



The Patriot

on Sunday

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Cabinet blocks Cllrs' 5% increment

- Autlwtse plead with the Cllrs to be Patriotic & lead by example
- Cite a decline in Govt revenues as reason for not 5% adjustment
- Councillors unhappy, feel disadvantaged as compared to the MPs

BAKANG TIRO
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BOTSWANA ASSOCIATION of Local Authorities (BALA) members, the councillors were left disappointed on Wednesday when Minister of Local Government and Rural Development (MGLRD) Kgotla Autlwtse announced that the councillors would not get a five percent salary adjustment in this financial year.

Autlwtse, who was seemingly not calm but under pressure to deliver the government position owing to councillors' demand for an adjustment noted that the cabinet has decided not to endorse BALA proposal.

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BDP warns UDC, BCP

From next week Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) will intensify their 2024 campaigns by shifting away from Bulela Ditswe chaotic appeals and change gears towards launching their general elections Manifesto and Candidates, all on the same day, on 1st September 2024. This week **STAFF WRITER BAKANG TIRO** is on the Couch with BDP Chairman of Communications and International Relations Subcommittee, Kagelelo Kentse, who sends a strong warning to the opposition Botswana Congress Party (UDC) and the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) that the ruling party will retain power through a landslide victory. He boasted that the mighty BDP will unleash a mother of all campaigns.

CONFIRMING THE DUAL launch of the 2024 Manifesto and unveiling of 61 Parliamentary candidates on the 1st of September 2024, Kentse has sent a strong warning to opposition Botswana Congress Party (BCP) and the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), that they should brace for a fierce battle.

The BDP central committee had been under pressure to announce

the dates for manifesto launch and a plan over how candidates will be launched given that only limited time is remaining before elections.

On Friday, Kentse said the BDP will be unstoppable as it is charged for the campaign to reach every corner of the country to ask for votes. "It is going to be a full house. Democrats are thirsty for a campaign

and Batswana can't wait to hear what the BDP has to offer. BCP launched their lackluster manifesto and people have forgotten what they said, it was not inspiring," said Kentse.

He also said UDC manifesto did not live up to expectations because by the time it was launched, it was overshadowed as the nation focused on celebrating the gold victory in 200

metres final race by Letsile Tebogo at the 2024 Olympics in Paris, France.

He laughed off opposition parties, dismissing them as a clowns who have demonstrated that they are not ready to take over government because in 2014 BCP was not in UDC but joined in 2019 and in 2024 they separated again.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 5



Tsogwane [L] and Masisi during their party manifesto launch in 2019

Unions brew 2024 Hit-List

- Motshwarakgole decries poor working conditions, calls unions to rise
- Union leaders in tenterhooks, divided on suitable approach
- A hit-list must target an entire system, not individuals -UDC, BCP



Motshwarakgole

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VETERAN TRADE UNIONIST, Johnson Motshwarakgole has revealed that talks are underway to create and release a "do-not-vote" list popularly known as a hit-list for the upcoming 2024 general elections, due in October.

According to Motshwarakgole, the labor movement cannot ignore the current economic challenges and state of affairs facing the working class. "Discussions to issue a hit-list are ongoing; we are still debating the whys, hows, whens, and wheres of the issue. However, there is a consensus that the current state of economic affairs is disheartening for the labor movement," he revealed in an interview with The Patriot on Sunday.

Motshwarakgole expressed frustration with the broken promises made to working class, stating, "Everything seems to be spiraling out of control, promises have been broken, and once again, workers have been pushed to the sidelines. The economy is stacked against them, and every day their hopes for a better future are crushed right before their eyes," he said.

He further explained, "I don't see how the labor movement could go into these elections without a hit list. We might have some challenges with the approach, but if needed, it could extend across all political

lines. Although we've had past disagreements about the criteria, I think those are relatively minor. The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) has often been the focus before, which makes sense since they're the ones in power. However, this list shouldn't be limited to one party."

Motshwarakgole also highlighted the economic struggles faced by workers, particularly manual laborers. "As I speak to you, manual workers, around 40,000 of them, have been made to believe they are pensionable when the reality is that they are not. They will only wake up to this reality upon retirement. Their earnings fall far below the pension bracket, but nobody cares to address. We have tried in vain to bring it to the attention of authorities," he said.

Meanwhile, this publication has established that the labor movement is still struggling to find common ground on the issue of hit-lists, which have historically been contentious due to union leaders and members' affiliations with different political movements.

In interviews with this publication, opposition parties expressed their views that if a hit-list is to be of any significance and bring about change, it must target systems and ideologies rather than individuals because individuals are part of a collective.

Secretary General of Botswana Congress Party (BCP) said: "If a hit list is truly to make a difference and catalyze meaningful change, it can't just target individuals—who are

TO PAGE 2

PSP denies Magosi probe role

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THE PERMANENT SECRETARY to the President (PSP), Emma Peloeletse, who is likely to be summoned as a key witness in a high-stakes legal battle involving the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) staff and its Director, Brigadier Peter Magosi has distanced herself from the controversy surrounding the

- Distances herself from 'Masisi-Ordered' Magosi probe scandal
- "I don't know anything about those things, just saw them in the press"
- "I have not been served, nor have I read the court papers"

probe. In an interview with this publication, Peloeletse addressed her potential involvement and the details presented in court documents filed by DIS Legal Director Pulane Kgoadi and Principal Intelligence Officer Paul Sethabi. The legal

action, which seeks P4.45 million in damages, stems from their recent arrest and subsequent allegations.

"I saw all that in the press. I don't know anything about those things. My time to comment will come, if it ever comes," Peloeletse said, when asked about the controversial probe.

She explained that she has neither been served with legal papers nor been informed about the case, adding that she has not even read the court documents. The case is alleged to have sparked tensions in the presidency that oversees the DIS with suspicions and conspiracies

TO PAGE 5



Peloeletse

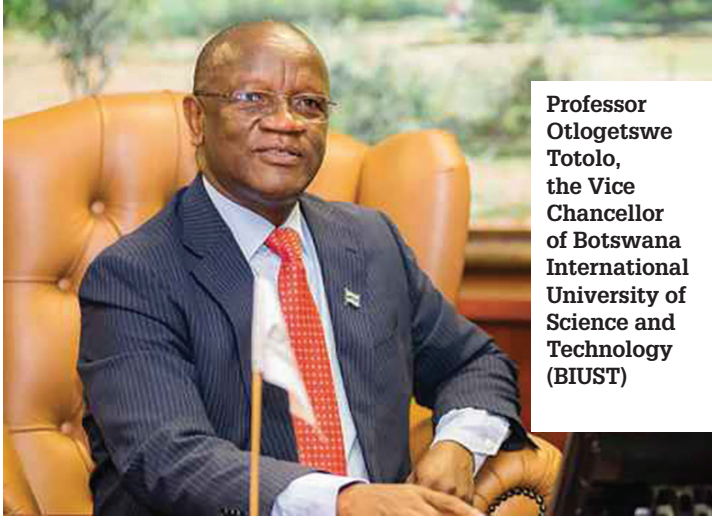
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BIUST introduces new schools

THE BOTSWANA International University of Science & Technology (BIUST) is delighted to announce the start of the academic year 2024/25 semester one. The start of the new academic year coincides with the roll-out of the new Schools to respond positively to the national human resource development strategy.



Professor Otlogetswe Totolo, the Vice Chancellor of Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST)

- The newly introduced schools are:
1. School of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering,
 2. School of Applied Sciences,
 3. School of Earth Sciences and Engineering,
 4. School of Life Sciences,
 5. School of Business and Professional Studie and
 6. Postgraduate School.

(STEM)-specialised University in Botswana currently hosts a number of exciting national projects. Among these projects are the First Botswana Satellite (BOTSAT -1) project and the Square Kilometre Array (SKA)/ African Very-long-baseline Interferometry Network (AVN). The University has achieved

unprecedented rankings as the number one (1) ranked University in Botswana and twenty (20) in the Sub-Saharan Africa- Times Higher Education, the internationally renowned world University rankings. These milestones have generated increased interest

from the local and international student market. The increased demand for the University's learning programmes has led to a surge in its enrolment over the years putting pressure on the University resources including on-campus accommodation. While it is not the policy of the University to accommodate 100% of students on Campus, the University endeavours to create a conducive learning environment for the students by among others providing alternative accommodation.

The University management has therefore, resolved to make some arrangements in the interim, including accommodation and transport for the affected students. This measure is intended to facilitate the commencement of the semester as planned while a long-term solution is being finalised.

BIUST, the only Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Bokamoso accredited as trauma centre

BOKAMOSO PRIVATE Hospital is proud to announce receipt of its official accreditation as a trauma centre. This recognition further solidifies the hospital's commitment to providing exceptional emergency care services to the communities it serves.

underwent a rigorous evaluation process where its capabilities, infrastructure, medical staff expertise, and adherence to established protocols and guidelines were reviewed. As an accredited trauma centre, the hospital is able to conduct prompt assessment, management, emergency surgery, and stabilisation for trauma patients – with key components including 24-hours access to a trained emergency team and the availability of broad surgical disciplines.

The trauma centre accreditation was awarded by the Trauma Society of South Africa (TSSA), an independent authority that promotes the implementation and adherence of international best practice for treatment of trauma through propagation of quality treatment and appropriate management at accredited centres of care.

“We are delighted to have achieved accreditation as a designated trauma centre,” said Joe van der Walt, hospital CEO. “This accomplishment reflects that Bokamoso Private Hospital meets the highest standards of care, contributing

to our unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional emergency care services and saving lives. The accreditation will further strengthen the hospital's ability to collaborate with emergency medical services, local agencies, and neighbouring hospitals in managing large-scale emergencies and mass casualty incidents.”

The accreditation means that the hospital will not only provide leadership in prevention and public education to surrounding communities but also comply with agreed criteria that advance the World Health Organization's declaration on Emergency Care for the injured in Botswana.

“Getting more of our facilities accredited means

our hospitals will operate as organised teaching and research sites to help direct innovations in trauma care. For Bokamoso Private Hospital, this is one of the ways we can become an industry leader and better serve the people of Botswana.” shared Rene Ackermann, Group Trauma, Emergency and Transplant Standards Manager.

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

Budget cut cripples NGOs

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THE DECISION BY Government to reduce financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) has crippled those at the forefront of HIV/AIDS fight, The Patriot on Sunday has learnt.

Some of the NGOs are now struggling to roll out HIV care and support programmes to vulnerable communities after government decided to reduce financial assistance to them.

On the other hand, Government has downplayed the issue of budget cut to NGOs, notwithstanding that others insist that their operations have been dealt a big blow.

A non-profit organisation-Centre for Youth of Hope (CEYOHO) that targets young people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in Botswana is one of the organization that has not been spared by the recent budget cuts. CEYOHO Botswana Director, Kesego Basha-Mupeli is of the view that the budget cut has left them with skeletal staff and acute shortage of resources.

Mupeli said they were forced to relieve some of the employees as a result of the budget cuts. “We used to cover areas such as Oodi and Gaborone but for now we are only limited to providing our services in Tlokeng. Even in Tlokeng we are unable to reach most of our customers,” said Mupeli.

CEYOHO provides care and support to young people living with HIV/AIDS while also engaging in community mobilization and awareness creation to promote community participation and involvement



Kesego Basha-Mupeli

in HIV testing, anti-retroviral (ARV) and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmissions (PMTCT) among others.

Mupeli said that CEYOHO is currently struggling with resources such as transport and communication. She reiterated that currently people living with HIV are in homes and are not receiving counseling. “We are overwhelmed because there is no budget for mobilization to help those living with HIV. We are required to visit clinics where we meet clients but people don't want to discuss their issues at health posts,” added Mupeli.

She said that in the previous years they were able to reach people on their phones if they were unable to do physical visits. “We no longer have budget for communication and transport which makes it difficult to reach people who might need our services. People default on their ARVs and without visiting them and giving them support more people are likely to default,” added Mupeli.

She said that with the skeletal staff that they have, the NGO's

is unable to reach many people. Mupeli further noted that it is difficult to reach out to communities since community health workers have been reduced following budget cuts.

“The budget cut meant that we had to keep few people. With CEYOHO, the budget was reduced from P800 000 in the previous years to P200 000 which makes their operations difficult to run,” said Mupeli.

She said that they are expected to use their own costs to reach out to communities. “We are expected to use our own cost to reach people who are defaulting. With an increase of people living with HIV defaulting I foresee a situation where we might have a challenge in ending HIV/AIDS,” added Mupeli.

Mupeli also reiterated that Botswana middle income status is not helping the situation since funding is limited.

Success Capital Director, Dumi Gatsha also noted that there was reduction of financial assistance extended to them compared to the past two financial years. Gatsha reiterated that the budget cut

meant that the organisation which provides awareness about sexual reproductive health among key population such as sex workers and LGBTQI communities had to operate with less staff. “This means that we can't reach out to many people as we could have expected,” added Gatsha.

National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA) has dismissed complaints about budget cuts. NAHPA Deputy National Coordinator, Batlhalefi Leagajang said government has not made any pronouncements to its implementing partners about budget cuts. “The budget allocated for the NCDs, and HIV response has been the same for the last couple of financial years. The money has been and continues to be distributed to 120 implementing partners,” said Leagajang, adding that the HIV and NCD's response is evidence based. “We therefore set priorities based on research findings and every year we do a targeted call for proposals based on the priorities set. Interested entities then submit proposals which are then assessed and a determination on funds allocation is made,” he added.

He said that they continue to capacitate and avail resources to implementing partners since they have been tasked with the responsibility of having an AIDS free and healthy living generation by 2030. He said they constantly advise the implementing partners to look for alternative sources of funds and not just rely on government. “We are pleased to inform you that there are some CSOs that have been able to find other sources of funding to help them implement the HIV and NCD response,” he added.



NOTICE Prime Lending Rate (PLR) Change

Dear Valued Customer,

Please be advised that following the decrease of Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) by **0.25%** by Bank of Botswana from **2.15%** to **1.90%**, First Capital Bank Botswana has decreased the Prime Lending Rate from **6.26%** to **6.01%**, effective **22nd August 2024**.

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Unions brew 2024 Hit-List

FROM PAGE 1

often just the faces of a larger problem. Instead, it needs to focus on dismantling the flawed system and outdated ideology that sustain these problems identified by the working class. By addressing the root causes rather than the symptoms, I believe the workers stand a better chance of bringing about real, lasting transformation.”

Kekgonegile warned that: “Individuals come and go,



Mohwasa

but the systems and ideologies they represent often persist, continuing to perpetuate the very challenges workers want to overcome. By focusing on names, they risk missing the bigger picture and the opportunity to challenge the structural issues that undermine progress. The goal in our view should be to reshape the landscape in a way that prioritizes the well-being of workers and the broader public,

ensuring that the economic and social injustices of the past are not repeated.”

For his part, the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) spokesperson, Moeti Mohwasa said they respect to workers that was there in 1965 will continue unabated. Workerism will not assist. The need for alliance with progressive formations has never been as dire as now. Workers should scientifically determine who their real enemies are. We have a state that has been in power since 1965 and has adopted a posture that does not fully embrace workers' interests. This therefore makes the state enemy number 1.”

According to Mohwasa, in any setting, if you baby sit what is a threat to you and do not uproot it, then that very threat will at one stage devour you. “The BDP state is now devouring the workers through high cost of living that has led to erosion of their purchasing power. The worker of 2024 is poorer than the 1965 worker and will continue to get poorer as long as the BDP is in power.”

The ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) Secretary General, Kavis Kario, said he recalled the presence of hit lists in previous elections but noted that as the BDP, they have not yet formed a definitive opinion or stance on electoral hit-lists.

TECHNICAL MANAGER WANTED

Electro-metric Enterprises T/A Internet Options Botswana is looking for a successful candidate with more than 5 years' experience in ISP Core networking and a Bachelor's degree in Electronics and communication Engineering with CCNA, CCNP professional certificates.

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P O Box 53286 Broadhurst, Gaborone
Or hand deliver at Plot 53609, Unit 4 Gaborone West Industrial Tel: 3158404

Closing Date: 9th September 2024

Debswana & Co. champion disability inclusion

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IN A LANDMARK INITIATIVE Debswana, Diamond Trading Company Botswana (DTCB), and De Beers Group have joined forces to construct a state-of-the-art Rehabilitation Centre for people with disabilities in Block 8, Gaborone to foster a healthier, active lifestyle for people living with disabilities.

The idea for the Block 8 Rehabilitation Centre emerged from a shared sense of responsibility among Debswana, De Beers Group, and Diamond Trading Company Botswana (DTCB). These companies, together with the Gaborone City Council, recognized the need for a dedicated facility that could offer specialized services to disabled individuals in Gaborone. "We saw an opportunity to make a lasting impact by jointly funding and constructing the rehabilitation centre. This initiative reflects our collective dedication to improving the quality of life for those in need and contributing to the overall well-being of the community," said Patrick Mokwele, Corporate Affairs Manager at Debswana Diamond Company.

The Block 8 rehabilitation centre, slated for completion by the end of 2024, represents an P8.5 million investment shared equally among the three

sponsors.

The decision to co-fund the centre was a strategic one, rooted in a preliminary design that provided cost estimates for creating a world-class facility. This balanced approach reflects the commitment of Debswana, De Beers Group, and DTCB to bringing this vision to life. Once complete, the centre will provide essential care, enhance accessibility, empower the community, and support the social inclusion of disabled individuals, ensuring they have the resources to lead healthier, more independent lives.

"By equally sharing the financial burden, we are not only underscoring the importance of this project but also demonstrating our shared responsibility towards the communities we operate in," said MacDonald Mosele, Corporate Affairs Manager Diamond Trading Company Botswana.

State-of-the-Art

The Rehabilitation Centre will feature a range of advanced facilities designed to meet the diverse needs of users, including a sensory stimulation room, aquatic therapy, physiotherapy, and counseling services.

"The facilities have been meticulously designed to cater specifically to individuals with disabilities, ensuring inclusivity throughout the building," noted Itumeleng Ramsden, External Communications Manager, De Beers Global Sightholder Sales.



The building will also be equipped with ramps for easy access, wider door frames for wheelchair users, and accessible bathrooms and showers.

Adam Maseko, Chairperson of the Gaborone Disabled Persons Society expressed appreciation, emphasizing the centre's importance for the health of disabled persons by addressing all their needs. "The centre will house health professionals like physiotherapists, counsellors, and masseurs to assist with mobility for those using wheelchairs and walking canes. With high-end equipment, we aim to stabilize or improve their mobility in a timely manner," Maseko said, citing one of the

services to be provided.

Community Engagement

The Centre's development is not just about providing services but also about building a sense of community and inclusion. The Gaborone Disabled Persons Society has been actively involved in the project since the beginning. "The collaboration started when our committee sought financial help to build a two-room office for our daily operations. The three diamond companies not only came to our aid but also took the initiative to add a Rehabilitation Centre," Maseko explained.

Maseko also highlighted how the Centre would help

reduce the burden on Princess Marina Hospital by absorbing referrals and providing care closer to home. "The Centre is a masterpiece!" he said, encouraging other stakeholders like the Office of the President, the business community, and the Botswana Council for the Disabled to assist in running and maintaining the facility.

Specialized Therapy, Services

The Rehabilitation Centre is poised to offer a comprehensive range of physical and occupational therapies, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and aquatic therapy. "We have worked closely with recognized associations representing the disabled community to ensure that the services provided meet the unique needs of the individuals it aims to serve," noted Mokwele. This

collaborative approach ensures that the Centre remains responsive to the evolving requirements of its users.

To reach and service over 1,000 disabled individuals in Gaborone, the Centre will operate on a referral basis, working in conjunction with existing structures that support the disabled community. However, access will not be limited to referrals—Gaborone City Council and the Gaborone Disabled Persons Society, custodians of the plot, will ensure that the Centre remains open to the public

Roles in Unified Effort

Each of the three companies has brought its unique strengths to the table. Debswana, with its focus on corporate social responsibility, has ensured that the project aligns with national priorities and sustainable development goals. De Beers

Group has leveraged its global expertise to provide financial resources, develop therapeutic programs, and establish partnerships with local and international stakeholders. Meanwhile, DTCB has taken on a hands-on role in managing the project's progress, with a high-level technical manager overseeing construction and ensuring that the Centre meets its ambitious goals. "Our collaborative approach ensures that challenges are met with solutions, and that the centre will serve the community for years to come," Mosele affirmed. This Rehabilitation Centre is more than just a facility—it represents a long-term commitment to inclusivity, empowerment, and community development. "Through strategic planning, collaboration, and a focus on sustainability, we are laying the foundation for a brighter

future for Botswana's disabled community," said Mokwele. With this Centre, Debswana, De Beers Group, and DTCB are not only addressing immediate needs but also ensuring that the disabled community is supported, integrated, and empowered for years to come.

Sustainability, Prospects
The long-term sustainability of the rehabilitation centre is a key concern for all involved parties. In line with their Building Forever sustainability strategy, the three diamond companies are committed to guiding the Gaborone City Council in implementing livelihood programs and ensuring that the building is 'green' in its design, construction, and operation.

"In line with our Building Forever sustainability strategy, we are committed to guiding the Gaborone City Council in implementing livelihood programmes that ensure the Centre remains viable in the long term," said Mokwele. This includes efficient use of energy and water, the adoption of renewable energy sources like solar power, and the use of non-toxic, ethical, and sustainable materials. However, as Maseko pointed out, the Centre's success will depend on the continued support and involvement of various stakeholders. "For us to run it effectively, it has to have a person coordinating it and dedicated personnel. We are banking on the support of Gaborone City Council and the Ministry of Health to help with specialists so that it doesn't turn into a white elephant, as we are a non-profit-making organization," he said.

'Masisi a big threat to economy' - BCP

■ BCP doubts his leadership amid current economic challenges



Saleshando

He is another big threat to our economy," he said.

In addition, Saleshando said Masisi continues to splash money like nobody business condemning the large presence of government parastatals and ministries that setup stalls at Moshupa agriculture show last weekend. According to Saleshando, government departments should lead by example and cut unnecessary costs. "Instead, we see government being the one continuing to waste money. There has been a decision to suspend projects and tenders and that indicate how deep the country is on trouble. Also, what it is more worrying is how government want to hide information about economic performance. We might not yet see and uncover the worst

economic situation regarding the government revenues," said Saleshando.

Moreover, Saleshando said the tourism industry is doing better as compared to the diamonds industry but said the worst can happen for tourism if the MPOX Virus can find its way in Botswana as that would mean tourists from Europe will be reluctant to fly in.

Meanwhile, the BCP Secretary for Economic Affairs Dr Sennyne Obuseng said the economy is in recession.

He said this is because the economy recorded zero percent growth in the first quarter of the year and that means that no positive growth could be expected in the second quarter.

According to Obuseng, the current BDP government administration has long missed opportunities to diversify the economy by tapping into other sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture to cut heavy dependence on minerals.

He also said government schemes such as Chema Chema are backfiring because money allocated to it could have made impact when it was invested in a way that could bring more viable economic returns to Botswana and the government as well. Chema Chema targeting informal sector is

budgeted P500 million.

"When the economy is growing at zero level, this means that the country is in crisis. The negative effects of this could be that the investors would deem Botswana as not ideal for investment. The international creditors would also be not willing to borrow Botswana money as government revenue shrinks," he said.

He said the under performance of the economy which is currently being felt could be prolonged if the natural diamonds market doesn't rebound anytime soon and the demand for rough diamonds increase.

Obuseng said the economy need structural reforms and it could take a leap from Rwanda's investment climate framework which is highly progressive and attractive to investors to setup businesses in Rwanda.

Amid the growing concern on the state of economy, Finance Minister Peggy Serame said the economy is expected to grow and improve next year, adding that government will closely monitor current situation. Serame said the government would not hasten to look abroad for borrowing so to stabilize the economy.



Lucara recovers epic 2,492 carat diamond

LUCARA DIAMOND CORP. is thrilled to announce the recovery of an exceptional 2,492 carat diamond from its Karowe Diamond Mine in Botswana.

This remarkable find, one of the largest rough diamonds ever unearthed, was detected and recovered by the Company's Mega Diamond Recovery (MDR) X-ray Transmission (XRT) technology, installed in 2017 to identify and preserve large, high-value diamonds.

The stone was recovered from the processing of EM/PK(S) kimberlite, the dominant ore type that Lucara will continue to target during the first years of the Company's underground mining operations.

This discovery underscores Karowe's reputation as a world-class asset and reaffirms Lucara's position as a leading producer



Masisi

of large, exceptional diamonds. This latest recovery joins an impressive roster of other significant finds from the mine, including the 1,758 carat Seweló and the 1,109 carat Lesedi La Rona.

William Lamb, President and CEO of Lucara, commented on this historic discovery: "We are ecstatic about the recovery of this extraordinary 2,492

carat diamond. This find not only showcases the remarkable potential of our Karowe Mine, but also upholds our strategic investment in cutting-edge XRT technology.

The ability to recover such a massive, high-quality stone intact demonstrates the effectiveness of our approach to diamond recovery and our commitment to maximizing

value for our shareholders and stakeholders."

Lamb added, "This discovery reinforces Karowe's position as a truly world-class diamond mine and highlights the continued success of our operational and underground development strategy."

Botswana's diamond industry delivers wide-ranging socio-economic benefits to the country that extend well beyond the mining sector. Its influence supports national development by funding critical areas such as education and healthcare.

This discovery symbolizes Botswana's continued ascent as a global leader in diamond production. It represents not only the unparalleled wealth found in Botswana's soil, but also the remarkable progress the nation has made in developing its diamond industry for the benefit of its citizens.

Public notice

Reduction in Absa Prime Lending Rate

This serves to advise that the Absa Prime Lending Rate (APLR) has been reduced by 25 basis points (0.25%) with effect from Thursday, 22 August 2024 in response to the reduction of the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) by the Bank of Botswana's Monetary Policy Committee.

This therefore brings the new Absa Prime Lending Rate to 6.01%. Interest rates for all APLR linked facilities have been changed accordingly.

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The Learning Passport: Can it Deliver for Botswana's Disabled Students?



LAGAGO TAMOCHA*

EDUCATING THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNER

BOTSWANA'S NEW LEARNING Passport programme is being hailed as a major leap forward in the nation's quest to modernize its education system. Spearheaded by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with UNICEF, the initiative offers digital learning resources aimed at improving educational outcomes, especially for disabled students who have long struggled with inadequate support.

An Opportunity for Disabled Students

At its core, the Learning Passport is

designed to offer every student access to a wealth of online educational materials. With its inclusion of over 30 subjects, including sign language, the platform could provide disabled students with the tools they need to succeed. The initiative also promises a more personalized learning experience, which could be a game-changer for students who require specialized resources or alternative methods of instruction.

The need for such a programme in Botswana is undeniable. Disabled students have often been left behind due to a lack of suitable learning materials and the infrastructure necessary to support their educational needs. The Learning Passport offers an opportunity to level the playing field, providing these students with the same access to quality education as their peers.

Implementation Challenges However, the potential of the Learning Passport to effect real change hinges on successful implementation—a challenge that has proven difficult in the past. Botswana has a history of launching well-intentioned policies that falter



when faced with the realities of on-the-ground execution. The digital divide, particularly in rural areas, remains a significant hurdle. For many disabled students, especially those in remote locations, access to

a stable internet connection is not guaranteed, which could severely limit the effectiveness of this otherwise promising initiative.

Access and Sustainability

Moreover, while the programme includes plans to distribute digital devices, there are concerns about whether these will reach all students who need them.

Past initiatives have often struggled with equitable distribution, raising fears that the most vulnerable students may once again be overlooked. Additionally, the sustainability of these devices is another pressing issue. Without a clear plan for maintenance and replacement, the initial benefits of the Learning Passport could quickly erode, leaving students without the tools they need.

The Importance of Digital Literacy

Another critical factor is digital literacy. The success of the Learning Passport will depend not just on the availability of resources but also on the ability of students, educators, and parents to effectively use these tools.

Training and ongoing support will be essential to ensure that all students, especially those with disabilities, can fully engage with the platform.

The Road Ahead

Despite these challenges, the Learning Passport represents a significant step forward in the right direction. Its focus on inclusivity and personalized learning is commendable, and if implemented effectively, it could make a real difference in the lives of disabled students across Botswana. However, to realize this potential, the government must address the infrastructural and logistical challenges that have hampered similar initiatives in the past.

A Test of Commitment

The Learning Passport is more than just a digital tool; it is a test of Botswana's commitment to providing equitable education for all. Whether it will succeed in transforming the educational experiences of disabled students remains to be seen, but one thing is clear: the stakes are high, and the country cannot afford to fall short once again.

Botswana to exploit Comparative Advantage

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THE RECENT LOCAL Manufacturing Summit that was organized by the Botswana Chamber of Mines (BMC) has taken a bold stance that Botswana's manufacturing sector should be fully revived with the country tapping into its might, the abundant solar energy resource and its strategic geographic location in SADC.

Experts say Botswana must not be finding an excuse of not becoming a leading and competitive exporter player in the global manufacturing space value chain despite move by the markets in Europe introducing the climate change policies that are hindering manufacturers from developing countries to export to them.

The 2024 summit was held under the theme "Shaping the Future of Botswana's Manufacturing Sector: Facilitating Growth, Diversification and Job Creation and had drawn up together participants from the government, private sector (mining and manufacturing) as well as international partners like the UNDP.

The trade and policy experts have buttressed that Botswana boast of strong comparative advantage that should be fully untapped to unleash the might that that the manufacturing sector can do for economy.

During a panel discussion facilitated under the

- Botswana's power: abundant solar energy resources, geographic location
- EU Climate Change laws must not hinder Botswana- UNDP Representative
- From local perspective, access to funding is key impediment for the sector



theme "Export Market and Challenges," the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Botswana Dr Balazs Horvath said Botswana has comparative advantage that consist of rich sunshine, geographical location, and big land.

He said the countries in Europe are adopting climate change policies that emphasize more green led companies that focus on importing goods produced from green energy related manufacturing processes.

"Botswana is one of the strategic markets that should not be deterred by these climate change policies. Botswana comparative advantage is vast as compared to her counterparts in Africa. Botswana has large volume of sunshine and can develop network of solar grids

to grow her manufacturing sector," he added.

In addition, Dr Horvath said Botswana is geographic location is strategic being a landlocked country in the SADC region, adding that Botswana also has large chunk of land that can be used for manufacturing.

The EU has taken a position that the bloc reduces the net greenhouse gas by emissions by 90 percent by 2040, emphasizing that the EU's Green Deal now needs to become the Industrial decarbonization deal.

Funding

Meanwhile, access to funding and credit by the manufacturing sector has been highlighted as the major challenge for the local manufacturing sector particularly the Small and Medium (SMEs) manufacturers This has also been

corroborated by the Botswana Institute of Development and Policy Analysis (BIDPA) researcher Goitseone Khanie in his 2020 research paper titled "Key Drivers of Industrial Growth: A case of Botswana's Manufacturing Sector."

Khanie as part of recommendation to close the access to funding deficiency said the policy makers should design and ensure proper implementation of financial sector development strategies that can help ease access to credit for manufacturing enterprises in the country..

Khanie also said there is a need for a holistic approach in the design and implementation of innovation and human resource development policies in order to provide a conducive environment for skills acquisition, innovation, and technological advancements in the manufacturing sector.

She also said trade policies and export promotion strategies should heighten productivity and value addition in the manufacturing sector, so as to make local firms internationally competitive.

"Finally, with regards to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the Government of Botswana should create an environment that could entice multinationals to invest in the local manufacturing industry.

This, however, should be coupled with protectionist policies to avoid crowding out local manufacturers and exposing them to foreign competition," said BIDPA scholar Khanie.

Govt Plan

President Mokgweetsi Masisi while delivering keynote address at the summit reiterated government's commitment to introduce legislation that would enable the manufacturing sector to grow beyond its potential and become one of main sectors that contribute to the economic and create sustainable jobs.

Masisi also said there are plans to establish Botswana Economic Development Board, a high-level advisory board that amongst other will be able to attract investors into the local manufacturing sector.

Chaired by himself as the president, Masisi said the board aims to eliminate bureaucratic hurdles that may deter potential investors in the manufacturing sector. "The board will deal with unnecessary barriers for those seeking to do business in Botswana. The manufacturing sector has significant growth potential and is crucial to the national economy, as Botswana aims to move from a middle-income status to a high-income economy," said Dr Masisi.

For her part, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Botswana Trade Commission (BOTC) Shirley Moncho said the local manufacturing companies who export are

hindered by some of the policies related to climate change adopted in key markets especially in the EU.

Moncho said such policies also make it difficult for implementation of trade agreements that Botswana is party to such as the African Continental Free Area (AfCFTA).

"Our local manufacturing companies are facing lot of challenges due to climate change mitigation laws that affect the capacity of our exporters to penetrate the markets. However, as a government we are finding ways on how to align to such legislation," said Moncho.

In addition, Moncho said BOTC is working closely with our manufacturers and other important stakeholders to find ways in which Botswana exporting manufacturing companies can align to the climate change policies to break the impending trade barriers for local manufacturing exporters.

In addition, Moncho also said it is important for local businesses to form associations across their different sectors as that could enable their voices to be heard when they respond to the adopted policies or legislation that affect their business.

Regulation

Commenting from the industry player view, Sales and Marketing Director at Flo-Tek Botswana, Duncan Jaramba said the local industry has the

potential to grow despite some existing challenges emanating from the legal and regulatory framework.

Jaramba said if the local manufacturing sector can be fully supported, it can do better and drive economic growth.

"At Flo-Tek, we have taken a position to hire graduates from local universities and we added them to our database. We give them experience so that they can achieve what they want," said Jaramba.

Furthermore, Jaramba said the import ban imposed by the government on some commodities is a step in the right direction and would enable to unlock the full potential of manufacturing in a broader base.

He said what is important now is for the manufacturing companies to ensure that they fully capacitate themselves and focus lot of their budgets in the supply value chain to be able to tap at opportunities.

AGOA Test

The local manufacturing sector just like other sectors in the past failed to live to expectation and meet the export standards under the lucrative African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) presented by the USA. Under AGOA Botswana manufacturers and other exporters were expected to sell to US market on reduced tariffs as compared to the countries which do not have an agreement with the US or are not AGOA beneficiaries.

Last year in July when answering a question in Parliament, the Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry Beauty Manake has said Botswana has not fairly done well in exporting through AGOA to the US market.

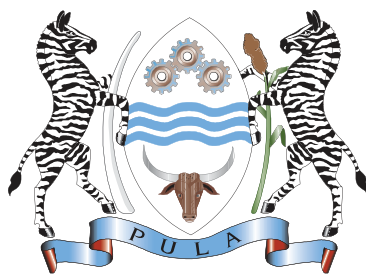
Manake at the time informed Parliament that from 2000 to 2016, only sixteen (16) manufacturing companies had registered with Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) to export textiles and apparel (garments) to the US under AGOA.

She explained that the companies closed down over the years while the last one relocated to Lesotho after making its last export.

"In spite of the challenges experienced, capacity building to facilitate exports of Morula oil products, donkey milk products, organic honey, food preparations, handcrafted jewellery and jewellery made from semi-precious stones is ongoing," Manake explained.

AGOA is a trade arrangement between the US and about fifty (50) sub-Saharan African countries, including Botswana. It was established in 2000 to provide relaxed access to the American market.

The quality of products has been a major issue of debate that saw Botswana and other African countries fail to fully penetrate and exploit the US market through the special arrangement worth the billions of dollars per annum.



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OLDM GM's Charity Walk 2024

Cabinet blocks Cllrs' 5% increment

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■ To raise P4 million for charity projects in Boteti region

THE ANNUAL ORAPA, Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines (OLDM) General Manager's Charity Walk returns on Saturday (August 31st) to promote wellness by encouraging active and healthy lifestyles, and to market Orapa township as a tourism destination in consonant with Orapa today, Boteti tomorrow initiative.

Held annually since 2002, the primary objective of the GM's Charity Walk is to raise funds for charity to complement Debswana's Corporate Social Investment efforts in an endeavor to make life brilliant within Boteti District. This was revealed by GM's Walk Committee Chairperson, Tidimalo Tito during the unveiling of the diamond sponsor on Wednesday in Orapa.

Tito said preparations for the 22nd edition of the charity walk are going well, revealing that they are targeting 4 000 walkers compared to 2800 last year. He said even though they have so far registered around 2000 walkers, he is optimistic they will reach their target by next week Wednesday, the deadline for registration. He said in terms of the projected funds



Mogakolodi Maoketsa

to be raised, they are targeting to raise P4 million compared last year's P3.7 million, and so far they have already raised P3 million from sponsorships alone.

Barloworld Equipment has been unveiled as the diamond sponsor for the 2024 edition of the GM's Charity Walk, after pledging P1 million to support the event. Tito said the partnership with Barloworld Equipment will go a long way in supporting the project they have earmarked for funds raised this year. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank

Barloworld to be a partner in this initiative and most importantly to be our diamond sponsor," he said

Moreover, Tito explained that activities for this year's edition started with Kiddies Fun Walk, which was successfully held on the 15th August. A Gala dinner will be held on August 30th, followed by the main event - GM's Annual Charity Walk the next morning of the 31st August and later the day will be closed down through a Cooldown Music Festival featuring both local and international artists.

OLDM General Manager, Mogakolodi Maoketsa announced that part of the funds raised through the 2024 walk will go towards the refurbishment of a theatre at Rakops Primary Hospital, estimated to cost over P4.2 million to improve clinical outcomes of emergencies in Boteti. He said currently, Rakops Primary Hospital does not offer theatre services but refer to other hospitals.

"This Theatre project will add to a long list of projects that have benefited from the GM's Charity Walk," he said, adding

that they recently channeled some of the 2022 and 2023 GM's Charity Walk proceeds towards the construction of a classroom block comprising of two classrooms at Mmea Primary School in Mmea Village (Boteti District).

Maoketsa revealed that the walk contributed P1.5 million towards the construction of a Maternity Ward at Letlhakane Primary Hospital in Letlhakane village, and P1.2 million for a Special Education Classroom Block at Tsienyane Primary School in Rakops village.

Maoketsa also said some of the funds were allocated for the extension of Moremoaoto Clinic (P450, 000.00) and P1.2 million towards eight (8) houses for less privileged families at Xere, Khwee, Mokubilo, Mosu, Kedia, Mmea, Letlhakane and Mmatshumo. He thanked Barloworld Equipment for their sponsorship which will have a major impact, save lives and make lives brilliant. "It would be very remiss of me if I don't thank all our sponsors and walkers, past and present including yourself as the media for contributions and support towards the GM's Charity walk. All these projects were possible because of this support," he said, inviting Batswana to register for the walk as it is for a noble cause.

For his part Barloworld

Equipment Operations Manager, Modiri Danke expressed excitement, saying their investment will go a long way in developing the communities around Boteti region. He said partnership with Debswana is at the heart of Barloworld Equipment and it is what they exist for. "We still need to look into what partnership we can get into to further advance, and help marginalized communities as well as the economy at large," he said, adding that is heartwarming to see companies, some that are rivals, smallest suppliers, SMMEs and Batswana coming together to raise money for a project that is going to save a lot of lives in Rakops.

"We are grateful that we are part of something that is going to be part of a great legacy towards Boteti region. We don't sell only machines, we believe that we provide solutions, be it mining, be it CSI, health, safety, be it technology, we come together and come up with ways in which we can improve and find solutions towards the future," he said, adding that the sponsorship is not their first partnership with Debswana, as one of the projects they partnered in was refurbishment of a dormitory in Nata Secondary school amongst others.

FROM PAGE 1

He made the announcement during MLGRD and BALA consultative meeting in Gaborone which had drawn legions of councillors from across 31 district and town councils to discuss issues affecting BALA. "I have been engaging with the cabinet about the five percent salary adjustment demand from BALA for councillors, but the Cabinet has recently taken a decision not to endorse it. The reasons advanced and we all know are that the economy is not doing well as there is a fall in government revenues," he said. Autlwtse implored councillors not to despair and view the government as the enemy, adding that the cabinet also took a decision that there will be no salary adjustment for their counterparts at Parliament.

He also said the councillors should practice the spirit of patriotism and lead by example to support the government on decisions that it takes to manage the funds amidst tough current economic conditions.

"As your Minister, I can admit that councillors remuneration is not the best and it should be reviewed from time to time as we have made some adjustment in the past financial years including 2023. We do benchmark from our SADC and findings are that Botswana councillors, MPs and even the President are the most least paid as compared to our SADC counterparts. We wish this can change," said Autlwtse.

The councillors while responding to Autlwtse expressed concern that their salary adjustments always don't happen smoothly as compared to that of MPs, Members of Ntlo ya Dikgosi and the civil servants. Although they appreciate the current financial situation that the government finds itself in aided by a significant decline in sales of rough diamonds (49 percent down), councillors vowed to fight for a hike.

BALA

For her part, BALA President councillor Florah Mpetsane said BALA appreciates the support from the government but said it is important to ensure that the welfare of councillors is prioritized going forward. Mpetsane also said BALA

would continue to advocate better conditions of service for the councillors.

"We have sent a proposal containing our demands in relation to the welfare and benefits of councillors to the Secretary of the Standing Committee for the remuneration of MPs and the Members of Ntlo ya Dikgosi. But, we haven't received feedback at all whether it has been accepted or not," said Mpetsane. Mpetsane said councils are still waiting to be furnished with the Public Private Partnerships (PPP) policy and guidelines framework from the Ministry of Finance which long promised to finalise it but to no avail.

BALA said the absence of the PPP policy is detrimental to the growth of councils as they cannot be able to attract better and bigger developments under the PPP model that can boost councils' revenues and service delivery to the public. However, Autlwtse promised me to follow up with the finance minister.

Councils Broke

Meanwhile, Autlwtse admitted that councillors across the country are not operating efficiently because of financial challenges and are operating at deficit, urging them to use the little money they have wisely.

He attributed part of the financial struggles faced by the councils to the upgrading of some sub district councils into fully fledged independent districts, adding that the process was highly capital intensive.

"The government is aware of the financial struggles faced by councils. The reason behind is that there has been a significant decline in the Revenue Support Grant which avails money for the administration of the councils. Government is doing its best to financially support councils given its tight budget," he said. Also, Autlwtse said the ministry has taken a deliberate cost saving exercise and wants the councils to cut down spending on the benchmarking and retreat trips that are done both locally and internationally.

He also indicated that the councils should also desist from procuring expensive vehicles for mayors and chairpersons, buttressing that air travel for the senior council leadership has been stopped immediately.

BDP warns UDC, BCP

From next week Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) will intensify their 2024 campaign by shifting away from Bulela Ditswe chaotic appeals and shift gears towards launching their general elections Manifesto and candidates, all on the same day, on 1st September 2024. This week **STAFF WRITER BAKANG TIRO** is on the Couch with BDP Chairman of Communications and International Relations Subcommittee, Kagelelo Kentse, who sends a strong warning to the opposition Botswana Congress Party (BCP) and the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) that the ruling party will retain power through a landslide victory. He boasted that the mighty BDP will stage a mother of all campaigns.

Full House

BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC Party (BDP) has confirmed that its manifesto and unveiling of 61 Parliamentary candidates will be jointly held on the 1st of September 2024, warning Botswana Congress Party (BCP) and Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) that they should brace for a fierce campaign from BDP.

The BDP central committee had been under pressure to announce the dates for manifesto launch and a plan over how candidates will be launched given that limited time is remaining before elections.

On Friday, BDP spokesperson Kagelelo Kentse said the BDP will be unstoppable as it is charged for the campaign to reach every corner of the country to ask for votes. "It is going to be a full house. Democrats are thirsty for a campaign and Batswana can't wait to hear what the BDP has to offer. BCP launched their lackluster manifesto and people have forgotten what they said, it was not inspiring," said Kentse.

He also said UDC manifesto did not leave to expectation because by the time it was launched, it was overshadowed as the nation focused on celebrating the gold victory in 200 metres final race by Letsile Tebogo at the recently concluded Olympics in Paris, France.

He said the opposition has shown that it is not ready for government because in 2014 BCP was not in UDC but joined in 2019 and in 2024 they separated again.

Choice

Political analyst, Kitso Morekisi said it would be good for BDP to launch its manifesto and that would make the political scene interesting as voters will be spoiled to choice by BDP, UDC and BCP. "UDC manifesto launch brought a new perspective to augment what BCP manifesto had been preaching. The BDP manifesto will be a balancing act and it will spark interesting debates in addition to what UDC and BCP have started so far. Its manifesto will be heavily subjected to judgment and reviewed compared to 2019 one to see if targets were achieved," he said.



Kentse

He said BDP has been doing things differently during this election cycle such as holding primary elections few months before elections and that would be seen if it would work to the party's advantage if it was a

strategy by the party.

Candidates

Meanwhile, Kentse said 61 of BDP Parliamentary candidates will be unveiled at the manifesto by BDP president Mokgweetsi Masisi. He said the BDP

manifesto in this year elections will be pragmatic, achievable, measurable and simplified, adding that BDP had great strides in the promises it made in 2019 and want to do better going forward.

PSP denies Magosi probe role

FROM PAGE 1

emerging over who could have warned Magosi about the probe. "The PSP is not happy at the revelations because she feels she is the suspected leaker of information. She feels she has been portrayed as such because the papers say she is the only one who knew about the probe and who received the report," a top DIS source told this publication.

In the papers, Setlhabi and Kgoadi indicate that they know how Magosi was given the same information and details may be produced in the declaration and in due course. The case, which has sparked widespread interest,

centers on a covert investigation allegedly ordered by President Mokgweetsi Masisi against Brigadier Magosi, with DIS senior staff saying that the PSP was aware of and had received a report of the matter.

According to court documents, Kgoadi and Setlhabi were tasked by President Masisi to probe serious allegations against Magosi. The investigation was carried out under strict confidentiality, with reports submitted directly to Masisi or through Permanent Secretary to the President, Emma Peleotletse.

"Kgoadi and Setlhabi

conducted investigations in accordance with the President's specific directions and reported to the PSP. Material gathered during the investigations was submitted to her for the president's consideration. It is not necessary for such details to be disclosed at this point but should it be necessary such shall be disclosed in the declarations and in due course," reads the papers.

The prolonged detention, and the invasive searches of their homes, they say were "intended to frustrate the continuance of such investigations and to destroy any evidence gathered during the investigations hence

the frantic searches and seizures of communication equipment."

However, the duo say the situation took a dramatic turn when Magosi allegedly became aware of the investigation and responded by orchestrating a retaliatory operation against them. Magosi "was wrongly informed of the covert assignment that implicated him and given material he should not have been given," the papers read.

According to Kgoadi and Setlhabi, Magosi initiated a false investigation against them with the aim of preempting their own investigation, damaging their reputations, and



Magosi

undermining their credibility. The ultimate goal, as outlined in the court papers filed by the duo, was to suspend them from the DIS and potentially remove them entirely. The motive, they add, was to disrupt the investigation, besmirch their reputations, and punish them for their assignment.

Notice Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) change

Please be advised that following the 0.25% reduction of the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) by Bank of Botswana from 2.15% to 1.90%, FNBB has reduced the Prime Lending Rate from 6.26% to 6.01% effective Thursday, 22 August 2024.

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Mine Workers union swimming in debts

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ACCORDING TO THE latest national treasurer's report which was presented at the statutory general council meeting held in June 2024 in Palapye, Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU) is knee deep in debts, owing and struggling to pay creditors as the union experiences a decline in income streams.

A brief summary of the report states that as at June 2024 BMWU's debt stood at P2 419, 313.33 with a majority of the debt being from accommodation facilities from

across the country. The report goes on to show that Adansonia Hotel in Francistown is being owed the largest amount of P1,245,680.00 accrued from the union's elective congress which took place in December last year with the costs covering conference facilities, meals and accommodation for both NEC members and delegates, whereas Deserts Sands Motel in Palapye is also being owed P583, 912.26.

Other accommodation facilities still awaiting payments include Travel Lodge and Cresta Marakanelo in Gaborone, Hotel Stonehouse in Selebi Phikwe as well as Mikelele Motel in Letlhakane. Apart

from accommodation facilities, BMWU also owes Paul and Partners- Lucara Mine P47 936.20, Alternative Advertiser P110, 000.00, University of Botswana- constitution P57 000.00 and Double Pillars- Leru and Retainer Fee P18 000.00 amongst other debts.

In another report from April this year, the treasurer reveals that for the last few years, BMWU has been experiencing a decline in income whereas the union's expenditure has been rising at an alarming rate.

The same report further indicates that income from membership subscriptions has not grown much over the last few years due to

unstable workforce in the mining industry. BMWU's income stream is solely from membership subscriptions, rental earnings from the union's properties, shares in Fincraft Investment Management and shares in Mmegi Investment Holdings.

The treasurer's report further shows the union's efforts in cost saving measures which include cutting down on travel and accommodation costs by thoroughly screening and reducing the number of union members going on trips. Further, all lodging facilities have been advised not to allow anyone to get accommodation in the name of BMWU without



BMWU's General Secretary Mbiganyi Gaekgotswe

a purchase order sent from the union's head office. Going forward, as a way of also curbing costs, no dinners shall be served for all those lodging in hotels but they will instead be provided with a meal allowance.

The report further suggests that some meetings be held virtually where possible to help reduce costs as well as reducing printing and stationary costs significantly by initiating paperless work. The union's current financial constraints have affected its intention to save at least P50 000.00 per month which would be used for future needs such as retiring staff members and delegates congress amongst others.

Last year, BMWU retired three of its staff members who had reached their retirement years in terms of the union's staff policy and to date the union still owes the retired staff members their full terminal benefits.

The treasurer's report from April this year indicates that due to the union's financial constraints, states that the ex-employees suggested that they be paid their last salary equivalence for three months while the union still seeks funds to pay their full terminal benefits.

In a brief interview, one of the retired staff members who opted to remain anonymous,

revealed that she is still awaiting the BMWU to pay her terminal benefits, she however confirmed that the only payout she had received from the union since retiring was payment for her leave days. She further emphasized that she is in possession of documents from the union stating how much she is being owed and an assurance that she would be paid.

BMWU's General Secretary, Mbiganyi Gaekgotswe however denied the allegations that the union still owes its retired staff members. He emphasized that the issue is still an internal matter, but confirmed that every retired staff member was fully paid what is due to them.

VACANCIES

PROFILE

Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) is a parastatal body set up through an Act of Parliament with the mandate to market Botswana's tourist product, grade and classify tourist accommodation facilities as well as to promote investment in the tourism sector.

Competent and qualified applications are invited for the following positions:

1. EXECUTIVE MANAGER-MARKETING

The role is directly responsible for designing, implementing, evaluating and monitoring of the marketing strategy and programmes to enable the organisation to drive its mandate while realising its vision and forging strategic partnerships for marketing the Botswana tourism product offering.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Develop and implement marketing strategy and programmes.
- Assist Executive management team in formulation, review and implementation of the organisational strategy
- Develop and implement marketing policies and procedures.
- Provide professional marketing guidance at designing stage of new organisation projects and products to enhance marketability upon completion.
- Proactively pursue and establish new markets in addition to existing markets for the organisation's tourism products.
- Develop new marketing plans, systems and programmes for introduction of new organisational products and projects.
- Provide direction and leadership to the marketing department for departmental efficiency and excellence.
- Establish performance targets and monitor delivery against the targets for the marketing department.
- Develop, evaluate, implement and monitor the annual budget for the marketing department.
- Manage and implement public relations and communications strategy, programmes and initiatives to develop and safeguard the organisation's brand and image.
- Build, support and manage competent human capital and cross-functional team from the marketing, public relations & communications function for continuity.

KEY COMPETENCIES

- Business Acumen
- Decisiveness and Assertiveness
- Relationship Management
- Customer Focus
- Good Communication Skills
- Strategic Leadership & Motivation
- Budget and Resource Management
- Results Oriented
- External Environment Orientation
- Market Research & Innovation
- Performance Management

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in marketing or related field
- A Masters' Degree in marketing or related fields will be an added advantage
- Knowledge of marketing principles within the tourism industry will be an added advantage
- At least 10 years work experience in a multi-disciplinary environment; 5 of which should have been at management level

2. MARKETING MANAGER- EVENTS

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB

- Reporting to the Executive Manager-Marketing, the incumbent will be expected to
- Develop and implement marketing strategies for all BTO events
- Facilitate development and growth for the events based product in collaboration with key stakeholders

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Ensure the events are included within the larger mandate of diversification of product and geographical

- regions of BTO and its related marketing strategy.
- Include events tourism in the annual work plans and marketing strategies of BTO including industry specific trade shows, expos, media and public relations campaigns both nationally and internationally.
- Create linkages within the tourism industry directly related to events tourism and its development within Botswana's tourism proposition.
- Clear marketing strategy for events tourism within the larger BTO strategic objective of destination marketing.
- Ensure quality and regularly updated marketing collateral for print, web and social platforms specific to ecotourism.
- Create functional and mutually beneficial marketing partnerships locally, regionally and internationally with events tourism associations, specialists and media.
- Collaborate with other stakeholders to develop the events tourism product further bringing about new projects that will encourage employment, grow tourism numbers, length of stay and spend.
- Support BTO goals that look to attract investment in events tourism and sustainable projects within tourism.
- Operational management of BTO events.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Degree in Marketing or related field
- Knowledge of Marketing principles within the Tourism Industry is an added advantage
- 8 years work experience in the field, 3 of which should have been spent at middle management level
- Master's Degree in Marketing will be an added advantage
- Experience in events management is essential

3. RECORDS ASSISTANT

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB

Reporting to the Records Officer, the incumbent will be responsible for ensuring proper management and safety of the Organization's records.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Implement and support records management policies and procedures
- Register incoming and outgoing mail in registers, retrieval and shelving of files.
- Attend to general records management office requests.
- Conduct file census
- Conduct appraisal of records
- Implement records management matrix
- Implement file classification system
- Provide training to other employees on records keeping for efficiency purposes.
- Carry out preservation and conservation activities
- Implement retention and disposition schedules
- Operate the archival center of the organisation

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Diploma in Archives and Records Management, Library and Information Studies or equivalent
- Two (2) years' experience in a Records and Information Management
- A good understanding of Records Management and Archives requirements is essential
- Experience in HR and Administration records management will be an added advantage

If you meet the above requirements, please apply to:

Executive Manager - HR & Admin
Botswana Tourism Organisation at:
Email: recruitment@botswanaturism.co.bw

Closing Date: Friday, 13th September 2024 at 1630hrs

Correspondence will be limited to shortlisted candidates only

www.botswanaturism.co.bw

BIUST hand-holds local authorities

LESEGO MOSINYI

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE MEMORANDUM OF Understanding entered into between Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) and Botswana Association of Tribal Authorities (BATLA) embodies the commitment by the institution to uplift communities in their vicinity, Vice Chancellor Professor Otlogetse Totolo says.

Speaking during the signing in Palapye last week, Professor Totolo said through the partnership, they will engage in joint research projects aimed at promoting sustainable land use practices, preserving natural resources, and enhancing agricultural productivity. "Our university is home to leading experts in environmental science, agricultural technology, and land management sciences. We will create platforms for exchanging knowledge and best practices between our researchers and BATLA's experienced land managers, fostering a culture

of continuous learning and innovation," he said.

He said BIUST will support BATLA through capacity building and training pointing that, University will develop and implement training programs tailored to the needs of tribal land authorities, covering topics such as land administration, environmental stewardship, conflict resolution, and community engagement. He also stated that, regular workshops and seminars will be organized to keep BATLA updated on the latest developments in land management and provide ongoing professional development opportunities.

Professor Totolo also said BIUST students will have an opportunity to engage in community service and experiential learning projects in partnership with BATLA, therefore gaining valuable hands-on experience while contributing to community development.

He mentioned that, BIUST has strong research groups focused on exploring and designing technological solutions which can enhance tribal land management

practices in Botswana. "Our researchers can offer expertise in using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and other digital tools to improve land mapping, monitoring, and administration," he said.

He further said one of the project that is going to benefit BATLA's operations in the future is the Botswana Satellite 1 Project.

He also said through the MoU, BIUST and BATLA will be aligned to Vision 2036 Pillar on Sustainable Economic Development, which relates to driving the country to become a knowledge-based economy and development of human capital. For his part, BATLA President Kgang kgang said the MoU will go a long way in helping BATLA solve their challenges that hinder them in allocating and managing land. He mentioned that recently when the land boards were tasked with delivering 100 000 plots one of the challenges they had was surveying, as they had to put out quick production of layouts, however they were still using old methods. "And

this is where technology comes in with the use of drones for quick production of layouts," he said.

Kgang said there are also looking at where the land will be allocated virtually, with the use of drones and other technological advancements.

He said with the use of Botswana satellite it will be easy for them to manage the land without have to physically be there. "When you have to manage pastures, because we do allocate farms, do we have to go there and walk, or we have to come to your satellite and look how firstly the farm owner is utilizing the land, because we are not only responsible for the allocation of the land, we are also responsible for the use," he said. He also said with the use of technology it will be improve efficiency, and it will be inexpensive when dealing with land management. Kgang said one of their mandate is to advise government, therefore through the MoU the University will be able to equip them with the necessary skills and education not only to come up with sound advise but also to make informed decisions.

PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF THE AWARD FOR GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENT LICENCES

AWARD OF GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENT LICENCES FOR GAMBLING MACHINES WITH LIMITED BETS AND PAYOUT (LIMITED PAYOUT MACHINES)

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 23rd August 2024, resolved to grant Gambling Establishment Licences, as follows:

Gambling Establishment Route Operator Licences

- 1.VPB Gaming (Pty) Ltd (100 Sites countrywide)
- 2.Goldrush Slots Botswana (Pty) Ltd (100 Sites countrywide)

Gambling Establishment Independent Operator Licences

1. Mossview Consultancy (Pty) Ltd (1 site)
 - Ramotswa (1 site)
2. SNB Investments (Botswana) (Pty) Ltd (1 Site)
 - Gaborone (1 site)
3. Slotluck (Pty) Ltd (5 sites)
 - Mogoditshane (1 site)
 - Gaborone (4 sites)
4. Time Flies Ville (Pty) Ltd (3 Sites)
 - Gaborone (1 site)
 - Letlhakane (1 site)
 - Palapye (1 site)

Emolemo Peter Kesitlwe
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 23 August 2024

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Website: www.tip-offs.com



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



Opinions, Reviews & Analysis

12th Parliament: the Good & the Bad



ADAM PHETLHE
ON SUNDAY!

AS THE LIFE OF THE 12TH parliament comes to an end, I look at it as the one that comprised of fairly rich human capital but characterised by deep partisan politics. As Botswana practices the First-Past-The-Post electoral system where the majority of Members of Parliament would come from the winning political party, such party would determine and influence parliamentary decisions like which Motions and Bills pass and which do not. In this instance, the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) is the majority party whose Motions and Bills will not experience any obstacle for them to pass. With parliamentary proceedings aired live on national television, Batswana and the world witness first-hand the inner workings of parliament and importantly, whether their MPs are up to the task such that they deserve re-election or vice-versa. There is lot that one can make of the 12th parliament but I will compact my conversation in the following talking points:

Electoral Act amendments

One of the earliest consequential tasks of the 12th parliament is that MPs unashamedly amended the Electoral Act on election expenses incurred by them during campaigning. Section 81 of the Electoral Act caps election expenses of candidates at P 50,000 while Section 87(6) of the same Act empowers the returning officer to report the defaulting candidates to the Attorney General while Section 87(1) allows for a grace period of three months after the elections to submit election returns to the returning officer. Realising that they did not comply with the P 50,000 threshold



Parliament session

consequent to the predictable fact that they had spent far more than the Act provides for, they quickly moved to amend the Act to cover themselves 'in glory' yet in downright criminality. These are individuals who would have earlier taken oath of office to be the first protectors of the Constitution and the law. I ceased to respect them to this day for this deliberate infraction.

Parliament Live broadcast

This is the first of its kind in the history of Botswana's political history. It is a welcome development that got the nation more informed, interested and preoccupied about how the House operates. We are more informed about points of procedure, points of order, elucidation and so forth.

The intriguing part is that MPs themselves seem not to know when to stand on points or procedure or order. While the live broadcast of parliamentary proceedings is a welcome development, the switching of the channel from the DSTV bouquet to a different decoder has made it impossible for those who do not own the requisite decoder. There is a school of thought that the move was deliberate to save the ruling party MPs from the larger public scrutiny consequent to their bashing in debates by opposition political parties. It is debatable whether this is true or not. It is not far-fetched to suggest voters have long decided before primary elections which MPs deserve a second term and by extension who do not.

Parliamentary committees captured

In a move that is seen as the BDP deliberately scuppering meaningful oversight function of the executive by the opposition MPs, the party took over the chairmanship of many of these committees save for the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

The principal reason for doing so is that the BDP is a majority party and therefore, this must reflect in the composition and chairmanship of the committees. In the context of the BDP being the majority party, there is legitimacy to this proposition. However, the truth of the matter is that there is a reason why opposition parties have for

the longest time, chaired the committees. And the reason is that these committees are an extension of parliament where their principal function is to hold the executive accountable on various matters. Committees if you like, are the backbone of parliament. With the BDP having taken control, it is tantamount to the BDP accountable to itself because MPs who are expected to call the executive to order are themselves the colleagues of the executive.

As if taking over the committees was not enough, BDP MPs upped the ante by removing Kgosi Mosadi Seboko from the Pan African Parliament (PAP) and attempting to replace her with Hon Unity Dow under dubious circumstances. Hon Dow confirmed she had immediately contacted her on whether or not she had resigned where she answered in the negative. Hon Dow declined to replace her presumably in solidarity with her. It would later emerge the Speaker was lied to that Kgosi Mosadi had resigned. It has been suggested some opposition MPs lost their positions at the PAP.

Presidents/Vice Presidents benefits

The lowest point of the 12th parliament should be the presentation of Bills on pension benefits for the former Presidents and former Vice Presidents. I wish I was a fly on the wall when men and women congregated somewhere in a board room to propose lavish and opulent retirement benefits for these individuals, their spouses, children born in and out of wedlock when many Batswana barely make ends meet on a daily basis. There was a strong push back against these obscene retirement benefits where Minister Morwaeng forgot to withdraw the Bills first in parliament before rushing to the studios of national television on a Saturday evening to announce such withdrawal. The flimsy reason for withdrawal is the hogwash thrown down our throats that the withdrawal was necessitated by the government having listened to Batswana and that broad-based consultation was not undertaken. That a blue lie! Government was scared by a

protest march scheduled to take place on the Monday following the withdrawal on the ill-fated Saturday. It was not known how the march would pan out.

One would have expected the executive to slow down on bringing controversial Bills to parliament. Well, the executive was not deterred because it is bringing the Referendum Bill which will clothe the President with excessive power exercised by him and him alone to determine anything under the sun to be subjected to a referendum. It's frightening in this day and age where the general proposition is to devolve power to other institutions for obvious reasons. This Bill in my view, is the infant stage of creating dictatorship. To put the cherry on top, the President saw it fit to amend the Constitution on his own terms and painfully, to determine what it will eventually look like. It is tragic.

The 12th parliament will do down in history as the one where in public glare, opposition MPs were told to their faces that they are as good as token public representatives. Anything of substance opposition MPs tried to put forward was rejected contemptuously. It will also go down in history where BDP MPs crafted a Standing Order where MPs are under obligation to mention the name of the President only in glowing terms. I am not suggesting the President should be disrespected but to say this order is misplaced to the extent that it limits in some way MPs from sharply scrutinising the President.

Out goes the 12th parliament and in comes the 13th. The less said about the 12th parliament though, the better. This because the last leg was all about unnecessarily piling more power on the President. It can only obtain in a primitive and backward type of democracy with green shoots resembling dictatorship aided and abetted by big time sycophants. That's the sad part of how sycophants do politics. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

adamphetlhe08@gmail.com

We can do better than donations

Through leveraging athletes' brand for Long-Term Success

OUR VERY OWN SCHOOL-BOY MADE history at the Paris 2024 Olympics by becoming the first African to win gold in the 200m, while also finishing as a finalist in the 100m and helping the 4x400m relay team secure a silver medal. This impressive achievement has firmly established him as a global track star and has put Botswana visibly on the world map. However, despite his (and the rest of team Botswana, especially the 400m relay squad) success, local businesses have mostly responded with "small" donations and vouchers instead of securing long-term, substantial sponsorship deals.

(Now before Batswana and the Facebook community crucify me and label me as a jealous

nobody, please read through to the end. Also allow me to put a disclaimer ahead that, this statement is purely my opinion and does not in any way mean malign any person or entity.)

Missed Opportunities and Untapped Potential

Botswana has seen successful athletes like Nijel Amos (aka Zorro), who won a silver medal in the 800m at the 2012 London Olympics, Isaac 'Badman' Makwala, a top sprinter in the 400m, who was famous for his solo run in the 200m semifinals at the world championships, and Amantle Montsho a women's 400m sensation. While they received some rewards during their running days, their commercial opportunities were not fully realized. Tebogo represents a new chance to correct this. His achievements—starting with breaking the U20 world record in the 100m and his dominance at the World Athletics U20 Championships and being an Olympic icon—make him an appealing candidate for major global brands such as Nike, adidas, adidas Originals, or PUMA.

However, local businesses have only offered Tebogo short-term donations and vouchers. This approach does not reflect athletes true value and is not sustainable. Most to youngsters born in the early 2000s may not remember this, but I vividly remember Nijel getting donations after his Olympics silver. Fast forward to today 12 years later, he is still struggling to make it to the top now the his running days are over (no offense meant). Last time I heard Zorro was planning to sell his Olympic medal and make a documentary about his life and career in hopes of gaining a little more sustainable wealth. So I say donations are not sufficient; Tebogo (and the other upcoming stars) deserves a strategic plan that builds brands and ensures long-term success.

Botswana Must Rethink her Approach

The time has come for Botswana to move beyond short-term gestures and recognize Tebogo's potential as a brand ambassador. It's essential to focus on his long-term commercial value. Instead of simple donations, there should be efforts to unlock his full market potential. For example partnering with major brands like Kgalagadi Breweries Limited - KBL or Coca-Cola Beverages Botswana. If you doubt me, check out what Budweiser did after Messi won the world cup, it's all about brand marketing, an it's a win win situation. Featuring Tebogo's image/ nickname/ race record on their products could generate significant revenue, with proceeds going to the athlete or to support a foundation dedicated to youth development or sports initiatives. Imagine if Turbo-go was the brand ambassador for St Louis Lager, I know I'd buy

it just for the national pride. A documentary on Netflix or Amazon Prime Tebogo's journey, similar to the success stories of athletes from other countries who started with humble beginnings and achieved global fame, could further boost his international profile.

Countries like Jamaica have seen immense success with athletes like Usain Bolt who, despite coming from modest backgrounds, became a global icon through strategic sponsorships and endorsements. Similarly, Kenya's long-distance runners, who started in rural areas, have gained worldwide recognition and lucrative deals by leveraging their athletic achievements. These examples highlight the importance of turning sports success into commercial opportunities.

Paving the Way for Future Athletes

The Botswana 4x400m relay team, which Tebogo helped to a silver medal, also deserves attention. The team has shown consistent performance in international events, such as winning bronze at the 2017 World Championships and competing in the Olympics and Commonwealth Games. They, too, should receive sponsorships that recognize their achievements and support their future endeavors.

The examples of Nijel and Makwala held that Botswana has produced world-class athletes, but their marketability was not fully harnessed. With Tebogo and others, there is an opportunity to approach things differently. His record-setting performances and historical victory should lead to significant, long-term partnerships that benefit both him and the brands involved.

1. Funding and Sponsorships: I believe that for our athletes to truly shine on the global stage and bring home more Olympic medals, we need to step up our financial support. Kenya's athletes have secured major deals with brands like Nike and Adidas, boosting their international success. In Botswana, we often rely on local sponsors and government grants, but to make a real impact, we need more substantial backing. Building strong personal brands and partnering with both local businesses and global brands can help secure the funding needed for training, equipment, and travel, giving our athletes the best chance to succeed.

2. Top-Notch Coaching and Facilities: To help our athletes excel and win more medals, we need to invest in high-quality coaching and training facilities. We need an international level Track and Field stadium here at home. Botswana should focus on upgrading our facilities and providing more opportunities for athletes to train with/by international athletics icons and coaches. By doing so, we can ensure they are equipped to compete at the highest level and make our nation

proud.

3. More Local and Continental Competitions: For our athletes to win more medals, they need experience from regional and international events. Joshua Cheptegei from Uganda became a global star after excelling in many smaller competitions. By participating in more events like the African Games, our athletes can build confidence and improve their rankings, preparing them for major competitions like the Olympics. This strategic approach will help them achieve greater success and bring pride to Botswana. As a government we have to prioritize in hosting more competitions of international standards so that our upcoming athletes can better prepare for the upcoming space.

4. Training Abroad: Sending our athletes to international training camps, especially those in high-altitude areas, can significantly enhance their performance. Kenya and Ethiopia have produced top athletes through these specialized camps. Botswana should invest in similar

opportunities for our athletes, allowing them to learn advanced techniques and train with the best. This investment in their development will increase their chances of winning more medals.

5. Building Strong Sports Programs: For Botswana to have more olympic success, we need robust support systems from both the government and private sector. South Africa's sports programs have helped stars like Wayde van Niekerk reach the top. Botswana must build a strong network of support, with the government investing in sports development programs and private businesses providing sponsorships. This combined effort will give our athletes the resources they need to thrive and bring international recognition to our nation. By working together, we can boost their chances of winning medals and elevate Botswana's standing on the global stage.

Time to Get Serious

Tebogo's talent and success have put Botswana in the spotlight. It's time for local businesses to realize the full extent of his potential. Donations alone are not enough our athletes need more. Botswana needs to focus on leveraging his

success for meaningful sponsorships that ensure both his financial future and the country's global prominence. By taking strategic actions, Tebogo's story could become not just about track records but also about business success, inspiring future generations and showing that Botswana's brightest stars can shine far beyond sports.

And let's talk sponsorships and donations before these competitions, not preying on athletes who won podium finishes after the fact. Botswana National Olympic Committee and Botswana National Sport Commission always lament insufficient funds to take our teams abroad for competitions. We need to see more pledges and sponsors in the preparation journey towards events such as the Olympics so that our champions have a better shot at bringing more of those medals home. On that note let me thank Orange Botswana and other sponsors who deliver beforehand.

Let me take this moment to congratulate Team Botswana for the wonderful breathtaking performance in Party is 2024. It was the first time I saw Batswana come together in unison like that. What a proud national moment. This moment is a crucial opportunity—a call to action for Botswana to move past mere donations and fully embrace the potential for significant, long-term success.

Akim Mhemedi Keokgale

T.A.F.A. J	
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE	
CASE NO: CVHGB-000036-22	
In the matter between:	
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA And THULAGANYO RETSHABILE	PLAINTIFF DEFENDANT
NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION	
BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE That pursuant to Court Order of this Honourable Court dated 12 th April 2022 and stamped on the 12 th April 2022 the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendants will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff D. P. Gabobakwe in the manner hereinafter set out.	
DATE OF SALE:	Saturday 21 st September 2024
TIME OF SALE:	10:30 Hours
PLACE OF SALE:	Piece of land being Lot 3120, Modipane (Cadastre 19)
TERMS OF SALE:	Cash or EFT
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: The defendant's rights, title deed and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 3120, Modipane (Cadastre 19) measuring 530m ² (Five Hundred and Thirty square metres) held under Notarial Deed of Cession No MA 256/18 dated 11 th day of April 2018 made in favour of Thulaganyo Retshabile with developments thereon being a two bedroomed house, kitchen, sitting room, toilet and bath, electricity, 1 room structure and fenced	
The condition of sale may be inspected at the Offices of Gobhoza Legal Practice at the addresses below.	
DATED AT GABORONE THIS 12TH DAY OF AUGUST 2024	
Deputy Sheriff D. P. Gabobakwe 73900288 / 72901534 C/o Gobhoza Legal Practice Plaintiff's Attorneys Plot 115, Unit 19, Kgale Mews Gaborone International Finance Park P O Box 26168, Game City Gaborone	

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The Illusion of Agricultural Prosperity

■ SADC Leaders Duped by Zimbabwe's Showcase Farm



President Mnangagwa and other Heads of State tour the farm

DURING A RECENT VISIT TO Zimbabwe, leaders of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) were treated to what appeared to be a triumphant display of agricultural success. The tour included a stop at a flourishing farm that was presented as a testament to Zimbabwe's agricultural renaissance. However, beneath the surface of this grand spectacle lies a far more troubling reality. The farm showcased to SADC leaders belongs to none other than Zimbabwe's president, a fact that casts a long shadow over the authenticity of the visit. The leaders were shown a picture-perfect image of green fields, well-fed livestock, and thriving crops, all designed to create the impression that Zimbabwe's agricultural sector is on the path to recovery after years of decline. Yet, this carefully curated display is far from representative of the nation's broader agricultural landscape.

In reality, Zimbabwe's agriculture sector is struggling. The collapse of commercial farming, which began with the chaotic land reforms in the early 2000s, has left the country with a severe shortage of food and agricultural productivity. The showcased farm, heavily subsidized and supported by the state, is a rare exception in a country where most farms are languishing under poor management, lack of inputs, and inadequate infrastructure. The farm in question is not just any farm it is a personal project of the president, heavily funded and meticulously maintained to serve as a propaganda tool. While this farm may indeed be productive, it operates under conditions that are far removed from those of the average Zimbabwean farmer. With access to the best resources, top-quality inputs, and government-backed support, it is hardly surprising that this farm is flourishing. The success of one farm, particularly one owned by the head of state, does not equate to the revival of an entire sector. The president's farm is a bubble, an insulated environment that bears little resemblance to the realities faced by most farmers in Zimbabwe. For the majority, farming remains a daily struggle against poor soils, erratic rainfall, and a lack of financial support. The decision to showcase this farm to SADC leaders raises serious concerns about the transparency and

honesty of Zimbabwe's government. By presenting this farm as a symbol of national success, the president is not only misleading his regional counterparts but also undermining the credibility of Zimbabwe's agricultural recovery. SADC leaders left Zimbabwe with the impression that the country is on the brink of an agricultural boom, but the truth is far more sobering. The majority of Zimbabwe's farmers continue to face severe challenges, from land degradation to the impact of climate change, and the sector is far from the vibrant and thriving industry that the president's farm suggests.

If SADC leaders had been shown the true state of agriculture in Zimbabwe, they would have witnessed a very different scene. Across the country, smallholder farmers are struggling to make ends meet, often without access to the necessary tools, seeds, and fertilizers to ensure a good harvest. Many farms are underutilized or lie fallow, while others are barely productive enough to sustain the families that depend on them.

The government's focus on presenting a false image of success does little to address these underlying issues. Instead of investing in genuine agricultural development that benefits all farmers, resources are being funneled into maintaining a facade that serves the interests of the ruling elite.

The visit by SADC leaders to Zimbabwe should serve as a wake-up call to the region. Rather than being swayed by carefully staged displays, there is a need for a more honest and transparent assessment of the situation on the ground. Only by confronting the true challenges facing Zimbabwe's agriculture can the region hope to support real, sustainable development. Zimbabwe's leaders may have succeeded in pulling the wool over the eyes of their regional counterparts this time, but the long-term consequences of such deception are dire. The future of Zimbabwe's agriculture depends not on the success of one highly privileged farm but on the collective progress of all its farmers. It's time for SADC to demand the truth and work together towards a genuine agricultural recovery that benefits the entire nation.

NEWTON TAPIWA MPOFU
Political Activist

Education is the road to opportunity, inspires May Alli

AS WE COME TO CELEBRATE Women's Month in South Africa this August, May Alli, Dean of Teaching and Learning at Acudeo College, believes "empowering girls and women is essential in order for society, and the economy of a country, to change."

On paper, our education system in South Africa appears to achieve gender parity, with our government having made great strides to address gender inequalities in education by equalising access for female learners. The percentage of female pre-primary students, secondary students, and post-secondary students surpass the percentage of females in the overall population gender split [1].

Sadly, equality in numbers does not mean equality in educational outcomes. The "global assumption that an equal number of girls in school leads to empowerment and gender equity within society may not necessarily be correct in our South African context" [2].

These recent efforts attempt to address the access problem, not the larger societal problem of educational outcomes [3]. The numbers show that girls have equal access to school as their male counterparts; however, their continued education and future opportunities are highly affected by the patriarchal society that their education operates under, with women occupying a lower social status than men and as such, are socialised to work in the home and raise children rather than gain an education.

South Africa's gender inequality in education is rife, driving a deep division between education and outcomes for far too many girls.

Poverty, gender-based violence and sexual assault, committed both in the community as well as by fellow students and even some teachers, teenage pregnancy, along with lack of access to hygiene products and sanitation, are just some of the many barriers faced by girls currently.

In addition, with around 7.1 million South Africans living with HIV/AIDS and the stats indicating that females are four times more likely to be HIV-positive than males, this, along with caring for family members living with HIV/AIDS, may lead them to drop out of school, further limiting their opportunities to pursue careers that could lift them out of poverty. [4]

The statistics are stark when one casts an eye into the workplace and the wider community.

Gender inequality, discrimination, and gender-based violence continue to hamper women's efforts in all sectors, including education. Almost 50% of South Africans report that gender-based violence is common in their communities.

While there are challenges in our education system and larger society, there are also stories of hope. In the heart of South Africa's schools, our female teachers are a remarkable force behind educational development and community upliftment.

Nelson Mandela once said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'

Our female teachers embody this: their hard work, dedication, and passion are the lifeblood of educational growth and change and we honour and celebrate them this women's month.

Being true problem solvers, they navigate this tough landscape filled with socio-economic challenges, limited resources, and systemic inequalities and in spite of these factors, their creativity shines through in everyday solutions, like finding ways to teach with almost no materials and working in schools with tiny budgets where most parents can't afford fees or supplies.

They're master's at improvising and making do with what they have. Many of these incredible women teachers have personal stories of overcoming challenges like poverty, gender discrimination, and heavy domestic responsibilities. Despite all these challenges, they thrive in their teaching careers while supporting their students, families, and communities.

Women educators in South Africa are strong leaders who focus on collaboration, mentorship, and building supportive teams to foster a sense of shared responsibility.

One such educator is May Alli, Dean of Teaching and Learning at Acudeo College, who's impacted the education space for over two decades, with her varied and comprehensive experience, from leading multiple teams of teachers in various high schools, nurturing students to achieve their dreams to heading up the Advanced Certificate in Travel and Tourism education programme at the University of Johannesburg.

She's also spent time with an international training company, gaining exposure to the trends of global education and the movement toward 21st century educational programmes, working closely with the Netherlands Education Department and the Gems Group of

Schools in the United Arab Emirates.

As anyone with a passion for learning and teaching will know, it pays to be a lifelong learner and Alli is proof of that, adding her Masters degree in Educational Management and Leadership from the University of Johannesburg to existing qualifications she holds in education, commerce and tourism management. She's currently enrolled to complete her PhD in Educational Management and Leadership, with a focus on 'crisis management in education'.

Alli's passion for education is evident in her current role, Dean of Teaching and Learning at Acudeo College, comprising four campuses in Tshwane, Soweto and Benoni that originated in 2013 as part of a funding relationship with SEIIFSA (Schools and Education Investment Impact Fund of South Africa).

While May acknowledges there are immense challenges still when considering education for girls, she believes that education is the road to opportunity, and a journey that Acudeo College is proud to offer all its learners.

Acudeo College sees the value in partnering with those who can help develop extensive skills development in our learners.

Yenza, Matric Live and Reflective Learning are three such partners working with our matrics, in particular, to help them become exam ready and prepare for their mock and final exams.

Yenza, meaning "Do" or "Commit" in isiXhosa & isiZulu, is an end-to-end career platform, combining over 250 data points across a learner's strengths, personality, interests, values and ability to make integrated, smart recommendations for them,

using the very best of data-science and career theory.

Matric Live is a multifunctional education app that has reinvented learning by making learning contextual, visual and not just theoretical. It supports over 16 subjects and it is currently free for our matrics facing their mock final exams.

And Reflective Learning helps identify and close learning gaps so students can reach their full potential in Maths and English. Their programme customises its curriculum to each of our student's specific needs, focusing precisely on areas of struggle and delivering lessons at just the right level.

This tailored approach not only bridges knowledge gaps but also deepens overall understanding, preparing them to achieve higher levels of success.

When asked about her role in the education industry, Alli shared that "while each institution I have been associated with was unique and special, I am often most aware of the similarities. Each of them has given me an opportunity to impact the future generations of South Africa in a meaningful way."

As the education activist Malala Yousafzai aptly said, 'One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can save the world.' And Alli adds, 'it's important to become a lifelong learner if you're going to open yourself up for opportunities to come your way.'

This Women's Month, here's to all the women who are not just educators, but innovators, leaders, and advocates, shaping the minds and hearts of future generations of South Africans.

Africa will take her place, not that bestowed upon her by the world



UP UNTIL RECENTLY, HOW many of us had heard this man's name? Yet here he is, in what seems like all humility, the fastest man in the world over 200m. He hails from a country in Southern Africa with roughly 2.6m people called Botswana...On the world stage, displaying his excellence.

On (or is it in) a continent with 54 countries and roughly 1.5bn people there are many like him waiting for

their moment to just show what they are about. All that is needed is the opportunity.

#Africa will take its place, not the place that has been bestowed upon it by the world, and enabled by some of our own doing, but a place where such excellence is seen to be common place and not our flaws and faults. There is much good happening on the continent, the narrative should be shifted. The unwillingness to shifting

the narrative in my humble opinion is seen in something as simple as commentators and those amongst us, who choose to ignore a little thing such as the correct pronunciation of a person's name. Look at these commentators for example, French, Eastern European names, said seamlessly. But Letsile Tebogo, not that difficult, butchered at every opportunity. My name is but 3 letters, I have told people on many occasions how to pronounce it, yet they choose their own way, because, well, in their minds it seems, it doesn't matter because their #narrative is what matters more...

It has taken a while but our story is just beginning, but it relies on us all to celebrate these victories and build on them each of us as Africans and friends of the continent.

We aren't Europe, we aren't Asia, we are a diverse continent with our own story to write and tell. Thanks for the reminder Mr. Tebogo, no doubt your mother still remains proud as it seems she was.

Speaking of mothers, happy #WomensDay to all of you ladies out there.

I am grateful for who you are and the roles you have played in the existence, nurture, growth, and development of people like myself.
Yaw Peprah

Give us our own police station -Jackalas no. 1

ALTHOUGH I AM HOPEFUL THAT crime will be reduced drastically after the project to empower Botswana Police Service (BPS) is completed nationwide, I am not happy that my village, Jackalas No1, is not among the villages who will benefit from the 28 new police stations and staff houses announced by Government.

Jackalas No1 is on the border between Botswana and our northern neighbour, Zimbabwe. Neighbouring villages in the area have always been haunted by problems of illegal immigration and other crimes, including the smuggling of fuel to Zimbabwe through ungazetted points. The police and soldiers posted at this border post have always been overwhelmed by this illegal immigration problem, and other different types of crimes reported almost every day at the Jackalas No1 police station and other police stations in the area.

With the foregoing, one would have expected that Jackalas No1 will be considered for allocation of at least one of the 28 police stations to be constructed soon.

The Jackalas No.1 border with Zimbabwe is the second busiest after Tlokeng because it connects Botswana to all SADC countries in



Mmusi
the north and the rest of Africa. To the Minister of Defense and Security, Rre Kagiso Mmusi, please visit the border again and appreciate what I am talking about.

Please do something as a matter of urgency before this border becomes uncontrollable with all sorts of trucks loading all sorts of goods which I suspect drug dealers take advantage of. The high volume of trucks mostly on weekends and holidays inconveniences tourists and citizens at this border post.

I pray and hope that you will consider bringing a big and fully equipped Police Station with officers and modern equipment/ machinery to this border to ease movement and make travelers and residents in this area secure and safe.

Eddie Mdluli
Jackalas No1

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CHAUNTE LOWE
4-Time Olympian; Author; TEDx Speaker; Breast Cancer Thriver

Date: 4th October, 2024 - 9am - 7pm Venue: Avani Resort & Casino
Standard Price: P3 750.00 | Early Bird: P3 375.00



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For more info, Contact; (+267) 391 4697 | info@pinnalead.com

Business

A gift to borrowers

As BoB reduces rate to 1.9 percent

- Move expected to accelerate economic activity, boosts liquidity
- But economist warn cheap borrowing will widen household debt
- Botswana's household debt at P61 billion as at December 2023

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE BANK OF BOTSWANA (BoB) opened the floodgates for borrowing when its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Thursday announced a significant reduction of the bank rate by 25 basis points from 2.15 percent to 1.9 percent, sending waves of excitement to borrowers from both business and household owners.

The move, according to the central bank, is aimed at boosting economic growth and market liquidity and generate an appetite for borrowing by the businesses and the individuals.

BoB Governor, Cornelius Dekop, said since the last MPC meeting, data released by Statistics Botswana has shown weaker growth than previously forecast due to factors that include the impact of lower external demand for mining sector production (especially diamonds) and weaker performance of the non-mining sectors.

This, he said, has led to reduced export earnings, especially from diamond sales, which is likely to constrain government spending and impact on economic activity.

ECONOMIST
Economics Lecturer at BA ISAGO University Dr Lovemore Taonezvi said the reduction in the bank rate from 2.15% to 1.9% means that individuals and businesses will face lower costs when borrowing from commercial banks.

This, he said, could encourage more borrowing for personal and business investments, as the overall repayment burden will be reduced.

"Yes, this reduction is likely to boost market liquidity. Lower interest rates make borrowing more attractive, increasing



Bank of Botswana Governor, Dekop

the flow of credit into the economy. This can lead to higher spending, investment, and overall economic activity, enhancing liquidity in the market," he added.

Furthermore, he said a reduction in the rates typically benefits borrowers, including commercial banks, in the short to medium term, adding that for borrowers, it

reduces the cost of existing and new loans, improving their cash flow and making debt servicing easier.

immediate effect might be a slight reduction in interest income, the increased borrowing can lead to higher loan volumes and potential profits in the medium term as

more customers take out loans," said Dr Taonezvi.

HOUSEHOLD DEBT
Meanwhile, he said access to credit at lower interest rates could lead to an increase in household debt, as more individuals may be tempted to borrow due to the reduced cost of credit. He noted that while this can stimulate consumer spending and economic growth, it also raises the risk of households overextending themselves financially.

"With Botswana's household debt already at P61 billion, there is a concern that easier credit could exacerbate debt levels, potentially leading to financial strain if interest rates rise in the future or economic conditions deteriorate," he explained.

Overall, Dr Taonezvi said the reduction in interest rates benefits the economy by lowering borrowing costs, which can stimulate investment, consumer spending, and economic growth.

However, he said it may also increase household debt levels and reduce bank profitability in the short term, posing potential risks to financial stability in the long run.

BoB in its 2023 Indebtedness Household Survey 2023 said the household debt stood at P61 billion, comprising P54.1 billion (88.6 percent) commercial bank loans, P6.4 billion (10.5 percent) micro-lender loans and P526 million (0.9 percent) being hire purchase loans. Compared to the 2022 survey, total household loans grew by 4.6 percent from P58.3 billion.

"As a percentage of GDP, total household debt was 23.1 percent in December 2023, from 23.2 percent in December 2022. These rates are significantly lower relative to comparator countries, with the latest data for South Africa (2023) and Mauritius (2022) showing ratios of 64.7 percent and 47.7 percent, respectively," said BoB.

Botswana Post upbeat about digitalisation

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

BOTSWANA POST EXECUTIVES ARE very confident that the company's current 2023-2027 strategy dubbed Innovation for Sustainable Growth is paying off in terms of transformation.

They point to Post advancement in digital transformation which, they say, is critical for boosting their profitability and the balance sheet growth going forward.

Botswana Post Board Chairperson Nathan Kgabi said the strategy is premised on four broad themes of Customer experience; #Smovers & Operational Excellence; Innovation for Sustainable Growth and Market Development.

"Our transformation is targeted at ensuring that there is accessibility of a boutique of services, ranging from public service or private sector service and we achieve this on the backbone of our



Botswana Post CEO, Ramathlakwane

in-house technological advancement, making sure that it is easy to access service hence our mission to provide affordable convenience for you through high quality, diversified postal products and services," said Kgabi.

He also said the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 prompted Botswana Post to review its strategy into interim Strategy 1 (2020 - 2021) and Interim Strategy 2 (2021 - 2022).

Commenting on challenges faced by Botswana Post, Kgabi said one major challenge is the Company's balance sheet and liquidity.

He appreciated that government has appointed the Post as the universal service provider and that there is enabling legislation supporting that mandate.

"The missing part is the full reimbursement of the Universal Service Obligation (USO) as the full reimbursement of USO would allow Botswana Post's operations to be agile, effective and enable the Company to provide its customers with

best service," said Kgabi.

Kgabi highlighted that capitalisation of Botswana Post gives it the strength to invest in the new strategic initiatives that are aligned with the National Agenda, including financial inclusion and financial access.

He added that as part of the sustainable development agenda, Botswana Post was in December 2023, awarded a sponsorship of P1, 112, 000.00 by the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) Disaster Recovery Management (DRM) fund for the development of five solar powered Post Offices and seven satellite phones. Kgabi said the project will commence before the end of this financial year 2024-2025.

Identified locations for the Solar Installations include Mabule, Phitshane Molopo, Ramotlabaki, Bokspits/Tsabong, and Seronga while locations for the satellite phones include at Lethakane (2), Palapye, Francistown, Maun, Gumare & Seronga and Shakawe.

Meanwhile, Botswana Post CEO Cornelius Ramathlakwane said there has been significant growth in important aspects of the business as part of the digitalisation journey.

He said as per the latest customer survey reports their customer service index stands at 91%, adding that the Net Promoter Score stands at 80%, and the Customer Effort Score stands at 84%.

"This is a testament to our ongoing commitment to excellence in service delivery. We continue to enhance customer experiences through innovation, responsiveness and a focus on building lasting, positive relationships with all our stakeholders," he added.

Turning attention to digital media, particularly their social media platforms, he said they are set on driving impressive growth, adding that from July to August, their reach has steadily increased, with a notable contribution from non-followers.

"In fact, 740 800 people viewed our content during this period (July - August 2024), representing a 111.8% increase. This not only indicates that more people are seeing our posts, but also that they are returning to our page, which is a clear sign that we are doing something right," said the upbeat Ramathlakwane.

Absa's PBT up 30%

ABSA BANK BOTSWANA HEREBY advises shareholders that the Company's condensed consolidated interim results for the period ended 30 June 2024 will be higher than those reported for the 6 months period ended 30 June 2023. Profit before tax is expected to be higher, by between 20 - 30 percent, (approximately P90 million to P134 million) than that reported for the 6 months period ended 30 June 2023, which amounted to P448 million. The full details will be provided to shareholders at the announcement of the interim financial results due to be released on Tuesday, 17 September 2024. [bse.co.bw]



Stanbic Bank

Stanbic Bank Botswana Limited

Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) Adjustment

Following the Bank of Botswana MPC decision to reduce the MoPR by 0.25% to 1.90% from 2.15%, the Stanbic Bank Prime Lending rate has been reduced to 6.01% effective 23rd August 2024.

Stanbic Bank Botswana is a member of The Standard Bank Group, an authorised financial services and registered credit provider. Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

Botala gets EIA approval for Leupane

BOTALA ENERGY LTD IS PLEASED TO advise that it has received environmental approval from the Department of Environmental Protection to proceed with commercial development of its Leupane Energy Hub and Industrial Park, as outlined in its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and shown in Figure 1. The approval is subject to conditions that are relatively standard for such projects.

Future developments will need to secure relevant licences and permits from local authorities. The necessary building and planning applications for development of the PV manufacturing plant have been submitted and will be submitted shortly for the solar farm both of which form part of the Leupane Energy Hub and Industrial Park. Kris Martinick, CEO of Botala said: "We are pleased to have secured the necessary environmental approvals following a detailed social and environmental appraisal. Coupled with the previously announced environmental approvals to develop our Serowe gasfield, complete with a gas pipeline to Leupane, we are well positioned to achieve our energy objectives on schedule and in a sustainable and socially responsible manner."

This approval allows Botala and our solar farm partner AAAS Energy to progress



Kris Martinick, CEO of Botala

the planned 250MW solar project at the Leupane Energy Hub and Industrial Park."

Whilst Botala's prime focus is the development of its 100% owned Serowe coal bed methane gas project, our secondary focus, as an energy company, is on developing related renewable (especially solar) energy and other related opportunities. Hence, development of the 1520ha Leupane Energy Hub and Industrial Park adjacent to Palapye in Botswana.

This includes staged development of a 500MW solar farm. Stage-1 is envisaged to be developed in joint venture with AAAS Energy BV (AAAS) of the Netherlands as announced to the ASX on 12 April 2024. A binding agreement requires AAAS to farm-into 50% of the Project for \$1 million, with AAAS being responsible for all initial development capital. A Bankable Feasibility Study is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

FNBB appoints new director

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA Limited (FNBB) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Pinkie Mthopeng-Makepe as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the FNBB Board, effective 20 August 2024. This appointment is subject to ratification by shareholders at the next Annual General Meeting. Pinkie's experience gained over 30 years as an accounting professional cut across various industries. Pinkie's key areas of expertise include financial management & reporting, strategic and financial planning, corporate governance, risk management and leadership. Pinkie has held numerous leadership positions in the mining industry, the most notable being the Chief Financial Officer of Diamond Trading Company from 2016 to 2023, when she retired. Additionally, she has held numerous board positions within various industries. Pinkie is an Associate



Pinkie Mthopeng-Makepe

of The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA). The Board welcomes Pinkie into her new role and is confident that her wealth of experience will be valuable to the FNBB Board. [bse.co.bw]

Botswana Consumer Fair gets underway



THE BOTSWANA CONSUMER FAIR WILL open its doors to the public on Monday 26th August to Sunday 1st September 2024, which marks the Fair's 17th Edition.

The theme of this year's Consumer Fair, "Building a Sustainable Future: Balancing Economic Growth and Environmental Protection." The theme focuses on restoring and

promoting sustainable development in alignment with environment conservation and protection whilst Exhibitors are encouraged to use eco-friendly products and services during the fair.

The tagline is, "Engage, Shop, and Showcase," - it summarises all activities of the fair as follows: Engage - an opportunity for meaningful engagements between exhibitors, business community, families to foster collaborations; Shop - an act of shopping products and services at the Fair whilst promoting economic growth and prosperity; Showcase - a platform for Businesses to Exhibit their products and services.

The Botswana Consumer Fair has positioned itself as the Leading and Largest Premier Fair in the calendar of events in Botswana.

This is an all-inclusive event to create an interactive forum between exhibitors/manufacturers/traders and visitors to provide opportunities to diversify the economy. The Fair also promotes trade between local and foreign exhibitors. Local companies also have a ready platform for brand activation where consumers can activate, interact with different products and service suppliers.

The organisers of the event have tapped into the value of Traders Hub / SMME's such as Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA); Local Enterprise Authority (LEA); Ministry of Entrepreneurship, Debswana and a representation of sponsored businesses by the different District Councils in Botswana. In 2023 we hosted over 70 businesses participating under the Traders Hub

Masire retires from BIHL board

BIHL GROUP WISHES TO INFORM ITS shareholders and other stakeholders of the retirement of Lt. General Teboggo Carter Masire from the Board of Directors of the Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited effective 22 August 2024 as his term comes to an end.

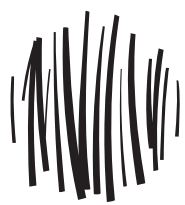
The Board wishes to thank Lt. General Masire for his invaluable contribution to the BIHL Group and wishes him well in his future endeavours. [bse.co.bw]



Masire

Know Your Corporate Leader

Full Name: Motshidisi Badimela
Position: Marketing and Communications Manager
Institution: Metropolitan Life Botswana
Date Started: July 2021
Nature of business: Insurance and Financial Services



MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH HIGH-END ECOTOURISM

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WILDERNESS

I. TRAVEL DESIGNER (Re advertisement)

Purpose of position:

To generate and grow sales whilst maintaining required GP%, great agent relationships and high-level customer service by offering world-class itineraries to exceed agent & guests' expectations. To secure, cost and present product to the agent/guest accurately, efficiently, timeously by creating inspirational luxury travel. Have an excellent knowledge and good geographical understanding of Botswana and advantageous knowing Southern African destinations as well as day-to-day regional logistics.

Key Responsibilities:

- 1. Develop relationships with Agents**
 - Liaise with the Reservations Manager on sales potential and any development on the agent relationship for all bookings.
 - Communicate continuously with agents and delivering service excellence at all times to agents.
- 2. General**
 - Keep updated with all Wilderness Safaris (WS) and 3rd party product (AP), as well as technology updates.
 - Attend all WS and AP training on a weekly basis, this knowledge facilitates exceeding expectations and accuracy in the booking process.
- 3. Quoting bookings - Design, develop and plan guests' journeys**
 - Quote accurately and timeously keeping in mind our strategic and preferred AP and upsell where possible to benefit both WS and the agent.
 - Understand the agents/guests needs in each quote, if email doesn't help clarify then call the agent. Design itineraries around company guidelines and product knowledge e.g. area, variety, product status and service consistency in accommodation standard, distances travelled and time saving aspects.
 - Measure sales and GP% per agent and identifying variations and maintaining good GP's per booking.
- 4. Confirmed Bookings in accordance with company procedures**
 - Once an agent confirms their booking in writing, advise the operations specialist to confirm all services required and to cancel those services not needed.
 - Ensure to flag all VIP guests to the relevant managers & sales team.
 - For special needs/high risk guests, follow the customer care protocol to ensure the guests are safe to travel in the planned journey.

Minimum Requirements:

- Tertiary certificate in Travel & Tourism/hospitality.
- 2-3 years' experience at a Junior or Intermediate level in travel designing.
- Personal or educational regional and international travel experience advantageous.
- Excellent attention to detail.
- Working knowledge of TourPlan and WISH or similar booking/operating system. General product knowledge on Southern & East Africa advantageous.
- Working knowledge of the Wilderness Window platform will be highly advantageous.
- Excellent communication skills both written and oral, in English.
- Foreign language skills advantageous

Competencies:

- Outstanding communication skills.
- Service excellence (Desire to enhance Guest Experience).
- Ability to work under pressure without compromising accuracy
- Problem solving.
- Self-starter with high energy levels.
- Excellent administrator and professional in all dealings.
- Dedicated to customer satisfaction and desire to "go the extra mile". Organizational Skills.

Only candidates who meet the above requirements need to apply by following the link below:

<https://wilderness.simplify.hr/vacancy/ujesac>

Or Apply for this position with us on WhatsApp. Simply send the word 'Hi' to +260761166303



PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE COMMUNICATED WITH.

Closing date: 30 August 2024

Notice

Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) Change

Following the Bank of Botswana's reduction of the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) by 0.25% from 2.15% to 1.90%, Botswana Savings Bank has reduced the Prime Lending Rate from 6.26% to 6.01% effective Thursday 22 August 2024.

A member of the deposit insurance scheme of Botswana



For more info:

Contact: 367 0001

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www.bsb.bw



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Agriculture sector faces growing risks

Allianz Risk Barometer 2024 Highlights Key Challenges and Mitigation Strategies



THE ALLIANZ RISK BAROMETER 2024 has identified the top five risks confronting the agriculture sector, emphasizing critical challenges that necessitate immediate attention. The leading risks include: climate change, natural catastrophes, environmental risks, changes in legislation, and business interruption. Addressing these risks is crucial for the sustainability and growth of the agriculture sector. The report, based on insights from over 3,000 risk management professionals and business leaders, highlights the growing importance of addressing these risks to ensure business continuity and safeguard against potential disruptions.

CLIMATE CHANGE (#1, 59% OF RESPONSES)

Climate change remains the foremost risk for the agriculture sector, with rising temperatures, shifting weather patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events significantly impacting crop yields and livestock health. To mitigate this risk, farmers and agricultural businesses must adopt sustainable practices, such as precision farming, crop diversification, and water-efficient irrigation techniques. Investing in research and development for climate-resilient crops and collaborating with governmental and non-governmental organizations to implement climate adaptation strategies are also essential.

NATURAL CATASTROPHES

Natural catastrophes, including floods, droughts, and storms, continue to pose substantial threats to agriculture. These events can devastate crops, damage

infrastructure, and disrupt supply chains. To mitigate the impact of natural catastrophes, farmers should invest in resilient infrastructure, implement advanced weather forecasting systems, and develop comprehensive disaster preparedness plans. Insurance coverage tailored to agricultural risks can also provide financial protection and support recovery efforts in the aftermath of natural disasters.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Environmental risks, such as soil degradation, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss, have emerged as a new and significant threat to agriculture. These risks can reduce agricultural productivity and sustainability. To address environmental risks, farmers should adopt conservation practices, such as no-till farming, cover cropping, and integrated pest management. Governments and agricultural organizations should promote policies and initiatives that support sustainable land and water management practices, as well as the restoration of degraded ecosystems.

CHANGES IN LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

Changes in legislation and regulation have also surfaced as a new risk for the agriculture sector. The dynamic regulatory environment can impact everything from land use and environmental standards to trade policies and subsidies. To navigate these changes, agricultural businesses should engage with policymakers, participate in industry associations, and stay informed about legislative developments. Implementing robust compliance

management systems and seeking legal advice can help ensure adherence to new regulations and minimize potential disruptions.

BUSINESS INTERRUPTION

Business interruption has moved down to the fifth position but remains a significant concern for the agriculture sector. Disruptions can result from various factors, including supply chain issues, labor shortages, and equipment failures. To mitigate the risk of business interruption, agricultural businesses should develop comprehensive business continuity plans, diversify their supply chains, and invest in modern, reliable equipment. Regular maintenance and contingency planning are crucial for minimizing downtime and ensuring operational continuity.

Mitigation Strategies and Sector Collaboration

Addressing these top risks requires a collaborative approach and strategic investments in key areas. Agricultural stakeholders should:

1. Adopt Sustainable Practices: Implement precision farming, crop diversification, and water-efficient irrigation to combat climate change.
2. Invest in Resilient Infrastructure: Enhance disaster preparedness and leverage advanced weather forecasting tools to mitigate natural catastrophes.
3. Promote Environmental Conservation: Embrace conservation practices and support policies for sustainable land and water management.
4. Engage with Policymakers: Stay informed about legislative changes and ensure compliance with new regulations.
5. Develop Business Continuity Plans: Diversify supply chains and invest in reliable equipment to prevent business interruptions.

By proactively addressing these risks, the agriculture sector can enhance its resilience, ensure food security, and drive sustainable growth.

About the Allianz Risk Barometer

The Allianz Risk Barometer is an annual business risk ranking compiled by Allianz Group's corporate insurer Allianz Commercial, together with other Allianz entities. It incorporates the views of 3,069 risk management experts in 92 countries and territories including CEOs, risk managers, brokers and insurance experts and is being published for the 13th time.

Crafting the Blueprint for Winning Gen Z's Loyalty: Palesa Sealetsa

MARKETING SYMPOSIUM 2024 SAW industry leaders converge to unravel the enigmatic world of Generation Z, and among the standout voices was digital executive Palesa Sealetsa. As a panelist, she addressed one of the most pressing challenges for brands today: how to connect with the elusive Gen Z demographic.

Palesa Sealetsa is no stranger to the intricacies of the digital landscape, and her insights at the symposium resonated deeply with an audience eager to decode the Gen Z puzzle. Tasked with discussing the "Roadmap to Win the Gen Z," Sealetsa began by dismantling the common misconception that Gen Z's short attention span is a liability for brands.

"This generation isn't inattentive; they're discerning," Sealetsa emphasized. "They were born in the 4th Industrial Revolution, where digital transformation, IoT, and automation are second nature. For them, technology isn't a tool; it's a way of life. The key to winning them over is understanding that their choices are driven by a deep sense of purpose and values."

Sealetsa explained that unlike previous generations, Gen Z is inherently selective about where they invest their time and energy. This generation grew up with technology at their fingertips, but with that comes the challenge of information overload. For them, every decision is a personal one - rooted in a need for fulfillment and aligned with their core values.

"Their upbringing in a fully digital world makes them fundamentally different from Millennials, who witnessed the transition from analog to digital. Gen Z doesn't just consume brands - they evaluate them. They are the 'Why?' generation, constantly questioning the systems around them, including the brands they choose to support," she added.



Sealetsa

Sealetsa's insights extended beyond the commercial, touching on the broader implications of understanding this generation. She cited recent uprisings in Kenya, dubbed the 'Gen Z Uprisings', as a stark reminder of the power and influence this generation wields.

"When Gen Z feels unheard or oppressed, they react - sometimes in ways that can disrupt entire systems. Brands need to recognize that ignoring this generation's voice is a perilous mistake," she warned.

During the panel discussion, Sealetsa urged brands to move beyond traditional methods and engage Gen Z in meaningful conversations.

"Sit down with a Gen Z individual and ask them what fulfills them. Ask them about their values and interests. These conversations will not only help you understand them better but also win their loyalty."

Brands that listen and adapt to these insights will thrive," she advised.

Sealetsa's advice was not just theoretical; she offered practical strategies for connecting with Gen Z. For instance, when asked how to market products like insurance to this demographic, she emphasized the importance of storytelling. "You need to simulate experiences that resonate with them - show them how your product fits into their lives in a way that's relatable and relevant."

She also addressed the challenge of keeping up with Gen Z's rapidly changing interests.

"Adaptability shouldn't be reactive; it should be strategic."

Many brands fail because they try to mimic what others are doing without understanding that their audience is different.

Focus on your unique brand message, grounded in thorough research, and you'll find success," she counseled. Sealetsa's message was clear: Brands must differentiate themselves by truly understanding and catering to Gen Z's unique perspective.

"Their purchasing power is growing, and their influence on the global economy is undeniable."

"Ignoring them is setting your business up for failure," she concluded.

Palesa Sealetsa's participation in the Marketing Symposium 2024 has solidified her position as a thought leader in the digital marketing space.

Her deep understanding of Gen Z and her strategic approach to engaging this powerful demographic offer a roadmap for brands looking to thrive in a rapidly evolving market.

As businesses navigate the complexities of connecting with Gen Z, Sealetsa's insights provide not just a guide but a challenge - to think differently, act purposefully, and most importantly, to listen to the voices of a generation that will shape the future.

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Qatar Airways acquires 25 per cent stake in Airlink

THE INVESTMENT WILL FURTHER cement Qatar Airways' position as a key driver in realising economic and business potential on the African continent. Doha – Qatar Airways Group has acquired a 25 per cent stake in Southern Africa's premier independent regional carrier, Airlink. The announcement is a continuation of the multi award-winning airline's ambition to further develop its operations across the African continent. The investment in Airlink – which flies to more than 45 destinations in 15 African countries – will enhance a code-sharing partnership between the two airlines. The deal will bolster Qatar Airways' Africa growth strategy and cement its role as a key driver to the continent's economic success. On the announcement, Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer, Engr. Badr

Mohammed Al-Meer, said: "Our investment in Airlink further demonstrates how integral we see Africa being to our business' future."

This partnership not only demonstrates our confidence in Airlink, as a company that is resilient, agile, financially robust and governed on sound principles, but also in Africa as a whole, showing huge potential that I am delighted we are able to help start realising."

Airlink Chief Executive, Rodger Foster, said: "Having Qatar Airways as an equity partner is a powerful endorsement of Airlink and echoes our faith in the markets we currently serve and plan to add to our network."

This transaction will unlock growth by providing efficiencies of scale, increasing our capacity and expanding our marketing reach.

By bolstering Airlink and its business, this

investment will strengthen all of the existing airline partnerships Airlink has nurtured over the years."

The partnership between Qatar Airways and Airlink seeks to align both carriers' loyalty programs – Qatar Airways Privilege Club and Airlink Skybucks.

Qatar Airways currently flies to 29 destinations in Africa, and there's been strong growth in the market with new destinations added to the Qatar Airways network on the continent since December 2020.

Abidjan, Abuja, Accra, Harare, Kano, Luanda, Lusaka, and Port Harcourt are the African cities newly added to the extensive Qatar Airways network, while Cairo and Alexandria were resumed.

<https://www.qatarairways.com/press-releases/en-WW/240485-qatar-airways-acquires-25-per-cent-stake-in-airlink?>



Stocks poised for further gains as momentum builds

GLOBAL EQUITY MARKETS ARE poised to continue their upward march, driven by a powerful mix of bullish sentiment and favorable market dynamics, predicts the CEO of one of the world's largest independent financial advisory and asset management organizations.

The prediction from Nigel Green of deVere Group comes as Asian equities gained on the heels of a buoyant session on Wall Street, and the stage is set for European stocks to follow suit on Tuesday.

The MSCI ACWI Index, a broad measure that tracks both emerging and developed market equities, is heading for its ninth consecutive day of gains, marking the longest run of increases since December.

This strong performance is underpinned by optimism in the US and a series of factors that look likely to keep the rally going for weeks to come.

"The rally on Wall Street has been nothing short of impressive, with the S&P 500 logging its eighth consecutive day of gains," says Nigel Green.

"This bullish momentum in the US is being driven by several key factors, including a surge in corporate buybacks, a powerful force that has historically supported stock prices.

"Companies have been aggressively repurchasing their own shares, reducing the supply of stock available in the market and driving prices higher. This trend is expected to continue in the coming weeks, providing a solid foundation for further gains."

Momentum traders have also jumped on the bandwagon, adding fuel to the rally. These traders, who seek to capitalize on short-term price trends, have been drawn in by the strong upward movement in stocks, further propelling the market higher.

"As more traders and investors pile into the market, the rally gains additional momentum, creating a self-reinforcing cycle of rising prices," notes the deVere Group CEO.

He continues: "Beyond the technical factors driving the market, there is a growing sense of optimism among investors that the Federal Reserve may soon shift to a more accommodative stance.

"The annual economic symposium in Jackson Hole is taking place this week,



Nigel Green of deVere Group

where central bankers from around the world gather to discuss monetary policy, and many market participants are betting that the Fed will signal its readiness to start cutting interest rates.

"This anticipation has injected fresh enthusiasm into the market, as lower rates would make equities more attractive relative to bonds and other fixed-income investments."

The Fed's potential pivot comes at a time when inflationary pressures have begun to moderate, giving the central bank more room to ease without stoking further price increases.

With inflation showing signs of stabilizing and economic growth remaining resilient, the Fed may feel comfortable taking its foot off the brake and providing additional support to the economy through rate cuts.

This prospect has been warmly received by the market, as lower borrowing costs would not only boost corporate profitability but also make equities more attractive as an asset class.

Nigel Green adds: "Current market positioning and capital flows are also playing a crucial role in sustaining the rally."

"Many investors who were previously cautious have found themselves underinvested in this rising market, leading to a scramble to buy stocks and avoid

missing out on further gains.

"This FOMO – fear of missing out – has been a powerful driver of stock prices in recent weeks. At the same time, sellers seem to be running out of steam, with fewer investors willing to bet against the market in the face of such strong momentum."

The global economic backdrop, while not without its challenges, remains broadly supportive of higher equity prices.

In the US, consumer spending continues to hold up, supported by a strong labor market and rising wages. While there are concerns about a potential slowdown in growth, particularly in Europe and China, these risks are being outweighed by the prospect of monetary easing and the ongoing strength of corporate earnings.

Corporate earnings, in particular, have been a bright spot in this rally. Despite concerns about economic headwinds, many companies have reported better-than-expected results.

As the rally continues, there are, of course, risks that could derail the market's upward trajectory.

Geopolitical tensions, unexpected economic data, or a shift in central bank policy could all act as potential headwinds.

"However, for now, the bulls are firmly in control, and the path of least resistance appears to be higher," says deVere's CEO.

TENDER NOTICE

Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) is a parastatal body set up through an Act of Parliament, in the Botswana Tourism Act [CAP 42:10] with the mandate to market and position Botswana as a premier tourist destination of choice; promote investment in the tourism sector; as well as to grade and classify tourism facilities. BTO wishes to invite 100% Citizen owned companies to bid for the below tender;

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR REFURBISHMENT WORKS FOR SEBOBA NATURE AND RECREATIONAL PARK.

TENDER NO: BTO007/0609-24-25/REFURBISHWORKSEBOBA

PPADB Codes: Code 01 Building Construction, Sub Code 01, Building Construction, Grade C.

There will be a self-funded compulsory site visit at Kasane, Seboba Nature Park on 26 August 2024 @ 1000hrs.

Tender documents will be available with effect from **Tuesday 20th August 2024** upon presentation of proof of payment.

The closing date for submissions is 06th September 2024 at 10:00hrs.

The potential Bidders are required to provide a quotation for the minimum specifications stipulated in the Invitation To Tender (ITT).

However, where the Bidder wishes to provide any alternative solutions, they should nonetheless submit a quotation as per the original specification contained in the ITT. There shall be strictly no erasing on the tender submission.

Each document is purchased at a non-refundable fee of **BWP500.00 (Five Hundred Pula Only)** made in favor of BTO and payable through Bank deposit or Electronic transfer (EFT), the banking details are as provided below.

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR PROVISION OF ACCPAC SUPPORT SERVICES OVER A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS.

TENDER NO: BTO002/0509-24-25/ACCPAC

PPRA CODE: PPADB CODE: 120 ICT Technical Support Services

The closing date for submissions is 05 September 2024 at 10:00hrs.

Tender documents will be available with effect from **August 20th, 2024**, upon presentation of proof of payment

The potential Bidders are required to provide a quotation for the minimum specifications stipulated in the Invitation To Tender (ITT).

However, where the Bidder wishes to provide any alternative solutions, they should nonetheless submit a quotation as per the original specification contained in the ITT. There shall be strictly no erasing on the tender submission.

Each document is purchased at a non-refundable fee of **BWP250.00 (Two Hundred and fifty Pula)** made in favor of BTO and payable through Bank deposit or Electronic transfer (EFT), the banking details are as provided below.

Account Name: Botswana Tourism Organisation
Bank Name: First National Bank of Botswana
Branch: Corporate
Branch Code: 28-22-67
Swift Code: FIRNBWGX
Account Numbers: 62098945804 (Current Account)

Once the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or deposit is made, the proof of payment or stamped deposit slip should be attached and a request for the tender document submitted to;

procurement@botswanaturism.co.bw for issuance of a single copy of the Invitation to Tender Document (ITT) via email. The name of the company and tender number should be referenced for identity.

For any enquiries regarding this RFQ, kindly contact: Email: procurement@botswanaturism.co.bw

NB: All enquiries should be made at least seven (7) days before closing date.

www.botswanaturism.co.bw

Fintech Association hosts Successful Power Breakfast



THE FINTECH ASSOCIATION OF Botswana successfully hosted its second Power Breakfast event today, bringing together over 50 professionals from key sectors, including Government, Fintechs, Banks, Insurance, Academia, and Regulatory bodies. The event, held in Gaborone, was supported by sponsors Real Pay, Mukuru, and the Botswana Innovation

Fund.

The Power Breakfast focused on driving forward Botswana's financial inclusion agenda, building on the momentum established at the association's previous events. The gathering served as a platform for critical discussions on enhancing financial services accessibility, regulatory collaboration, and fostering innovation

within the fintech sector.

The event commenced with opening remarks from Tavonga Muchuchuti, President of the Fintech Association of Botswana. Muchuchuti highlighted the significant strides made since the inaugural Power Breakfast, particularly the progress in addressing digital finance scams, which has led to the successful raising of the association's first grant fund. He also announced the upcoming launch of the Botswana Scam Radar in November, a major initiative aimed at protecting consumers and restoring trust in the digital finance sector.

The keynote speech was delivered by Sarah Molale, Deputy Secretary for Finance at the Ministry of Finance, who is leading the financial inclusion agenda within the government. Ms. Molale provided an insightful overview of the achievements and challenges of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) and Roadmap 2015-2021. She highlighted key successes, including the reduction of financial exclusion by 12% and the extension of financial services to lower-income households and rural areas.

Looking forward, Molale outlined the NFIS and Roadmap 2024-2030, emphasizing the government's commitment to creating a unified approach across all ministries to achieve shared financial inclusion goals. She stressed the importance of advancing digital financial services, enhancing financial literacy, and developing a more inclusive financial infrastructure to ensure that no one is left behind.

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BELLA Basin Mixer **P444⁹⁵**

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BELLA Sink Mixer Wall Type **P439⁹⁵**

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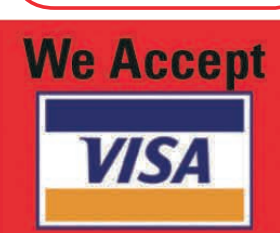
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Levy Fund uplifts Creative Arts

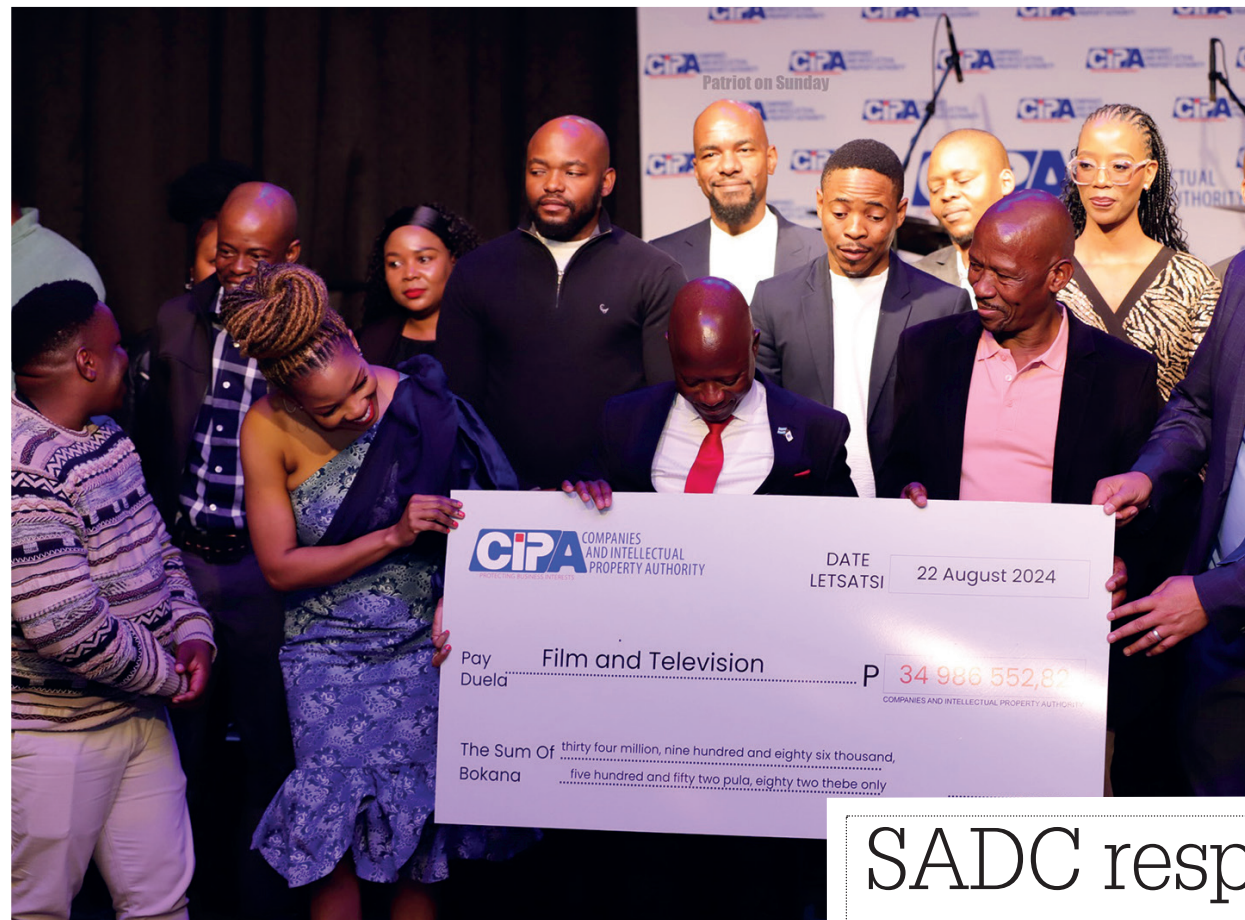
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THE CREATIVE ARTS SECTOR IN Botswana, long celebrated for its cultural significance, is increasingly being recognised for its economic potential. The Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) is at the forefront of this shift, with initiatives like the Levy on Technical Devices Fund (LTDF) playing a pivotal role.

At a recent ceremony announcing the latest LTDF grant recipients, Minister of Trade and Industry Mmusi Kgafela reaffirmed the government's commitment to using the creative arts as a catalyst for economic growth. With 81 projects awarded over P60 million in funding, this initiative represents a significant move towards integrating the creative industry into Botswana's broader economic diversification strategy. The grants aim to nurture local talent and boost content creation, signalling a strategic push to enhance the sector's contribution to GDP and employment.

The numbers

The 81 projects funded under the LTDF span a range of creative disciplines. These include four animation projects receiving P2.9 million, five music projects awarded P4.1 million, and three broadcasting initiatives funded at P3 million. Traditional visual arts saw three projects funded with P1.7 million, while one theatre and performing arts project received P960,000. The IT sector was also supported, with six software and IT development projects receiving P9.5 million. Nine book publishing projects secured P3.8 million, and the largest share of the funding, P35 million, was



allocated to 40 film and television projects.

Caretaker Registrar General Joel Ramaphoi noted that this year's cycle saw the largest number of approved projects since the LTDF's inception in 2013, with 904 of the 1,180 submissions advancing past the initial stages. He also highlighted a notable improvement in the quality and sustainability of proposals, though a clear disparity remained between submissions from urban and rural areas.

CIPA Copyright Administrator Keitseng Nkhai Monyatsi attributed the increase in applications to a nationwide educational tour aimed at

raising awareness of CIPA's mandate.

"The workshops helped applicants understand the application process and what is needed to access the funds," she said. However, she noted that many applications faltered at the compliance stage due to minor errors, such as failing to submit the required number of copies, uncertified documents, or missing deadlines.

Monyatsi also acknowledged the challenges faced in reaching persons with disabilities, initially resulting in low attendance at workshops. In response, CIPA adapted its approach, including printing 30 Braille copies of application forms, which were

distributed in Gaborone, Serowe, Maun, and Francistown, yielding two applications from visually impaired individuals. "We've observed that proposals from rural areas often lack detail, so we're introspecting to find ways to make the fund more accessible to persons with disabilities and those in rural communities," she added.

Value Chains

Creative entrepreneur Mduzuzi Madzwamuse, known as 'Mdu Tha Party', received P1 million under the Film and Television category for his company, Loeto La Ka. He praised the application process as accessible and well-defined, particularly compared to other funding mechanisms. "The LTDF 'held our hands' throughout the process, ensuring the guidelines were clear and providing ample time to prepare," he said.

Madzwamuse's television programme, 'Bots Top 5', which airs on Channel O, is set to benefit significantly from the LTDF grant. He plans to expand his team from five to 30 for the production of Season 2.

This includes employing legal professionals for copyright management, graphic designers, producers, social media managers, videographers, software editors, and makeup artists. By leveraging his audience of four million viewers across 54 African countries, Madzwamuse aims to showcase Botswana's talent beyond Gaborone, particularly highlighting those in rural areas.

In contrast, Thabo Baseki, founder of Blindsight and one of only two successful applicants with disabilities, encountered challenges with the application tool, which was only available in PDF format. "My screen

reader couldn't help me fill in the form. CIPA could consider using online platforms like Google Forms or Microsoft Forms in the future, which are compatible with screen readers," he suggested. Baseki also noted the difficulties posed by the requirement to hand-deliver forms, which could be a barrier for those without mobility aids.

Despite these challenges, both Madzwamuse and Baseki are confident that the LTDF grants will enable them to create significant employment opportunities. Baseki's project aims to dismantle barriers to inclusion for visually impaired and blind individuals by producing accessible content, including videos, podcasts, television programming, and merchandise. He anticipates employing voice-over artists, graphic designers, videographers, and AI software developers to realise his vision.

SADC responds swiftly to mpox concerns

■ Remains open and safe for tourism

IN LIGHT OF RECENT GLOBAL health declarations regarding Mpox, the SADC Business Council Tourism Alliance reaffirms that Southern Africa remains a safe and welcoming destination for tourism. The Tourism Alliance emphasises the region's swift and coordinated response to the situation, while highlighting the minimal risk to travellers.

On August 14, 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) for the second time in two years. This was followed by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) declaring a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS) on August 13, 2024. These declarations were prompted by the emergence of a new strain (clade Ib) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and its spread to neighbouring countries.

Tshifhiwa Tshivengwa, Chairperson of the SADC Business Council Tourism Alliance, stated: "We take these declarations seriously and commend the proactive approach of global and regional health authorities. However, it's crucial to understand that the risk to travellers in Southern Africa remains low. Our member countries are implementing robust measures to manage and mitigate any potential spread of the virus."

SADC member states have responded swiftly to the situation:

South Africa: The Department of Health has reported 24 cases of Mpox (clade Ib) as of August 2024, primarily affecting people who have had physical contact with an infectious person.

The country has implemented enhanced surveillance and contact tracing protocols.

Botswana: As of August 16, 2024, Botswana has intensified screening for Mpox at selected ports of entry, including Kazungula, Maun airport, and Gaborone Airport, demonstrating proactive measures to prevent the spread of the virus.



Tshifhiwa Tshivengwa

Angola: As of August 16, 2024, Angola has not registered any cases of Mpox but has reinforced its contingency plan, particularly focusing on border control with the DRC and Congo.

Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi: These countries have not reported Mpox cases but have heightened surveillance and preparedness measures.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: While experiencing a

significant outbreak, the DRC is working closely with WHO and Africa CDC to implement control measures. It's important to note that typical tourist destinations in Southern Africa are far from affected areas.

The SADC Business Council Tourism Alliance further wishes to clarify its position on Mpox and travel to Southern Africa:

Low risk for tourists: The risk of Mpox transmission in Southern African countries remains lower than

in many traveller source markets. Typical tourist activities do not put travellers at high risk for contracting Mpox.

No travel restrictions: As of August 2024, there are no widespread travel restrictions related to Mpox for Southern African countries. Only Canada has issued a level 2 advisory, simply recommending realistic precautions.

Safe tourist activities: Safari and wildlife viewing activities are safe. There is no increased risk of Mpox transmission from being in forests or around wildlife.

Proactive management: SADC member states have implemented surveillance, contact tracing, and treatment protocols to effectively manage potential Mpox cases.

Economic importance of tourism: Tourism is vital for our economies and conservation efforts. We encourage travellers to maintain their plans to visit our region while staying informed about health guidelines.

Advice for travellers

While we emphasise the low risk, we advise travellers to:

Practice good hygiene, including frequent hand washing.

Avoid close contact with individuals who appear ill or have visible skin lesions.

Stay informed about health guidelines in their specific destination.

Seek medical attention if they develop symptoms such as fever or unexplained skin rash.

"We want to reassure our global partners and potential visitors that Southern Africa continues to offer safe, unforgettable experiences," Tshivengwa added. "Our member countries have taken proactive steps to manage health concerns, ensuring that tourism activities remain low-risk and enjoyable."

The SADC Business Council Tourism Alliance remains committed to providing accurate, up-to-date information and ensuring a safe, welcoming environment for all who wish to experience the wonders of Southern Africa.

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Kokoro 200 Bike race

BY POPULAR DEMAND, RD Motor Sport and Botswana Motor Sport will once again be hosted by Kokoro's Feedlot and Campsite in Paje village for the 5th cycle of the 2024 motorbike race.

This year the race is anticipated to yield a larger support crowd and create greater impact. This year's theme is "Fight Against Alcohol Abuse, GBV: Let's throw dust at Defilement, Rape and Drug abuse".

This theme recognizes that Paje and surrounding villages are heavily scourged by these hideous crimes and as Racers we are concerned and would like to gather all relevant stakeholders to raise awareness against them.

The 200 km Bike race will be held in Paje on the 31st August 2024 from 0900hrs. The race is anticipated to be preceded by a whole-day program on the 30th August 2024 which will

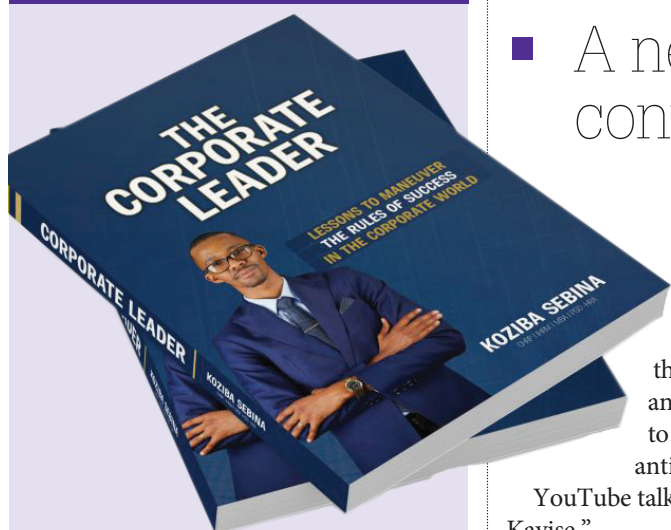
begin with a walk at 0600hrs, Guest speaker's speech, some out-door games, a panel discussion, cultural and Jazz night among other activities.

Last year on the 9th September 2023 Road Development Motorsport and Botswana Motor Sport hosted its 4th motorbike race in collaboration with Kokoro's Feedlot and Campsite for the first time in Paje village. The race with a purpose was carried out under the theme "Hokotsa Dino,

Betsa Sekuta Eseng Motho" with the aim to express awareness against Alcohol abuse and Gender based violence.

The race successfully attracted over 5000 residents of Paje and surrounding villages who came to enjoy the festivities of the event as well as source services from various government and non-government officials.

Book Launch:



The Corporate Leader

A new book, "The Corporate Leader," written by Koziba Sebina, who is an author, Leadership Expert and an HR Professional, will be launched on 31st August 2024 at Botho University.

Event Highlights:

- Speeches and Launch: An engaging session where key themes from the book will be discussed.
- Networking: A chance to connect with other professionals and leaders.
- Book Signing: An opportunity to have your copy of the book signed.

"The Corporate Leader" explores the essential traits and strategies required for effective leadership in today's corporate environment. This launch event will be an inspiring occasion for professionals and aspiring leaders alike.

'AFTER DARK 2' returns

■ A new chapter of authentic conversations begins

KAYISE NGQULA, the dynamic powerhouse force behind the brand that champions authenticity and vulnerability, is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated return of her YouTube talk show, "After Dark with Kayise."

Launched in 2020, just a year after her husband's passing, the show was designed to delve into and spark conversations about loss, human connection, healing, and personal growth. It quickly became a success, drawing hundreds of thousands of viewers from around the world.

Season two introduces a refreshed format, promising a new and insightful take on life's most profound conversations. It will once again showcase a blend of public figures and ordinary people discussing genuine topics.

"After Dark with Kayise" has always been more than just a talk show; it's a vibrant extension of Kayise's commitment to fostering genuine human connections and supporting personal growth.

As the centerpiece of her brand, the show embodies Kayise's dedication to bridging gaps through open-hearted dialogue and shared experiences.

The return of "After Dark with Kayise" marks a new chapter in creating a safe space for candid discussions on relationships, personal growth, and the journey towards self-mastery.

With each episode, Kayise continues to



explore the delicate balance between light and darkness, reflecting on the universal experiences that connect us all while delving into the complexities of the human experience.

Kayise is rooted in authenticity, vulnerability, and empathetic connection.

The essence of the brand is to amplify these values through meaningful conversations that resonate deeply with individuals seeking to illuminate their inner selves. The show's creative strategy is designed to build a robust online presence, foster a supportive community, and attract brand sponsorships that align with these principles.

"After Dark with Kayise" is not just an online show; it's a movement towards embracing our shared humanity and inspiring personal growth through authentic dialogue. I invite everyone to tune in and be part of this empowering journey" affirmed Kayise Ngqula as the first episode went live last night.

Her presence as a thought leader is amplified through "After Dark with Kayise", leveraging her life experiences and personal anecdotes to engage audiences in transformative dialogues. By strategically positioning her brand in the realm of influential conversations, Kayise is set to inspire a collective evolution towards self-mastery and growth.

To celebrate the launch, viewers are invited to subscribe to the "After Dark with Kayise" YouTube channel and join the conversation on social media. Connect with Kayise and the show on Instagram @kayise_ngqula and @afterdark_withkayise, and don't miss an episode by subscribing to the YouTube channel here. Also check out her out on Facebook, X and Tiktok.

Mission Impossible combat tobacco use



Segotso

LOVE BOTSWANA IN PARTNERSHIP with the Ministry of Health is excited to announce the second Super H.E.R.O. Camp; an initiative funded by the Levy on Tobacco and Tobacco Product's Fund as part of the Preventing Youth Tobacco Use in Ngamiland Project. The day camps begin on Monday, 26th of August and occur on weekdays until Friday the 6th of September, in a supervised, tobacco-free environment, at The Life Centre. The camp provides 250 children and youth with a crucial opportunity to gain knowledge and skills to resist tobacco use. The project delivers life skills programming to primary and secondary schools through the Metro World Child in primary schools and Reach4Life in secondary schools. The first week will be dedicated to Metro World Child, catering to children aged 9 to 12 years, providing them with engaging and age-appropriate life skills programming. The second week will focus on Reach4Life for teenagers aged 13 to 15 years.

Registration for the camp was conducted through local schools participating in the aforementioned life skills programs. Participants will benefit from education on the dangers of tobacco, psychological support, sports and engaging activities that promote a healthy lifestyle.

The camp's primary objectives are to raise awareness about tobacco dangers,

encourage tobacco abstinence, and improve participants' academic performance, behaviour, and overall well-being, while also supporting their artistic and athletic development.

Camp Super H.E.R.O. stands for Honouring Ourselves, Empowering for Excellence, Reinforcing Relationships, and Overcoming Obstacles. This approach focuses on building self-respect, striving for personal excellence, fostering supportive relationships, and developing resilience to face life's challenges without resorting to tobacco.

The first Camp Super H.E.R.O. occurred from the 22nd April to the 3rd of May 2024 with more than 250 children and youth in attendance. The theme for this term's camp, "Mission Possible," encourages participants to believe in their ability to overcome challenges and achieve their goals, reinforcing the program's commitment to empowering youth for a healthier, tobacco-free future.

"My message to these kids is that you are the champions and heroes of your own lives. Your future self is depending on you to take care of your body, mind, and spirit. Wake up today and be a hero for your life—learn new skills that can help you achieve this, one step at a time. This is a Mission Possible. Love you all," said The camp's coordinator, Emmanuel Segotso.

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Sport

P1.15 m: Debswana raises U-20 team funding

▪ Injects additional P533,900 on 2024 World Athletics Championship preparations



Team Botswana

LAGAGO TAMOCHA
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

BOTSWANA'S U20 WORLD ATHLETICS Championship team set to compete in Lima, Peru, has received a P533,900 boost from Debswana Diamond Company, in collaboration with De Beers Global Sightholder Sales, a subsidiary of De Beers Group.

The additional funds will cover operational and logistical needs of the athletes, their coaches, and technical support team during the championship. This new funding complements Debswana's ongoing sponsorship commitment of P9 million, pledged over three years starting in 2021, aimed at bolstering the national athletics team. With this latest contribution, the total financial support provided for the team this year has reached P1,153,900, reinforcing

Debswana's dedication to nurturing athletic talent in Botswana.

At the send-off ceremony on August 22nd, Rachel Mothibatsela, Executive Head of Corporate Affairs at Debswana, emphasized the significance of sports development as a means to create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods particularly for out-of-school youth. She noted the success of Botswana's senior athletics team as evidence of what can be achieved through consistent investment in sports.

"Sports development is about more than just nurturing talent; it's about providing young people with the chance to build meaningful futures. Our senior athletics team serves as a powerful example of what can be accomplished when we commit to supporting our athletes," Mothibatsela stated. She also expressed pride in the gender balance within the U20 team, which

includes equal representation of male and female athletes, reflecting progress towards gender equity in sports.

Itumeleng Ramsden, Head of Corporate Affairs at De Beers Sightholder Group, shared similar sentiments, highlighting Botswana's wealth, both in its natural resources and in the talents of its people. "Botswana's true strength lies in its people, especially our athletes who carry the pride of the nation with them. We are honoured to stand behind them as they strive for excellence on the world stage," Ramsden remarked.

The additional support provided by Debswana and De Beers Sightholder Group will ensure that the athletes are accompanied by a team of professionals essential to their performance. Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) President, Moses Bantsi, acknowledged the importance

of such sponsorships in enabling athletes to perform at their best. He highlighted the critical role of the support staff, including physiotherapists, dieticians, and psychologists, who work tirelessly to ensure the athletes are well-prepared, both physically and mentally.

"These professionals are the unsung heroes behind our athletes' success. They ensure the team functions as a cohesive unit, ready to compete at the highest level," Bantsi said. He further emphasized that the financial support provided not only relieves the burden of competing internationally but also contributes significantly to the athletes' overall well-being and performance.

With the backing of Debswana and De Beers Sightholder Group, Botswana's young athletes are well-equipped to represent their country with pride and ambition, embodying the hopes of a nation.

for disabled pupils at Ratsie Sethako Primary School, refurbishing the Palapye Secondary School library, providing playground equipment for Sehunou Primary School, and constructing two fully equipped outdoor gym facilities for the Palapye community.

The proceeds from the 2023 event were instrumental in installing a solar project at the Cheshire Foundation home in Palapye, valued at P300,000. The cycling challenge features 12 categories; and award prizes to Position 1,2 and 3.

U20 World Athletics Championship

Quest for Glory in Peru



U-20 Team with their coaches

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IN A MOMENT THAT MARKS BOTSWANA'S growing reputation in global athletics, a team of 12 elite junior athletes—comprising six males (Ernest Kumevu, Thabang Monngathipa, Keorapetse Oreokame, Lefatshe Seleka, Justice Oratile, Fredrick Mathathi) and six females (Sethunya Majama, Warona Thonisani, Same Mhutsiwa, Wedu Matiwe, Ame Bogoma, and Kelebonye Otele)—departed for Lima, Peru, on Friday, 23rd August, to compete in the U20 World Athletics Championship. The team, widely regarded as the nation's future stars, is seen as a key component of Botswana's ambitious plan to secure five gold medals at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

High Expectations

The athletes were sent off in style following a ceremony organised by their sponsors, Debswana and the Botswana Athletics Association (BAA), after an intense training camp that began on 11th August. Expectations are high for the young team, especially given Botswana's recent achievements in the international athletics arena. The nation's impressive record in sprint and men's relay events, highlighted by Letsile Tebogoo's 200m gold medal and the men's 4x400m relay silver medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics, has only added to the anticipation.

Hurdles, Optimism

Team Manager Isaac Mbise expressed satisfaction with the preparations, despite initial challenges. "We are confident that we will bring home medals. Our preparation was solid, though it started later than we would have liked due to sponsorship struggles. Without the intervention of Debswana and the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC), we would have only been able to send the men's 4x400m relay and the women's 200m," Mbise noted.

Mbise remains optimistic, citing the success of previous junior athletes, including Tebogoo Letsile, Collen Kebinatshipi, and Anthony Pesela, who have transitioned to senior-level success. "This is the pathway we hope to follow with this group as well. We have a strong team, and I believe we are capable of winning medals. We have juniors clocking impressive times of 45 seconds. Our team is balanced and positioned within the medal bracket," he added.

Female Representation

Head Coach Nico Keita Manyapedza echoed Mbise's confidence, particularly regarding the potential for the men's 4x400m relay team to bring home gold. "We have a talented group, and it's no surprise they're earmarked for success in 2028. These games are part of our long-term preparations. If injuries don't impede us, the men's 4x400m should return with gold on the 3rd. Their times are superior to those of any junior teams that have preceded them," Manyapedza remarked.

However, Manyapedza also voiced concern over the low representation of women in

Botswana's elite sports, an issue starkly reflected on the international stage. "We ensured the girls were included, even though their times were less convincing, because we want to use this as a foundation for 2028. The girls' times are slower, partly because they often struggle with self-esteem and internalised beliefs that boys are naturally superior. This competition is an opportunity to motivate them and, hopefully, see them achieve personal bests in the 4x100m relay, with the goal of reaching the finals," he explained.

Manyapedza called for stakeholders to focus on retention strategies for female athletes, noting that they face unique challenges. "Girls often miss training more frequently than boys. For instance, while a boy might walk to the training grounds if he lacks transport fare, a girl faces greater risks, particularly when returning home in the dark, which puts her in danger. Addressing these issues, especially for those from impoverished backgrounds, requires dedicated funding," he stressed.

Sethunya Majama, the girls' team captain and member of Lefika Athletics Club, echoed the coach's concerns about the challenges facing women in elite sports. "We lack the support that male athletes receive. The medal expectations are always higher for men, which impacts our confidence and commitment. This disparity may be why there are so few women in elite sports, and those who do participate often leave before seeing it through," Majama said.

Composition, Goals

The team, captained by Sethunya Majama, 18, and Ernest Kumevu, 19, is set to compete in a range of track events, including the 200m (Majama), the 4x400m men's relay, the 4x400m mixed relay, the 4x100m women's relay, and the 400m races featuring Thabang Monngathipa and Ernest Kumevu.

Reflecting on her journey, which began at Marang CJSS in 2019, Majama recounted her early successes, including two gold medals in the 100m and 4x100m relay, and silver in the 200m during a competition in Eswatini. She credited the school sports programme for her development. "School sports are where I was first discovered, and it has been integral to my journey. I am fully in support of its development and implementation in schools. Who knows where I would be without it?" Majama remarked.

Kumevu, the boys' captain and member of Francistown Athletics Club, shared similar sentiments. He began his athletics career in Form 2 at Etsha JSS, competing in the 100m and 200m. "The school sports programme was crucial in uncovering my talent and interest in athletics. Without it, I might never have been discovered and scouted for the national team," Kumevu reflected. Both captains are optimistic about setting new personal bests in their individual and relay races in Lima.

As the team embarks on this significant journey, the nation watches with bated breath, hopeful that these young athletes will rise to the occasion and lay the foundation for Botswana's golden future on the global stage.

MCM CEO'S Charity Cycle Challenge

THE ANNUAL MORUPULE COAL MINE CEO's Charity Cycle Challenge returns on Sunday, 25th August 2024 in Palapye, bringing cycling enthusiasts together to raise funds to support the less fortunate members of community while promoting the health and well-being of the employees.

The inception of Morupule Cycling Club

back in 2012 came as a need to promote the sport of cycling and engage employees by the then Morupule Coal Mine General Manager, the late Albert Milton.

Other objectives included encouraging physical fitness and vitality amongst the workforce for improved health to improve the quality of life.

Every year, MCM partners with various

stakeholders to participate in the annual cycle challenge.

Over the years, the generosity and participation of supporters of cycling challenge have enabled MCM to implement various impactful community development projects.

These include the construction of houses for indigent families, building classrooms



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