart of the Okavango Delta's Hunda Island in Botswana's wildlife-rich Jao Reserve. These iconic camps have been thoughtfully re-invented to offer guests an enhanced, intimate bush experience amidst one of Africa's most pristine wilderness areas.

"The redesign of Tubu Tree stands as a testament to our passion; a proud endeavour that embodies our vision for these camps, noted Jao Reserve Co-owner, Cathy Kays. "The new camps are wilderness sanctuaries that celebrate the untamed beauty of Hunda Island and the Delta's abundant biodiversity. The design, architecture and overall guest experience is truly rooted in sustainability and the deep respect we have for this pristine wilderness."

Offering eight tented suites and a family unit, all with horizon wide views of the iconic floodplains, Tubu Tree features upgraded amenities, including the replacement of canvas walls with insulated panels and new saligna hardwood flooring for improved insulation and added comfort. The camp also boasts the Delta's most exquisitely positioned bar, offering panoramic views and an unrivalled setting for evening sundowners.

Connected to its sister camp by elevated boardwalks, Little Tubu seemingly floats in the tree canopy, providing a more intimate, three-tented retreat. Ideal for families and small groups travelling together, this exclusive setting boasts its own facilities and expansive suites complete with private decks and outdoor showers; the perfect private backdrop to witness nature's many wonders.

"The interiors evoke a sense of tranquillity and connection to the surrounding wilderness, inspired by the earthy tones of Hunda Island's game-studded



plains and reflected in the main areas of both camps' colour palette of beiges, browns and splashes of green", continued Cathy. Curated by Cathy herself, elements of live-edge wood, textured baskets and organic wooden shapes carefully merge, bringing the outdoors in at every turn.

Perched in a grove of jackalberry and marula trees, and shaded by real fan palms, the aptly-named Tubu Tree and Little Tubu epitomise the essence of a tree-canopy sanctuary. The camps, originally crafted to blend harmoniously with their natural surroundings, have been reimagined with a more contemporary aesthetic, all the while preserving their authentic, core charm. Both camps offer breathtaking vistas of floodplains teeming with water-loving wildlife. Guests can enjoy direct access to exhilarating game-viewing during the day, exploring the Delta's labyrinth of waterways by mokoro, boat or vehicle. At night, adventure-seekers can choose to sleep under the expansive African sky in a Star Bed, entranced by its celestial beauty, or indulge in the luxurious comfort of the newly renovated suites.

Sustainability is integral to the design ethos, reflecting Wilderness' dedication to reducing environmental impact at all its camps while preserving the natural landscape. Both camps operate solely using solar power, and repurposed

furniture has been used to enrich staff areas, extending their lifecycle within the camp. Recycled building materials from the construction have been donated to the Tubu Village Development Committee. Tubu's commitment to environmental responsibility is evident in its embrace of the circular design approach, and this ethos extends beyond the camps themselves, as both actively engage in local conservation initiatives and community support programmes, including partnerships with nearby schools. Safari-lovers can immerse themselves in the diverse habitats of the Okavango Delta, experiencing a birder's paradise with over 450 species in the area, including unique finds like the Pel's fishing-owl. The Delta's dynamic ecosystem supports an abundance of wildlife year-round, adapting to seasonal changes from lush floodplains in summer to intricate channels and islands in winter.

"We are proud of our dedicated teams for creating such an unforgettable experience for our guests. The stunning transformation of these iconic camps is rooted in our passion for impact and our deep respect for the Delta's abundant biodiversity. We've ensured that they retain their original spirit and look forward to welcoming guests to the reimagined Tubu Tree and Little Tubu soon", concluded Cathy.

GIMC ^{10th Anniversary} JAZZ

SAT 31 AUG 2024

BOJANALA WATERFRONT

**ZONKE + MAFIKIZOLO + ENCORE + NNUNU RAMOGOTSI + RINGO + WDP
DJ LEFATSHE + MCJON MOSENENE**

SINGLE TICKET P250 | DOUBLE TICKET P400 | VVIP TICKET P2500

VVIP INCLUDES RESERVED PARKING, FOOD, FULL BAR, MARQUEE SEATING



Sport

Golden Boy!

The Kenny Bednarek story



HISTORIC: Botswana's own Letsile Schoolboy Tebogo became the first ever African athlete to win gold in the 200m sprint at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

TUMISO RAKGARE*

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR granting me this opportunity to make a statement on a historic achievement by Botswana at the ongoing Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Never in my life have I felt this proud to be a Motswana, and I am very confident that I am not the only one. I speak with great conviction for not only was my phone ringing non-stop last night, and I suppose the same for many members here, both social and mainstream media were abuzz with congratulatory and feel-good messages all relating to the historic achievement by Letsile Schoolboy Tebogo and Team Botswana at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The calls, messages and social media posts that are continuing even to this hour are from both the young and old, from people of different religious beliefs and political affiliations, people in Botswana, African continent, and beyond. The celebratory mood is contagious and continues.

While we have never doubted our athletes' talent, dedication, and perseverance, and have known for a long time that there was something special and unique about our current cohort of athletes, some of us were speaking of a gold medal from Paris in hushed tones, expecting it to come as a surprise to many knowing how difficult it is to win an Olympic Gold medal. 'Schoolboy' has made it look as easy as a breeze.

It is no wonder as a nation that we are overjoyed by what happened last night; where an otherwise small and obscure nation with a population of just 2 million people conquered the world; bringing glory to Botswana, shining the spotlight on Botswana and indeed etching our beloved country into the annals of Olympic and sport history.

Today we stand united in joy and pride as we honor the remarkable achievements of Team Botswana, especially Letsile Schoolboy Tebogo, the first Motswana to win an Olympic gold medal and the first African to win a Gold medal in the 200m event

at the Olympic Games. Congratulations Schoolboy, Congratulations Team Botswana!

Team Botswana's triumph at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games is not just a personal victory but a victory for every Motswana and African. In particular, Letsile has shown us the power of determination, resilience and belief in oneself. His performance on the global stage has inspired not only upcoming athletes, but many young people in our nation and indeed the continent to dream big and to work hard to turn those dreams into reality.

Letsile's journey to this moment has not been easy. It has been filled with countless hours of training, sacrifices, and overcoming personal challenges. Yet, through it all, he has demonstrated unwavering commitment and an unyielding spirit. His stellar performance in Paris, against the world's best, is a testament to his extraordinary talent and dedication.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, we also acknowledge and express our heartfelt gratitude to those who

have supported him along the way, the Government of the Republic of Botswana, all political and civic leaders across parties and organisations, the private sector including Debswana, Orange, Okavango Diamond Company who joined the Government of Botswana and put money into Team Botswana's preparation for Paris, his coaches, family, friends, and all the mentors who believed in him and encouraged him to aim high.

We also thank Choppies, who have pledged incentives and rewards to Team Botswana as great motivation. Letsile's success is a collective triumph that has been built on the foundation of support and encouragement from those around him. Who would ever forget the unwavering support and cheerleading Letsile's mother gave during his races, from travelling with the youngster around the world to managing his diet and character, Letsile's mother is an angel looking down on him with pride and joy.

She dedicated her life to making sure that

her son; our diamond, understood what it meant to be an elite athlete, both on and off track. We thank her for a job well done in raising an incredible athlete in Letsile. I do not know if I should say it is strange or interesting that Mme Seratiwa Tebogo, the departed Mother to our hero; the new African record holder and indeed the Olympic Champion was born in 1980, the year of our first participation in the Olympic Games. Since then and until her timely departure a few months ago, Botswana had never won an Olympic Gold medal, and now in the year of her passing, her son has gifted us one. May her soul continue to rest in peace.

Our journey with Letsile dates many years back, with milestones that include the World U20 Athletics Championships in Kenya and Colombia in 2021 and 2022 respectively, the World Athletics Championships, and many other competitions. Letsile has been consistent and self-disciplined throughout the journey. Letsile has not only won a gold medal; he has won the hearts of millions across the world. As we look to the future, this victory serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for the next generation of athletes, artists and leaders. Letsile has set a new standard of excellence, and we are confident that his success will inspire many other young people to follow in his footsteps. As Botswana Government we have identified sport and the creative sector as one of the eight priority areas of transforming our economy during NDP12 and this Letsile moment is a sure sign that Yes, we can, and Yes, we will.

In recognising this exceptional performance, Letsile is entitled to receive amongst other things from the Government of Botswana;

- P 250 000.00 for winning a Gold medal;
- P25 000.00 for the Top 8 finish in the 100m race; and
- P50 000.00 for setting an African record in 200m.

A housing unit in a place of his choice in Botswana for the podium finish

Letsile has also won P 1,000,000.00 and P 2,500.00 worth of groceries for 12 months from Choppies. The above are in addition to the P30, 000.00 qualification bonus, the P8,333.33 monthly upkeep stipend since his qualification and the P 5,000.00 appearance fee, all of which he has already been paid.

Let us all join together to congratulate Letsile Tebogo and Team Botswana on their historic achievement. Letsile's legacy will be remembered for generations to come, and the impact will be felt far beyond the world of athletics. Letsile has made us proud, and for that, we say Thank You. Congratulations Team Botswana, and to Letsile Tebogo, our golden hero! May your future endeavors be as bright and successful as this remarkable moment.

**Speech by the Minister of Youth, Sport, and Culture*



Mary [L] and Kenny [R]

BORN IN OKLAHOMA, KENNY WAS placed in foster care after experiencing abuse and neglect. After months of moving in and out of foster homes, Kenny felt afraid for where he might end up. Thankfully, Mary met Kenny and adopted him at age 4.

Though Kenny had the stability of a permanent, loving family, as a child, he struggled with the impact of being in foster care. He had difficulty processing his emotions and trusting those around him. As a response to the experiences he had been through, he'd sometimes act out in anger or frustration.

"When I was in high school, I loved sports, but I also had a lot of feelings of insecurity and a lack of belonging," recalled Kenny. "I always said I wanted to be an Olympian, but I think at the time, I wasn't really thinking about what that required. I was just going through the motions."

When Kenny discovered track and field, he unlocked a new part of himself. He finally had a way to channel his energy into a positive and productive outlet. He defied the odds and started breaking records while running track there, quickly going pro.

Most recently, he qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics in the 100m, 200m, and 4x100m relay events.

In all of Kenny's success to date, he credits his past with driving him forward. "Every single previous version of me is still a part of me, including the trauma from my childhood. I own my past and my present," said Kenny. "I am who I am, and I've achieved what I've achieved by buckling down and doing the really tough work — work on myself, working through emotional trauma and setbacks, and tough, hard work on the track."

His message to those touched by foster care and adoption is one of hope.

"I want to inspire others and those who may have similar experiences and promote safety and stability for all children," said Kenny.

Shared by Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption



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