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BCP's compact masterplan

Gaborone MP candidates launch The Gaborone We Want manifesto

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BOTSWANA CONGRESS PARTY (BCP) is adamant that it has completed the assignment that put its five parliamentary candidates in pole position to sweep all five (5) constituencies of the highly sought after and strategic political ground, the capital city Gaborone.

The candidates, including Dr Mpho Pheko (Gaborone Central), Oral Mosedame (Gaborone South), Montwedi Muzila (Gaborone Bonnington South), Dr Prince Dibeela (Gaborone Bonnington North), Emmanuel Maite of Gaborone North have drawn a masterplan that details their plans for Gaborone.

The candidates noted that their Compact for the Gaborone We Want outlines their seven (7) priority goals and ideas for transforming the city's



BCP President Dumelang Saleshando

economy and lives.

The seven goals include dynamic city whose economy whose growth is rapid, inclusive and sustainable, improved access to land and housing, city renewal and generation, strong and dynamic informal sector, an efficient public transport system, quality

TO PAGE 4

Khama's unfinished business

- Invade Lesaso, Makgato constituencies, trashes BDP candidates
- Khama's GaMmangwato onslaught reaches fever pitch
- 'We anticipated what he is doing and prepared well' -BDP

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BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC Party (BDP) has shrugged off former president Ian Khama's ongoing project to de-campaign their parliamentary candidates, particularly targeting GaMmangwato constituencies. Where his party- Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) enjoys good following.

Early this week, Khama intensified BPF campaigns across the region and decampaigned some BDP

candidates, among them Aubrey Lesaso of Shoshong and Dorcas Makgato of Tswapong South. He urged multitudes of Bangwato and BPF followers in places where he addressed political rallies to reject BDP candidates, adding that a lot of BDP candidates will fail to win just like they lost in 2019.

In an interview on Friday, BDP Chairman of Communications and International Relations subcommittee Kagelelo Kentse said Khama will not cause them any sleepless nights. He said the party expected and prepared for what Khama is doing and are not

surprised by his relentless crusade against the BDP. He said the BDP is so focused on its own campaign and making sure that its election message reaches voters, adding Khama is opposition, and the party treat him as such.

"We believe that we have covered the ground, and we continue to do so. Batswana are very receptive to our canvassing. We believe that they will return the BDP to government as we have shown them our great track record and we are also honest and respectful to them," said Kentse, dismissing Khama.

While in Shoshong on Thursday



Khama

Khama said Lesaso should not be voted because he undermined electorates by joining BDP with the vote of Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC). He said it will be a grave mistake for Lesaso to return to Parliament, adding that he also felt

used by Lesaso as he campaigned for him and other UDC candidates in 2019. "We have unfinished business with him, and I am here to make sure that he doesn't return to Parliament.

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UB up in Times Higher Education Global Ranking 2025

THE UNIVERSITY OF Botswana (UB) has maintained presence in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking for 2025. Of over 29,000 universities worldwide, only 2,092 were assessed as meeting the criteria for inclusion in these rankings. UB maintained its position at the apex of Botswana's higher education system and is ranked in the 1201-1500 band globally. This global ranking places UB in the top two-thirds of universities worldwide that have been ranked, a commendable achievement given the intense international competition.

A significant highlight is the performance of research quality, which has continued to improve over the last five years. The Times Higher rankings have also recognised the international impact of the University as an area in which UB excels. Despite the increasing competition among the world's top universities, UB has continued to improve its performance. This achievement further underscores UB's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and its strategic focus on enhancing the quality of education and research. The University's consistent performance in the global rankings is a testament to the dedication and hard work of its faculty, staff, and students.

The University of Botswana's ranking in the African continent is praiseworthy. Ranked 45th out of 135 universities in Africa and 19th out of 55 in sub-Saharan Africa, it highlights the institution's

essential role and growing regional and continental reputation for academic excellence. This performance is more impressive because UB competes with universities from more populous countries like South Africa, Nigeria, Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt, which have comparatively more developed university systems.

In Southern Central and East Africa (excluding South Africa), UB is ranked higher than all the universities in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania. UB holds its own in West Africa, with the top universities in Ghana and Nigeria.

In South Africa, UB is competitive with mid-level universities and is moving in the right direction to join the top-tier universities in the future. In the context of sub-Saharan Africa, these rankings place the University of Botswana among the top institutions in the region, showcasing its role as a leading centre for higher education and research.

A significant highlight of UB's performance in the Times Higher Education 2025 rankings is the recognition of the international quality of our academic subjects. The Times ranks universities in eleven broad subject categories, and UB has gained global recognition in five of these.

Clinical and Health: UB has achieved continued recognition in this category, maintaining its position in the 501-600 band, underscoring our commitment to advancing medical and health sciences education and research.



Physical Sciences: UB's consistent ranking in this field, remaining in the 1001+ band, highlights the strength of its programmes and research in physical sciences.

Social Sciences: UB's ongoing recognition in the social sciences, ranked in the 801-1000 band, reflects the quality and impact of its academic programmes and research.

Life Sciences: Newly recognised in this category, UB has demonstrated significant progress and achievements in life sciences education and research, securing a position in the 601800 band.

Business and Economics: First-time recognition for UB in this category, ranked in the 801+ band, demonstrating the quality of UB's business and economics programmes and the impactful research conducted by its faculty.

Statements from Faculty, Students and the Vice Chancellor

Professor Moffat Setshogo, Ag. Dean of the Faculty of

Science: "Our inclusion in the Life Sciences ranking for the first time and our consistent ranking in Physical Sciences is remarkable. It reflects our commitment to comprehensively advancing sciences in the University of Botswana which ultimately benefits the development of our nation."

Professor Patricia Kefilwe Mogomotsi, a senior academic in the Department of Economics: "Being recognised in the Economics category for the first time is a testament to the quality of our programmes and the impactful research conducted by our faculty. We are dedicated to preparing our students to be leaders in the global economy."

Dr James Kanyepe, a senior academic in the Faculty of Business: "I am immensely proud of the inclusion of Business for the first time in the prestigious Times Higher World University rankings; this is a testament to the quality and impact of our Business programmes and research and

equipping our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate and succeed in an ever-evolving business landscape."

Ms Kesego Makholwa, a PhD student in Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science: "Being part of a globally recognised University is incredibly motivating. The new ranking in Life Sciences makes me proud to be a UB student, inspiring me to contribute to our University's success through my studies and research."

Bofelo Moffat Peleng, a first-year student in the Faculty of Business, said, "Being part of a University that consistently ranks globally is incredibly inspiring."

The diverse range of subjects and the emphasis on innovation make me feel confident that I'm receiving a top-notch education. The collaborative spirit here is amazing, and I can't wait to see what the next few years bring!" Professor David Norris, the Vice-Chancellor, said, "Our ongoing presence in

the Times Higher Education Global Ranking underscores our dedication to cultivating an environment of academic excellence and innovation. Our performance in Africa and, particularly, sub-Saharan Africa, is outstanding. Adding two new subject areas to our rankings showcases the extensive range and depth of our academic programmes and research initiatives. Securing our position in the global rankings and gaining international recognition in five of eleven possible subject areas is remarkable. It reflects the robustness of our academic programmes and the collaborative efforts of our faculty and students. Overall, these rankings are a testament to the hard work of the university's administration, faculty, and students. They also highlight the potential for further growth and development, positioning the University of Botswana as a key player in Africa and the global academic landscape."

Girls in Engineering Workshop held



THE 2024 GIRLS IN Engineering Workshop took place on Friday (11th of October) in Palapye. This initiative is a collaboration between Debswana, De Beers and Diamond Trading Company Botswana (DTCB), Ministry of Education, WomHub and as of this year BIUST as our host.

The workshop was aimed at promoting STEM education and career pathways for young girls in Botswana. Following

a successful pilot last year targeted towards young girls across the country for inclusivity and wider impact we saw it befitting to extend our reach this year to the Central region.

Approximately 250 girls from across Palapye and surrounding areas took part in the workshop. Speakers & Mentors included Engineers, scientists, and professionals from De Beers, DTCB & Debswana, and other partner organizations.

BOTSWANA AIR ACCESS BUILDS CONNECTIVITY AT ROUTES WORLD 2024

BOTSWANA AIR ACCESS delegation concludes a successful attendance at the Routes World 2024 Conference in Manama, Bahrain.

Routes World is the largest air connectivity-focused event in the world. This year's event took place from 06th to 08th October in Bahrain.

Botswana Air Access was established in August 2024 to promote increased air connectivity to Botswana by securing new routes and route expansions through engagement with domestic, regional, and international airlines.

The delegation attending Routes World representing Botswana Air Access set three objectives (i) engaging with airlines regarding potential new routes to Botswana, (ii) hosting a stand at the event

to introduce attendees to opportunities in Botswana, (iii) building relationships with key global aviation stakeholders and entities.

The team took more than 15 meetings with representatives of global airlines to discuss the potential for new direct routes.

Botswana had an official stand for the first time at the Routes World 2024 conference under the Botswana Air Access banner.

The stand profiled the country's aviation, tourism, trade, and investment potential. Botswana's business case to airlines' representatives was well-constructed and reflected the country's Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) strategy. The Botswana Air Access initiative aims to position Botswana as a leading flight destination in sub-Saharan

Africa.

During the conference, the Botswana Air Access delegation met with more than 15 global airlines' representatives to discuss potential air routes that would better connect Botswana to the region and the world. The airlines engaged came from the United Kingdom, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

According to Routes World, the conference was attended by officials from more than 100 nations, including representatives from over 300 airlines, 700 airports, and 130 tourism authorities.

About Botswana Air Access: Botswana Air Access, established in August 2024 and spearheaded by the Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB), is a collaborative air service development initiative whose mandate is to increase international air connectivity

to the country. Project stakeholders include Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO), Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC), Business Botswana, Travel Agent's Association of Botswana (TAABOT), and the Hospitality and Tourism Association of Botswana (HATAB). The project is committed to assisting airlines both before and after route introduction, expansion or retention to Botswana's international airports.

For more information about Botswana Air Access, please contact:

Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB) Contact Name: Modipe Nkwe
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Website: https://www.caab.co.bw

BCP's compact masterplan

FROM PAGE 1

standard based education and health and liveable city.

"We will make Gaborone a considerably more liveable city than is presently the case. Our priorities amongst shall be eliminating the pit latrines from Gaborone. Every part of Gaborone must be connected to a central sewerage system that is maintained to stop effluent from flowing into the streets," they said.

CONSTITUENCY PLANS

Gaborone South
Mosedame said it is disheartening that the unemployment level continues to grow particularly amongst youth.

He said his focus in Gaborone Central is focused on addressing situation of jobs, education, health, drugs and substance abuse, dam front and infrastructure development to mention but just a few.

"A lot of young people and many others are unemployed and underemployed.

The BCP is for an economy that works for all, an economy that will generate decent jobs that will pay a living wage of P4000," said Mosedame.

With regards to health, Mosedame said the situation is so pathetic, adding that the local clinics and hospitals are always short of medicines and that makes nurses and doctors incapacitated to provide the much-needed health service.

Gaborone North

Maite said Gaborone as the capital city of Botswana plays an important role in the economy of the country.

He said BCP intends to make Gaborone North one of the sub economic hubs in the capital and that would require for a construction of alternative road networks to decongest the A1



Dr Phoko



Dr Dibeela

Road. According to Maite, roads infrastructure is very important for economic development, adding that he will advocate for a new road to be constructed from Gaborone North to link up with Kopong so as to reduce traffic congestion along A1.

"We need alternative roads that will make movement to be simple in Gaborone and Gaborone North is such a strategic location to construct roads network. Road infrastructure is a priority for us as BCP," he said.

Also, Maite said it is important for Gaborone as a city to have its own local referral hospitals to ease pressure from Princess Marina Hospital which can just serve as a national hospital for efficiency purposes.

Gaborone Bonnington South Muzila said with BCP and Botswana Labour Party Alliance, Botswana can improve all categories; economically, politically, socially judicially and infrastructure and education wise etc. He said considering how low its population is, Botswana should not be grappling with high unemployment.

Muzila also said his constituency is strategically placed to function as the city's hub for recreation, sports and

leisure.

"Gaborone West can host well resourced sports facilities in Diphetogo, Bophirima and Morula. We should motivate for integrated sporting centres that include mini stadia, swimming pools, tennis courts and volleyball courts to mention a few," he added.

He said sports is one vocation that assists in keeping society civil and healthier, mitigating against idleness, crime, drug abuse, joblessness and depression.

Gaborone Central

Dr Phoko said as BCP government and legislator of Gaborone Central, they will support and enable the private sector to invest to grow and thrive in a manner that create and sustains jobs including in Gaborone Central.

Dr Phoko said in Gaborone Central, job opportunities exist in different sectors, adding that majority of people who resides in Gaborone Central are those who visit Gaborone looking for better livelihoods.

"This naturally present the constituency as the best for jobs in Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibition (MICE) tourism including call centres," she said.

She said Gaborone Central

is a host to Segoditshane River, Government Enclave, Parliament, National Museum, State House and Princess Marina Hospital and public and private learning institutions including University of Botswana (UB).

"These present an opportunity to nurture and support local entrepreneurs interested in urban tourism similar to what we see in other big cities globally. Another big potential is giving the Segoditshane River frontage a facelift and working with engineers and artisans to convert it into the state-of-the-art tourist attraction centre," she said.

Gaborone Bonnington North

Dr Dibeela said there are many challenges of socio-economic nature in the constituency, noting that as it the case elsewhere in Botswana, the constituency is also hit hard by unemployment particularly among young people.

He said many young people and elder people are roaming the streets despite that they are educated and don't have opportunities to utilize their acquired skills.

"My team and I are I looking to use many open spaces in our constituency to use them creatively for recreational and business opportunities. Many of our employed people are looking for opportunities to start some employment project and all they need is opportunity," he said.

Dr Dibeela also said it is important to upscale unemployed and those running small businesses to form cooperatives, adding that there is a lot of crime of violent nature as people are mugged and part of it is because of unemployment pain.

Savings, Investments, Lending and Foreign Currency Rates
effective from 1st October 2024

Description	Normal Interest Rate*	Effective Interest Rate*	Minimum Opening Balance (Pula)
Current	0.00% - 3.00%	0.00% - 3.00%	100
Call	0.00% - 3.00%	0.00% - 3.00%	10,000
Ipbele	0.00% - 155%	0.00% - 156%	1,000
SureSave 12 Months	3.00%	3.05%	100
SureSave 24 Months	4.50%	4.60%	100
SureSave 36 Months	4.35%	4.45%	100
Lebandla	1.85% - 2.35%	1.87% - 2.38%	1,000
EasySave	1.75% - 3.75%	1.76% - 3.82%	100
Fixed Deposit 91 Days	1.50% - 4.00%	1.51% - 4.08%	1,000
Fixed Deposit 6 Months	2.55% - 4.25%	2.58% - 4.34%	1,000
Fixed Deposit 12 Months	4.00% - 4.75%	4.00% - 4.86%	1,000
Fixed Deposit 24 Months	4.50% - 4.75%	4.50% - 4.86%	1,000

Description	Nominal Interest Rate*	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)
Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR)	1.90%	
Bank Gaborone Prime Lending Rate	6.00%	
Mortgage Rate	Prime - Prime +8%	8.39%
Overdraft Rate (revolving credit lines)	Prime - Prime +13.50%	11.02%
Credit Card Rate	Prime +10% - Prime +15%	18.02%
Lease loans	N/A	N/A
Personal loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	Prime +3% - Prime +25.49%	11.72%
Other long term loan rates (Commercial loans)	Prime +4% - Prime +13.5%	10.97%

USD rates						
Months	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Min)	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Max)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Min)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Max)	Minimum Opening Balance (Individuals)	Minimum Opening Balance (Business)
1 month	0.00%	1.50%	0.00%	1.51%	1000	1000
3 months	0.60%	2.10%	0.60%	2.12%	1000	1000
6 months	0.80%	2.30%	0.80%	2.31%	1000	1000
9 months	1.00%	2.50%	1.00%	2.51%	1000	1000
12 months	1.25%	2.75%	1.25%	2.75%	1000	1000
Call	0.00%	1.00%	0.00%	1.00%	100	100

*Rates apply to amounts from USD10K to USD1M. All rates for USD1M and above are negotiable

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ZAR rates						
Months	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Min)	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Max)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Min)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Max)	Minimum Opening Balance (Individuals)	Minimum Opening Balance (Business)
1 month	0.75%	3.75%	0.75%	3.82%	10000	10000
3 months	1.00%	5.00%	1.00%	5.09%	10000	10000
6 months	1.50%	6.00%	1.51%	6.09%	10000	10000
9 months	2.00%	6.25%	2.00%	6.30%	10000	10000
12 months	2.25%	6.50%	2.25%	6.50%	10000	10000
Call	0.00%	1.75%	0.00%	3.25%	500	500

*Rates apply to amounts from ZAR50K to ZAR1M. All rates for ZAR1M and above are negotiable

GBP rates						
Months	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Min)	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Max)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Min)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Max)	Minimum Opening Balance (Individuals)	Minimum Opening Balance (Business)
1 month	0.20%	0.75%	0.20%	0.75%	1000	1000
3 months	0.50%	1.10%	0.50%	1.10%	1000	1000
6 months	0.75%	1.90%	0.75%	1.91%	1000	1000
9 months	1.15%	2.15%	1.15%	2.16%	1000	1000
12 months	1.20%	2.20%	1.20%	2.20%	1000	1000
Call	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100	100

*Rates apply to amounts from GBP10K to GBP1M. All rates for GBP1M and above are negotiable

EUR rates						
Months	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Min)	Range Nominal Interest Rates (Max)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Min)	Range Effective Interest Rates (Max)	Minimum Opening Balance (Individuals)	Minimum Opening Balance (Business)
1 month	0.20%	0.75%	0.20%	0.75%	1000	1000
3 months	0.25%	1.25%	0.25%	1.26%	1000	1000
6 months	0.50%	1.75%	0.50%	1.76%	1000	1000
9 months	0.75%	2.00%	0.75%	2.00%	1000	1000
12 months	1.00%	2.25%	1.00%	2.25%	1000	1000
Call	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100	100

*Rates apply to amounts from EUR10K to EUR1M. All rates for EUR1M and above are negotiable



Kesitilwe transforms Gambling landscape

PATRIOT: LET'S START at the beginning. You ascended through the ranks to become the CEO of the Gambling Authority in December 2023. Before that, you were acting CEO, and a Fellow Chartered Accountant with over 15 years in Executive roles. Tell us about your journey.

PEK: Yes, that's right. I have risen through the ranks quite quickly. To give you some background, I'm married to a wonderful woman, and we have three girls. My home village is Moiyabana, but I did most of my schooling in Gaborone. I started in Lesedi primary school, then I moved to Maikano CJSS before attending Lobatse Secondary School, where I was in the Technical Wing. After that, I had a brief stint at UB, studying science. I quickly realized that it was not for me, and that's when I transitioned into accounting. That's where my journey really took off.

PATRIOT: That's fascinating. You were a CFO with Boitekanelo Group, right? How did that transition happen?

PEK: Yes, my career took off after joining African Alliance in South Africa as a management accountant. From there, I moved to BSB, where I also worked as an accountant. It was at LEA (Local Enterprise Authority) that my career experienced a major turning point. Within three years, I progressed from a management accountant to finance manager and then to the director of corporate services. I was responsible for finance, IT, procurement, and shared services. Afterward, I became the Group CFO for Boitekanelo College. At Boitekanelo, we diversified our services into emergency services, occupational health, and catering. It was a dynamic team full of young people, and we weren't afraid to take risks. That energy is what propelled us forward.

PATRIOT: And now you're at the helm of the Gambling Authority. What has driven you since taking on this new role as CEO?

PEK: Well, in 2016, I completed a Master's at Manchester Metropolitan University, specializing in gambling. During my studies, I struggled to find adequate information on gambling regulation, which sparked my interest in growing the industry here in Botswana. As CEO of the Gambling Authority,

Gambling Authority CEO, Peter Emolemo Kesitilwe (PEK) is a man on a mission to create a Las Vegas-style entertainment hub in Botswana, develop a world-class horse-racing industry, transform sport betting, and bring the first ever lottery in a market whose value is estimated at P3 billion. A few days after awarding 10 post graduate scholarships at the University of Botswana, and being appointed Botswana Football League independent Board Chairman, he tells **The Patriot on Sunday** that responsible gaming is at the core of their mandate, hence the ongoing countrywide campaign dubbed *Motshameko o Phepa*.



Gambling Authority CEO, Peter Emolemo Kesitilwe

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

we are responsible for issuing licenses, ensuring compliance, and promoting responsible gambling. One of my primary goals is to educate the public on the difference between responsible and problem gambling. Countries like Georgia and Malta, for example, contribute significantly to their GDP through gambling, and I want to bring that kind of growth to Botswana.

PATRIOT: One common challenge is the stigma around gambling. How is the Gambling Authority addressing that?

PEK: We are taking multiple approaches to tackle the stigma. Public education is key. We have implemented various measures to promote responsible gambling, including exclusion programs for problem gamblers. We have also increased awareness campaigns. In fact, our responsible gambling program was recently voted the best in Africa, which is a testament to the work we're doing. Another part of our mandate is to align with national priorities like Vision 2036, and we're constantly

working on addressing socio-economic issues through gambling regulation.

PATRIOT: You mentioned job creation and empowerment earlier. Can you talk more about how gambling contributes to the economy, specifically in terms of employment?

PEK: Absolutely. We currently have seven casinos employing around 303 people. With the new licensing projects we're rolling out, we expect to create 3,000 direct jobs. These jobs aren't just limited to the gambling floors; they extend to support services like security, IT, accounting, and maintenance. We also focus on creating opportunities for youth and entrepreneurs. For instance, we've introduced various licensing models to make it easier for local businesses to enter the industry, contributing to job creation and economic empowerment.

PATRIOT: For those interested in becoming a part of this growing industry, where do they start?

PEK: We recently introduced

standard agreements and licensing models to facilitate easier entry into the market. Entrepreneurs can get involved by obtaining licenses to run small-scale gaming operations or even online gambling platforms, which are now regulated. We have worked with international bodies to create comprehensive regulations that encourage fair play while supporting local businesses. We're also exploring indigenous games, which have the potential to diversify the industry even further.

PATRIOT: That's exciting! You recently won an award in Kenya, right? Could you tell us more about that?

PEK: Yes, we won the Moana Award for our responsible gambling program. Moana, which means "responsible mother" in Swahili, is a symbol of care and responsibility. Our public education campaigns, which emphasize responsible gambling, have gained recognition across Africa. This award validates the efforts we put into ensuring that gambling is done in a socially responsible manner. It's a big win for us.

racing industry as part of our strategy. We are looking into creating a Las Vegas-style entertainment hub here in Botswana. This would not only boost tourism but also generate significant revenue for the economy. We're also exploring partnerships with international stakeholders to enhance the gambling landscape in Botswana. Our vision is to create a sustainable and responsible gambling industry that benefits the nation as a whole.

PATRIOT: It sounds like there's a lot of potential for growth in this industry. What's the projected market value once everything is up and running?

PEK: With our current initiatives, including the national lottery and online betting, I'm projecting about P3 billion in market value. That's a modest estimate, but the potential is much larger. For example, the national lottery alone is expected to generate around P300 million annually. The online betting market, which is now legal, also holds massive potential for growth, especially with sports like football, athletics, and netball gaining popularity.

PATRIOT: Sports betting is a big one. How do you see that playing out here in Botswana?

PEK: Online sports betting is already gaining traction, and we're in the process of issuing licenses to operators. We're also working closely with local sports teams to ensure they benefit from this growing industry. The key is to create a

system that not only generates revenue but also supports the development of local sports.

PATRIOT: That's fantastic. There's clearly a lot happening in this space. Are there any challenges you're facing as you implement these initiatives?

PEK: One of the main challenges is the stigma that still surrounds gambling. However, we're addressing that through public education and promoting responsible gambling practices. Another challenge is ensuring that our regulatory framework keeps up with the rapid changes in technology, particularly with online gambling. But we're working hard to stay ahead of the curve by collaborating with international bodies like the UK Gambling Commission.

PATRIOT: It sounds like the Gambling Authority is taking a proactive approach. Is there anything else you'd like to share with our readers?

PEK: I'd like to encourage more people to engage with us and learn about the opportunities available in the gambling industry. Through an MoU with the University of Botswana we have just awarded 10 scholarships, six Master's students and four PhD students in fields related to gambling. We believe that investing in education and research is key to the future growth of the industry. There's a lot of potential here, and we're committed to ensuring that this growth benefits everyone.

PATRIOT: Thank you!

**Article produced in partnership with THE PUNCHLINE PODCAST.*

Deposit and Lending Interest Rates

Quarterly Report July - September 2024

Type of Deposit	July 2024 Interest Rates (%)	August 2024 Interest Rates (%)	September 2024 Interest Rates (%)	Q3 Range Interest Rates (%)
Current	-	-	-	-
Call	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.35
Savings	0.00 - 2.10	0.00 - 3.00	0.00 - 3.00	0.00 - 3.00
1 Month	0.90 - 2.18	0.25 - 2.20	0.15 - 1.50	0.25 - 2.20
3 Months	0.00 - 2.87	0.00 - 2.87	0.00 - 3.75	0.00 - 3.75
6 Months	0.00 - 3.65	0.00 - 3.75	0.00 - 3.75	0.00 - 3.75
12 Months	0.00 - 6.25	0.00 - 5.25	0.00 - 6.00	0.00 - 6.25
24 Months	-	-	-	-
Over 24 Months	-	-	4.50	4.50

	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	Average Pricing
Monetary Policy Rate	2.15%	2.15%	1.90%	
Prime Lending Rate	6.26%	6.26%	6.01%	
Mortgage Facility	9.63% - 10.15%	9.61% - 10.50%	9.47% - 10.47%	9.89%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	14.26% - 16.26%	12.26% - 28.26%	14.01% - 16.01%	15.80%
Credit Card	17.75% - 23.75%	17.75% - 23.75%	17.75% - 23.75%	20.75%
Lease Loans (VAF)	9.76% - 11.51%	9.76% - 11.76%	9.76% - 12.26%	10.73%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	14.26% - 28.51%	14.26% - 16.26%	12.01% - 28.76%	23.96%
Other Term Loans				

*Scheme related lending is as per the scheme contract

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Bank employees demand fairness

STAFF WRITERS
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EMPLLOYEES IN THE banking industry, organized under Botswana Financial Institutions and Allied Workers Union (BOFIAWU), have dragged government to court demanding the repeal of Section 17(8) of the Banking Act, which imposes restriction on their loan applications. Arguments in the case were scheduled to be heard in Lobatse High Court on Wednesday, 09th October 2024 but have been moved to December 11th, 2024 due to unavailability of the judge.

Section 17(8) imposes a limitation on persons by virtue of their being employed by banks when they apply for loans, which is not applicable to employees in other sectors of the economy. For example, if a bank employee earns P120 000 per annum they cannot get an unsecured loan exceeding P120 000.

Although they accept that the banking sector is a

highly regulated environment industry that has policies and procedures to manage excessive and unreasonable practices by employees, BOFIAWU insists that such a piece of law is not only discriminatory against employees in the sector but also limit their opportunities.

“We are saying that which is applied to workers elsewhere must be extended to bank employees. Otherwise, this amounts to discrimination. Bank employee's standard of living has been gravely affected by these Section 17(8) restrictions with its limitations on borrowing.

The restrictions are not justifiable and amount to discrimination to employees by virtue of them being bank employees. Our position is that Section 17(8) of the Banking Act is archaic and regressive. We wonder why the Attorney General would defend such an act, at whose interest and what prejudice will anyone suffer if the act is repealed for the benefit of bank employees, “retorted Keitshokile Basuti,

Executive Secretary BOFIAWU. At the hearing of arguments in the matter, the Attorney General will raise two preliminary points (points in limine) seeking the dismissal of the application. On one hand the AG argues that the failure to cite banks and the central bank amounts to a fatal non-joinder, and that the application does not contain the resolution purporting to authorise the launching of the lawsuit (void ab initio).

“Rarely, does a litigant bring a suit for discrimination which is allegedly outlawed by the Constitution of Botswana but dismally fails to fit his/her/ its case within the grounds of discrimination stated in the relevant provision of the Constitution. The Applicants' (BOFIAWU) ground for discrimination is not one of the grounds stipulated in the Constitution. And in fact, what the Applicant alleges as different treatment is not discrimination at all. This case is pivoted on section 17(8) of the Banking Act (BA) which prohibits

all banks from granting or permitting all the banks' employees from being given unsecured loans, advances or credit facilities the amount of which exceeds such employees' one year's emoluments. It is clear that in this case it is the banks who give such unsecured loans to their employees and not the Respondents and therefore it is the banks who are directly affected. In short, it is being alleged that the employees of the banks are discriminated against by reason of or on the ground of them being employed by banks.

Effectively, if the order was to be granted, it will have a direct implication or effect on the banks. These allegations, which deal with operations of the banks and regulation of the banks by the central bank, can better be answered by the banks and the central bank. They all have nothing to do with the respondents (Attorney General).” Reads part of the papers filed by the Attorney General in opposition. The case continues...

Ensuring Children's Optimum Mental Health During Examination Period



LAGAGO TAMOCHA*
EDUCATING THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNER

AS OCTOBER ROLLS AROUND, MANY school children in Botswana enter a crucial phase: examination season. The pressure to excel in their studies can be overwhelming, often leading to stress, anxiety, and in severe cases, burnout. Supporting children's mental health during this period is essential not only for their academic success but also for their overall well-being. Drawing from reliable sources such as the American Psychological Association (APA) and National Health Service (NHS), as well as local practices, here are strategies for ensuring that children maintain optimum mental health during exams.

Open and Supportive Communication

A strong support system at home is the foundation for a child's mental health during exams. According to the APA, parents should keep lines of communication open, encouraging children to express their fears and anxieties about their exams. Children who feel heard are more likely to approach their exams with a healthier mindset. In Botswana, where family bonds are integral, it's important that parents and guardians create an environment where children feel comfortable sharing their challenges.

Rather than downplaying their concerns, parents should validate their child's feelings and remind them that effort and growth are more important than final marks. By taking this approach, parents can reduce performance pressure and help their children develop resilience.

Balanced Study Schedules

One common mistake students make during exams is cramming large amounts of information in short periods, leading to stress and poor retention.

The NHS advises a more balanced approach: creating structured, manageable revision schedules that incorporate regular breaks. Parents can assist their children in planning these study sessions to ensure they maintain balance. Across Botswana, many students attend boarding schools where they must manage their study time independently. Ensuring that students in these settings follow a well-organised schedule can help mitigate the stress associated with last-minute preparation. Encouraging short breaks for light physical activities like walking or stretching can help prevent burnout, as research from the University of Oxford suggests that these small breaks significantly improve concentration and memory retention.

Adequate Sleep

A well-rested mind is crucial for optimal performance during exams. Sleep deprivation, which is common among students during exam periods, significantly affects cognitive function, memory, and emotional regulation. According to the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, children who get adequate sleep perform better academically.

It's essential for parents and guardians to ensure their children stick to regular sleep patterns during this period, even when exams are approaching.

The NHS recommends 9-12 hours of sleep for children aged 6-12, and 8-10 hours for teenagers. Boarding schools should also reinforce the importance of sleep, encouraging students to avoid late-night cramming in favour of a full night's rest.

Healthy Eating and Hydration
Proper nutrition plays a critical role in a child's mental and physical well-being, especially during exam periods. The British Nutrition Foundation highlights the importance of balanced meals rich in fruits, vegetables, and proteins to support cognitive function and overall health. Many children have access to locally grown fresh



produce, which should be incorporated into their diets for optimal energy levels.

In addition to healthy eating, staying hydrated is key. Encouraging children to drink plenty of water can improve their focus and cognitive performance during study sessions and exams. Even mild dehydration can impair concentration, so it's important for both parents and boarding school staff to monitor children's hydration levels.

Managing Expectations

Botswana's education system places high value on academic success, and this cultural emphasis can sometimes lead to undue pressure on students. Experts from the Child Mind Institute advise parents and guardians to manage expectations realistically. Rather than focusing solely on grades, the emphasis should be on effort and personal development. This shift in mindset can reduce anxiety and build confidence in children.

Encouraging children to view exams as part of their learning journey, rather than the ultimate goal, helps alleviate the fear of failure. This is especially important for students in boarding schools who may feel additional pressure from being away from

home and their usual support systems.

Role of Guidance and Counseling Departments in Boarding Schools

For many students in Botswana, boarding schools are a common setting, and the role of the Guidance and Counseling department in these institutions is vital during exam periods. The Guidance and Counseling department provides crucial support, ensuring students' mental health is prioritised as they prepare for exams. In boarding schools, where students may feel isolated from family support, these departments can offer individual counselling sessions to help students express their fears and anxieties.

According to the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), counselors help students manage exam stress by teaching them practical coping strategies, such as time management, relaxation techniques, and emotional regulation. Boarding school counselors can also hold group therapy sessions or workshops on managing stress and exam preparation. These sessions not only provide mental health support but also foster a sense of community among students, helping them realise they are not alone in their challenges.

Furthermore, counselors can work closely with teachers to ensure that students who are struggling receive appropriate academic and emotional support. This might include adjustments to study plans or access to extra resources, ensuring students have the tools they need to succeed.

Teaching Relaxation Techniques

Relaxation techniques are powerful tools for managing exam anxiety. Methods such as deep breathing, mindfulness, or even short meditation sessions can help calm the mind and improve focus. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends teaching children relaxation strategies early on to help them manage the stress that exams often bring.

Schools and families can introduce students to relaxation apps such as Calm or Headspace, which provide guided meditation exercises suited for young learners. Additionally, light physical activities can help reduce physical tension associated with stress, contributing to overall mental well-being.

Physical Activity

Physical exercise is one of the most effective ways to reduce stress. According to the Mayo Clinic, exercise boosts the production of endorphins, which act as natural stress relievers. Encouraging children to engage in moderate physical activities, such as walking or playing sports, can help them relieve exam-related tension. Outdoor activities are a popular part of daily life and therefore parents and boarding school staff can integrate these exercises into children's routines to ensure they maintain a balanced approach to exam preparation. As exams begin this October, ensuring that children maintain optimum mental health is crucial for both their academic success and overall well-being. Through open communication, balanced study schedules, adequate sleep, healthy eating, and support from Guidance and Counseling departments, children can better navigate the pressures of exam season. By prioritising mental health alongside academic achievement, parents, guardians, and schools can help children face exams with confidence and resilience.

Khama's unfinished business

FROM PAGE 1

He betrayed you as voters by being bought to join BDP and rewarded by ministerial post by BDP leader Mokgweetsi Masisi. Enough is enough," said the BPF Patron.

Ahead of the 2019 elections, Khama drew a hitlist targeting some BDP candidates who worked closely with him at the ruling party, accusing them of being used by Masisi as attack dogs after he left the party. His 2019 BDP hitlist included vice president Slumber Tsogwane, Makgato, Reaoboka Mbulawa amongst others.

Influence

Political analyst, Kitso Morekisi said Khama as Kgosikgolo of Bangwato is influential and BDP

should not take him lightly as he campaigns against its candidates in his bogosi territory where he commands lot of respect.

He said Khama harmed BDP during

2019 elections as the party lost some of its stronghold constituencies such as Serowe, Palapye, Mahalapye and Shoshong to BPF and UDC respectively. He added that Khama's rallies have been attended by multitudes and that should be a concern for BDP.

"Pulling such huge crowds demonstrate his influence in GaMmangwato. He strategically camped in his backyard because he is aware of the danger that BPF and other opposition poses to BDP in central. However, opposition vote split has potential to benefit BDP," said Morekisi.

BPF, UDC and Botswana Congress Party (BCP) find themselves contesting against each other in a number of constituencies in the central district. It is only in Serowe where UDC decided not to field candidates with the coalition indicating that it has yielded Serowe constituencies to BPF.



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Mophuting: Ready to Lead

Q: Who is Maipelo Mophuting?

MM: Maipelo Mophuting is a Brisk and Dynamic Social Reformer and Humanitarian who studied International Studies, which in short is a multidisciplinary course that encompasses Politics, Economics, Communications, additionally aligning Foreign Policies, and Governments. I originate from Sebege Ward in Kanye, but I grew up in Gaborone and still reside here. I am a candidate for the 2024 General Elections and a dedicated member of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) with a strong focus on driving meaningful change to improve the lives of Batswana. I have experience in Corporate Communications, Community Leadership and now Political activism, and my aim is to uplift the community of Gaborone Bonnington North through my campaign initiatives and what we have highlighted in our 2024 UDC Manifesto.

Q: Take us through your BNF/UDC activism journey.

MM: My political journey at the Botswana National Front (BNF) recently began a little over a year ago, and I am still learning the organisation's principles of leadership, equality, and standing up for the rights of ordinary people. I have always been driven by the desire to address the inequalities and hardships many Batswana face and my focus will continue to be around advocating for the protection of vulnerable groups like women, youth, and the elderly.

Q: You also have a close relationship with the African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa. Can you take us through your journey with ANC, including your training and mentorship?

MM: I indeed have had the privilege of meeting several high-profile ANC Officials and have also worked closely with the African National Congress (ANC) in particular the ANC Women's League,

Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) parliamentary candidate for Gaborone Bonnington North constituency, Maipelo Mophuting is confident that she is going to Parliament after October 30th, when a UDC led government assumes state power after toppling the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) at the polls. The Kanye born youthful politician sat On the Couch with **STAFF WRITER BAKANG TIRO.**

which has played a significant role in shaping my political outlook. My involvement with the ANC was centered around Mentorship and Training in Political Strategy, Community Organization, and Leadership Development. The ANC's long-standing history of fighting for liberation and social justice inspired me, and I drew valuable lessons from their resilience and commitment to serving the people. This mentorship has greatly influenced my approach to politics, especially in terms of working towards unity and inclusive development for all.

Q: What are your plans for the Gaborone Bonnington North constituency should you be elected its MP?

MM: If elected as the Member of Parliament for Gaborone Bonnington North, my priority will be to implement key changes that improve the quality of life for my constituents. These include Advocating for:

- Enhancing security by establishing a satellite police station.
- Installing better lighting and clearing overgrown areas to improve safety. Building more parks and recreation spaces to promote community well-being and support various sports activities.
- Expanding clinic capacities to ensure better access to healthcare.
- Addressing the housing needs of public servants and ensuring those with children with special needs are able to stay in Gaborone for essential services.
- Increasing the number of classrooms and teachers to eliminate double shifts in schools.
- Bringing back school sports to promote a healthy and active lifestyle among the youth.
- Reserving the informal sector for local citizens to support local



entrepreneurship.

Q: Why didn't you contest elections in your home village, Kanye, and opted for Gaborone Bonnington North constituency?

MM: While I am originally from Kanye, Gaborone has been my home for a long time, and I have a deep connection to the community here. I believe that I can best serve the people of this constituency because I understand the unique challenges they face. I have built relationships and networks here that will allow me to effectively represent their interests in Parliament.

Q: Highlight some of the key challenges that affect Gaborone Bonnington North electorates and how you intend to address them.

- MM:** Some of the key challenges include:
 - Security concerns: Many areas have little or no lighting, and crime is a major issue. I plan to address this by improving lighting and creating a satellite police station to enhance security.
 - Healthcare access: The clinics are often overcrowded, so I intend to advocate for increasing their capacity and staff to ensure that people can access healthcare services in a timely manner.
 - Education infrastructure: There are not enough classrooms (and in several cases we have heard reports of children being instructed to come to schools with tables and chairs) leading to double shifts in schools subsequently affecting the quality



of education. My plan is to expand schools and get more teachers to be hired to eliminate double shifts.

Lack of recreational spaces: I want to develop existing parks and recreation areas to provide safe spaces for children and youth to engage in sports and outdoor activities.

Q: You are one of the few women contesting for a Parliamentary seat. Are you satisfied with women's representation both in UDC and across the political spectrum?

MM: While I am encouraged by the progress we have made, I believe there is still a long way to go in terms of women's representation in politics.

We need to create more opportunities for women to participate in leadership roles, not just within UDC but across all political parties. Women bring unique perspectives and solutions to the table, and their voices must be amplified to address the diverse needs of our society.

Q: What do you think are some of the challenges that prevent women from contesting elections? Would you say women candidates shouldn't be subjected to party primary elections?

MM: One of the biggest challenges women face is the cultural and societal expectations that often discourage them from entering politics.

There's also the issue of financial constraints because campaigning is very expensive, and women often have less access to resources. I believe that while it's important for all candidates to go through the primary election process to ensure fairness, we should explore ways to make it easier for women

to participate, such as providing financial and mentorship support to female candidates.

Q: Some of your male competitors who lost in the BNF primaries accused you of being supported by UDC president Duma Boko. What is your take on that?

MM: Such accusations are unfortunate and unfounded. My victory in the primaries was a result of hard work and the support of the people who believe in my vision for the constituency. I have always been transparent in my campaign, and I continue to focus on the issues that matter to the people of Gaborone Bonnington North rather than engaging in divisive politics.

Q: UDC lost the constituency to BDP in 2019. Do you believe that UDC is ready to reclaim the constituency from the BDP?

MM: Absolutely. UDC has learned from the previous election, and we are more focused than ever before. The people of Gaborone Bonnington North have seen the shortcomings of the Incumbent BDP Member of Parliament, and they are ready for real change. I am confident that with our strong campaign and clear plan for the future, we can reclaim the constituency and deliver the change that the people deserve.

Q: What are some of the motions or bills passed by the past Parliament that you believe will positively impact the electorate?

MM: One of the key motions is the legislation on increasing access to healthcare services and improving education infrastructure. These are issues that are critical to the well-being of our communities, and I believe they will have a positive impact if properly implemented. Additionally, any policies aimed at promoting local businesses and protecting informal sector workers will benefit many people in my constituency.

Q: What is your view on Government Political Party

Funding? Do you think it can assist the opposition to end BDP dominance?

MM: Government Political Party Funding can level the playing field by ensuring that all parties, including the opposition, have the resources needed to run effective campaigns. This will give the people greater options and make elections more competitive.

If implemented fairly, it can indeed help challenge the dominance of BDP and create a more balanced political landscape.

Q: What are your plans after the 2024 elections? Will you still avail yourself for the 2029 elections?

MM: My focus right now is on winning the 2024 elections and serving the people of Gaborone Bonnington North and my goal is to make a lasting impact. But to answer your question, No I will not be available to run in 2029.

My future plan post 2024 elections are to complete my master's in development studies at University of Sussex in the UK, thereafter, open an Advisory Firm that would assist African Governments, Development Organizations, Non-Profit Organizations' and their recipients design, monitor and evaluate multi-sector programs, and ensure that those programs speak to accountability, scope, impact and use best practices to increase program effectiveness.

Q: Any other important information is welcome.

MM: I would like to emphasize that my campaign is built on the foundation of integrity, transparency, and a deep commitment to the people. I believe that change is not only possible but within our reach. I encourage the people of Gaborone Bonnington North to put their trust in me because together we can build a brighter future for our constituency and live in a country that we can all be proud of and leave an impeccable legacy for the next generation.

Prioritise Clean Cooking

BOITUMELO PAULINE MARUMO*

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CLEAN cooking is a multifaceted issue that necessitates a comprehensive strategy. Cooking is inextricably related to deeply ingrained cultural and social habits that are difficult to alter. However, integrated solutions that collaborate with the private sector while prioritizing people's wants and preferences are already yielding encouraging outcomes.

African Development Bank President Adesina, "Africa requires \$4 billion a year in investment to provide clean cooking equipment to 250 million women by 2030,"

Clean Cooking

The most popular definition of clean cooking is any fuel and stove combination that adheres to the World Health Organization's recommendations for indoor air quality. This typically includes stoves driven by electricity, biogas, ethanol, or liquid petroleum gas, which are cleaner and more efficient than their solid fuel counterparts. It can also include stoves that burn high-efficiency charcoal and biomass pellets, which emit less smoke than regular biomass stoves.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines clean fuels and technologies as those that comply with the recommended levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions established in its global air quality standards (2021) and home fuel combustion guidelines (2014). A fuel or technology is considered clean if it meets particular air quality guidelines (AQC) or Interim Target-1 (IT-1) values of PM2.5 and CO. WHO uses this categorization to monitor progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 7, which promotes access to modern, sustainable energy.

34% of wood fuel harvesting is unsustainable, in some areas,

collecting firewood for cooking is a major cause of deforestation and environmental degradation. Traditional stoves are inefficient, consuming more wood and charcoal than required, resulting in extra greenhouse gas emissions. Woodfuels account for around 2% of world emissions, with home fuel combustion accounting for more than half of all man-made black carbon emissions. Efficient stoves can reduce fuel consumption by 30-60%, lowering emissions and saving trees.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the global energy crisis have seen the world backslide on clean cooking progress, with 100 million households reverting to traditional cooking practices due to issues over affordability and security of supply.

What is necessary is not only diversification away from a single energy commodity, but also a transformation of the energy system itself, all while preserving affordable, secure energy services. In keeping with African clean cooking targets such as the Nairobi Declaration and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG7 on universal clean cooking access), we push for clean cooking to be a national, regional, and international policy priority. Ambitions must be supported by rules and technological standards that maximize environmental advantages and promote clean cooking methods. Dangers of Household Pollution

Approximately 2.3 billion people worldwide (almost one-third of the global population) cook over open flames or inefficient stoves powered by kerosene, biomass (wood, animal dung, and crop waste), and coal, resulting in hazardous home air pollution. The exposure to dangerous pollutants such as carbon monoxide and fine particulate matter poses serious health hazards, including burns, respiratory disorders, heart issues, and even premature death. Women and children, who spend the most time around cooking areas,

are disproportionately affected, with greater rates of disease and death. More so in developing countries and at grassroots and vulnerable communities. According to the World Health Organization, household air pollution kills around 3.2 million people each year, creating a severe public health catastrophe in vulnerable populations. Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and Southern Asia dominate the global access deficit. In 2022, it is estimated that 79 percent of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa and 33 percent of people living in Central Asia and Southern Asia continue to rely on polluting fuels and cooking technologies. In 18 African countries, including Burundi, Mali, South Sudan, Niger, and Uganda, more than 95% of the population relies on solid fuels for cooking.

Clean cooking is advocated not just to reduce the diseases associated with home air pollution, but also to prevent burns, which pose a considerable risk, particularly to children, in households that utilize open flames and inefficient cooking methods. Burn injuries continue to be one of the most common and preventable injuries in children worldwide.

Childhood burns can have severe physical, psychological, and economic implications. Cooking-related burns, which account for up to 85% of childhood scalds, provide a higher risk of harm and long-term morbidity compared to other types of burns. Home air pollution was projected to kill 3.2 million people per year by 2020, including more than 237,000 fatalities among children under the age of five. When combined with ambient air pollution, these contaminants result in 6.7 million premature deaths per year. Furthermore, the time spent using and preparing fuel for inefficient, polluting equipment takes away other opportunities for health and development, such as studying,

leisure time, and productive jobs. Women and children face the greatest health risks from polluting fuels and technologies because they cook and collect firewood, exposing them to harmful fumes. This fuel gathering also creates musculoskeletal problems, consumes a significant amount of time, and limits opportunities for education and other productive activities, additionally, they are more susceptible to injury in risky environments.

Clean Cooking Solutions

It is time for all stakeholders in Africa to prioritize clean cooking, as the current reliance on polluting and hazardous cooking methods is resulting in silent fatalities. Addressing this issue is crucial for safeguarding the health of millions of people, especially women and children, as well as conserving the environment and facilitating the global energy transition. Strong relationships, effective methods, supporting policies, and high standards will be critical to the initiative's success. If we do this correctly—and we must—it will immediately benefit 2.1 people worldwide. This is the driving force behind the Second Edition of the International Clean Cooking Ambassadors Training (ICCAT), organized by Grandhedge International in collaboration with Climate Hub Tanzania. ICCAT provides a solution by training participants on clean cooking technology and procedures, which address the environmental and health repercussions of traditional cooking methods. The program educates participants on sustainable development, creative thinking, financial literacy, and climate science. Participants are taught about efficient stoves and alternative fuels through hands-on sessions and group activities, with the purpose of lowering carbon emissions, improving public health, and promoting sustainability.

The program will cover climate science basics, with a focus on how traditional cooking methods contribute to climate change. The energy industry should focus on increasing electrification initiatives to improve energy infrastructure and distribution, as well as providing greater access to energy-efficient cooking alternatives. This will improve the reliability of electricity availability across countries, as well as boost access to electricity and energy-efficient cooking options for even the most remote people.

Uganda's government prioritizes electric cooking as part of its national electrification strategy, with a goal of 50% implementation by 2030. Uganda has spent the last 30 years investing in electricity as a top priority in its national budget, resulting in an apparent surplus supply.

As a result, the government is devising strategies to generate demand for this surplus, and electric cooking presents an excellent chance. Leaders rallied around the African Women Clean Cooking Support Programme (AWCCSP), which was launched by Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan on the sidelines of COP28 in Dubai, 2023. According to President Suluhu, cooking with wood biomass causes deforestation. "This has resulted in the loss of 3.9 million hectares of forest in Africa between 2010 and 2020," she said, adding that while access to clean cooking has increased around the world, in Africa, the use of wooden biomass is increasing. President Suluhu stated that the private sector has an important role to play: "We call on the private sector to establish a commercial supply chain for clean cooking alternatives, including improved stoves and facilitating access to electricity in rural areas."

*Business Development and Marketing Executive at SustainaBiz Consulting <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sustainabiz-consulting/>

De Beers, Debswana, DTCB and partners inspire the next generation of engineers



DE BEERS GROUP, Debswana Diamond Company, and Diamond Trading Company Botswana (DTCB), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), hosted the 2024 GirlEng Workshop at BIUST in Palapye.

This annual workshop is a testament to the shared commitment of the diamond organisations to inspire and empower young girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). With a focus on fostering interest in engineering, this year's workshop targeted 250 aspiring female engineers aged between 15 and 18 from Palapye and surrounding areas.

The GirlEng Workshop is designed to provide participants with invaluable exposure to careers in STEM through hands-on activities, mentorship from STEM role models, and personal development sessions. Participants gained insights into the exciting world of engineering and the critical role it plays in driving innovation and development in Botswana and beyond.

Our mission is to actively participate in the communities in which we operate by supporting them with our Building Forever Framework. We are passionate

about advancing opportunities for young women in engineering and STEM fields. Through GirlEng, we hope to ignite a passion for engineering and provide the guidance and resources these young women need to pursue their ambitions. It is through initiatives like this that we aim to shape Botswana's future leaders in STEM.

"Our country needs global thinkers that can solve global problems, and STEM provides an opportunity to achieve this mandate for the next generation. As we transition from resource based to a knowledge-based economy it is becoming increasingly important to empower students in STEM", Said Ms. Didimalang Mmemo, Chief Education Officer, Palapye District, Ministry of Education and Skills Development.

The workshop featured engineers, scientists and mathematicians from BIUST, De Beers Group, Debswana, DTCB, and other accomplished Batswana professionals, alongside young women engineers from the Southern Africa Fellowship programme. These experienced professionals shared their journeys, providing inspiration and practical advice to the next generation of engineers. The workshop reflects the core values of the collaborating partners in promoting education.



MISA Regional Director Dr Tabani Moyo



Gopolang Malefho, Manager Policy Development and Voter Education



Kabo Ramasia, MISA Botswana National Governing Council Member



Ogone Thani, MISA Botswana Communications Officer (MC)



MISA, IEC train journalists on Elections Reporting

The Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Botswana Chapter and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) this week hosted a two-day elections reporting training for local journalists in Gaborone and Francistown on the 8th – 9th October 2024.

On Friday, the North team continued with the workshop in Palapye.

The two-day in-depth training comes at a time when Botswana is heading for the much-anticipated General Elections that is scheduled to take place on the 30th October 2024 across 61 constituencies nationwide. Delivering the opening remarks, MISA Botswana Vice Chairperson Tshireletso Stoffel said the joint efforts of the IEC and MISA Botswana are a bold step towards building and strengthening the media and the information ecosystem, especially at this critical juncture.

This collaborative effort, she said, is borne out of the strategic necessity of a citizen who is informed to make proper choices. This, she added, is not just timely, but urgent.

Stoffel said it underscores the importance of your

work as the media and the electoral management body in ensuring an informed electorate, adding that hopefully, the media and the IEC will forge an enduring strategic partnership for the current and future elections.

"I must express my gratitude to the IEC for their progressive approach, breaking from the norm of viewing the media as a mere tool of information dissemination. Instead, they recognise the media as a critical election stakeholder that requires capacity," said Stoffel. She added: "This should be the spirit that we must embrace and continuously nourish in the process of permanently examining our society, which, by every means, like others, remains a work in progress."

Stoffel also said the elections, by their nature, are a public process, and they are a chance for society to actively engage. She said they are not just a structured process of the citizens and office bearers entering a social contract on the governing and those governed, but also a powerful tool towards a transparent and prosperous country for all.

Policy Development and Voter Education Manager

at IEC Malefho Gopolang presented on the roles of IEC, the legal framework in relation to elections management and how the IEC and media can collaborate effectively on the elections process.

Gopolang noted that the IEC takes the media as an important stakeholder in elections, adding that the media holds an important role in coverage of elections by disseminating information on elections to the public.

He said it is important for the IEC to engage with the media on a regular basis as that would capacitate the media to understand and report credibly on the elections processes such as the nomination of presidential candidates, parliamentary and local government (council candidates) respectively.

Some of the topics that he touched on included electoral cycle in Botswana, pre-electoral phase and electoral phase to mention but a few. In Palapye, the IEC Chief Public Relations Officer Osupile Maroba told the media workshop that Botswana has different statutes that govern the elections.

Maroba said the electoral legal frameworks include the Constitution, the Presidential Elections (supplementary provisions), the Local Government Act which specifically deals with elections of councillors and the Referendum Act.

For his MISA Regional Director, Dr Tabani Moyo – who was also the facilitator for the training – applauded IEC for being open to the media in Botswana, emphasizing that the workshop is strengthening the IEC and media relationship. Dr Moyo said it is important for the journalists to be ethical and objective in the elections reporting. He said the media also should have a Code of Conduct that governs journalists while covering elections.

"The media is an important stakeholder in the election process and as MISA we are grateful for the IEC of Botswana for conducting this kind of workshop. It doesn't happen in other countries in Africa where you will see an elections management body seating under one roof with the media. This IEC and media relationship assert Botswana as a shining example of democracy in Africa and the world at large," he said.

Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



ADAM PHETLHE
ON SUNDAY!

IN THE 2019 GENERAL ELECTION, THE Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) won 38 parliamentary constituencies. Of these, about 26 were in the southern part of the country with the rest in the northern part. It is an undisputed fact that the BDP whitewashed the opposition in the south with the opposition winning only Ghanzi South through Rre Motsamai Motsamai. In the north, BDP won 12 constituencies while the opposition won 12. It is common knowledge that the configuration of constituencies changed before the enactment of the Floor Crossing law that was passed during the 12th parliament.

The 2019 general election results suggest that the BDP has to retain its hold on constituencies in the south to stand a good chance to cross the bridge of winning 31 parliamentary seats. Any disturbance to the southern constituencies can spell disaster for the BDP.

It is important to note that the euphoria that consumed the nation in 2019 is no

BDP will struggle to win 31 seats

longer there. At the time, voters wanted to see the back of Ian Khama and welcome Mokgweetsi Masisi. At the time, we witnessed the dramatic arrest of Mphoeng Maswabi, of spyname Butterfly on account of having misappropriated public funds to amongst others, finance terrorism. Butterfly was escorted to court under heavy security befitting hard core terrorists. There was a State-sponsored lie that Khama and Butterfly were behind stealing P 100 billion from the Bank of Botswana. In the midst of the pandemonium, Masisi promised Batswana that the Rule of Law, accountability and good governance and fighting corruption will be his trade mark. He is far off from achieving any of these goals.

What transpired after the 2019 general election is the direct opposite of the goodwill Masisi promised to bring to our shores. It has since emerged the Directorate of Intelligence Service (DIS) that was the master-creator of the P 100 billion lie, are the law unto themselves. Courts have proven that the DIS is an agency run in contravention of the Rule of Law. Other embarrassing blunders include the shambolic Constitutional Review process, which led to the Constitutional Amendment Bill which failed the mandatory 2/3 threshold, in the process embarrassing Masisi and his Domkrag. The Bills would have benefitted Masisi and his vice President Slumber Tsogwane handsomely. As if that was not enough, a Bill on the amendment of

the Referendum Act was proposed wherein the President would be given powers to determine anything of his liking. Political morality that was promised by the BDP has become an allergy of some sort.

The struggle
In the southern part of the country, 10 or so parliamentary constituencies will be represented by newcomers following the loss of Meshack Mthimkhulu and Liakat Kablay. I do not suggest new BDP parliamentary candidates cannot win. Regard must be had to the fact that the BDP is caught in an intense political storm arising from the highly disputed primary elections. While the party is desperately trying to portray a united posture, the mood on the ground says otherwise. The manner in which the BDP handled the primary elections process has deeply polarised the party right down the middle and therefore consequential to its performance in the 2024 general election at all levels of the electoral process.

The epicentre of the BDP boiling point consequent to the fallout over the primary elections is the Goodhope/Mmathethe constituency. The constituency is up for grabs more than it would have been had the fallout not occurred. In Ramotswa, the outgoing MP Lefoko Moagi has been replaced by Dr Tlhoiwe. At the centre of Moagi's defeat during the primary elections is the argument that he abandoned BagaMalete at the time of need with regards to the land dispute morafe had with government. Even if he had won



BDP supporters

[PIC: PINOKILANO]

the primary election, it would have been hard if not impossible for him to win the constituency at the general election. Dr Tlhoiwe will in my view, not change the bad situation for the simple reason that he is representing the BDP. Gaborone South constituency is one such constituency where the primary election fallout was visible following the passing on of Mthimkhulu. Like in Goodhope/Mmathethe, the BDP has given birth to an independent candidate in the constituency. In Lobatse, the outgoing MP was constructively forced out probably

before his planned exit timeframe. Some BDP members will remember how Dr Matsheka was humiliated for an offence he is yet to be prosecuted for. There are other constituencies in the southern part of Botswana that the BDP is likely to lose following fallouts post Bulela Ditswe, among them Letlhakeng following the recent passing of Liakat Kablay.

In Maun constituencies, BDP vetted out prominent members who have significant influence in the party and the community. These individuals would be deeply aggrieved

by their vetting out and so would be their supporters. In Maun East a civil servant was forced into retirement to represent the party immediately, just eight weeks before elections. Some in this constituency will feel betrayed, which will harden feelings. In all these instances, the BDP stands to experience protest vote where its members vote for other political parties, or they simply boycott elections. The end result will be the BDP losing crucial votes to bolster its electoral prospects. The only solace for the party, will be to benefit from vote splitting as in previous general elections.

With the BDP looking to struggle to achieve the 31 magic number, its leader and instead of soothing those aggrieved by the primary elections consequences, is putting fuel to the already uncontrollable fire by publicly bashing the aggrieved, further alienating them and their supporters. To denigrate individuals who have decided to stand as independent candidates does not help the BDP in any way.

The political ground is shifting. Under the prevailing circumstances of adversity, insults and denigration targeted at anyone not in agreement with BDP leaders is a red flag. A clear indication that the party will struggle in October. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

**On a sad note, deepest condolences to Rre Seabelo Tlhaselo's family.*
adamphetlhe08@gmail.com

Double registration contributes to vote rigging



KEAOLEBOGA DIPOGISO*

WHAT THE MADIBELATHOPO DID BY advocating for an electronic voters roll is cool. What they are doing by disseminating it is cooler. You know what is coolest, the picking of double registrations so that they may be resolved fast fast. But we know, the covert reason is to try to prove rigging, by means of double voting. This was a consistent claim in the 2019 dispute. That people voted twice or many times, in different constituencies.

In fact, it gave rise to the formation of the Madibelathopho. I have been diametrically opposed to this claim, that it lacked credibility and practicability. In my argument, I looked at the margins, and disputed the possibility that the gravity of the margins could have been aided

by double voting. I suggested that the claimants should mention names, and provide the proof of the manifold, so called voting patterns.

In the current circumstances, the names are being occasionally dug out, and benevolently placed in the public domain for the public to view. But, you know what else is more important, to prove to those that care, that the gravity of such anomalies may result in a manipulated vote. From what I saw, only a couple of names were flagged out, the result of double voting in the current circumstance, would, if the stated individuals would vote twice, or three times, or even four times, very marginal. They would in the most extreme, alter margins in favor of their candidates with a margin of not more than 10 votes. If double or quadruple voting always a possibility, and about 10, 000 people were so positioned, then rigging is highly possible.

Remember that, for the purpose of querying an election, the number of irregular votes, must have the effect of altering the original vote. Scenario: if I contest in the Kgosong Ward in Serowe, then lose, I should be able to prove that people who were irregularly registered actually voted in my ward. If I bring meagre number of voters who were irregularly registered and proved that they voted. Such voters naturally would have not had a role in altering the natural vote. That is, if the number of the irregular voters were given to me, it should alter the vote, proving that had they not been there I would have not lost.

Having said that, though, double registrations should be condemned in the strongest possible terms. Equally, the narrative that double registrations accounted for multiple voting, and hence a rigged vote in 2019, should be condemned as it is unnecessarily alarmist and lacks credibility. I'm currently awaiting the Madibelathopho to weed out more and more. The numbers should be in thousands, to prove that it wasn't human error, but an active intention by the IEC to permit people to vote twice or more.

If the numbers are in thousands, I will apologise for suggesting that double voting never altered the vote. The IEC however, should account for this, as to how possible it is, for individuals to register twice. If it is not human error, then it is an active intention to provide possibility for double voting.

Furthermore, the statement from the IEC claiming that they aren't the ones who divulged the soft copy voters roll is heavily loaded. If they didn't, then who did. Is the voters roll safe, in the light that it could evade cybersecurity measures of the organisation? In fact, does the 'leaked' voters roll match the hard copies that are inspected at the designated offices?

*Facebook Post

Tribute to Rre Seabelo Tlhaselo

IT'S NOT AN EASY WEEK FOR BALETE. Seabelo Tlhaselo was a colossal figure, a role model to many, a giver, a man who changed the landscape of transportation industry in Botswana. We all remember the Seabelo train-bus, the double deck coach. He was an exceptional figure.

My closer interaction with him started during my playing days at Mokgosi Young Fighters. I was a student at UB when I was recruited from Gaborone Kicks to join Mokgosi. The Tlhaselo brothers (Bra Rhee and Bra Vic) together with Bra Fisher were managing that outfit. Rre Seabelo through his Seabelo Express came in as the main sponsor. I am told that he was a Mokgosi former player as well.

I have a clear recollection of the day I was recruited; they (Seabelo, Rhee, Vic and Fisher) called me to Seabelo Express maintenance office where I was offered a sign on fee of P4000. They had the cash on the table! I was scared. I love money but I want it on my terms, plus I played football as a passion and not for any monetary gains. I politely refused the cash offer (fighting my temptations in the process) but pledged to join the team nevertheless. Ok I wasn't stupid for not taking the money. I just didn't want an employment-like commitment. I was a type of a player who would miss training during exam time or abscond when there was a music festival in town. So I preferred a lose arrangement! Ok, they ended up forcing P1000 into my pockets, which I secretly rejoiced.

Seabelo singlehandedly made Mokgosi fashionable. We became the first team



The late Seabelo

from a lower division to reach FA Finals in 1997 (Coca Cola Cup) where we lost to my favorite team Notwane. I still have vivid memories of the Cup. We beat BDF XI and Gunners enroute to the finals. On the day of the final we were lodged at Cresta hotel, had lunch at Seabelo residence in Ramotswa and the team was followed by a motorcade from Ramotswa to the national stadium, buses, trucks, low bed trucks, etc it was a spectacle. Seabelo literally went all out and gave us the best experience as players.

A week after the FA Final, he came to the ground and announced that the prize

money will be shared amongst players and technical team! Such was his generosity. The team went on to win the first division title and promoted to the then Super League. Throughout our first division and Super League days, he delegated his best Coach/Bus to transport the team. A number of players were employed in his operation. A great man he was!

There was an incident that showed the other side of him. strict and no-nonsense character. We were playing in Francistown against Tafic or Tasc (can't recall which one). The plan was for the team bus

to depart at 5am at Seabelo House on matchday, Saturday. The previous night I joined my friends Marvin Thokozani Torto and Tobokani Chilume and fell into the temptation of having ma 1-1 (heish indiscipline). So, I failed to wake up on-time! The team bus left. Akere there were no cellphones at the time. Rre Seabelo came to my place with the team Manager Bra Morgan. I was staying in a servants quarter in Phase 4. He was driving his Mercedes Benz, the big one -S500! The hooter was so loud that I woke up in a split of a second. Within 2 minutes I had brushed my teeth, washed my face, collected my play bag and sat at the backseat of the car. He was pissed off! Didn't say a word when I greeted him. I had broken the team rules but the team needed me. Come on, I was Mara, Mokgosi jersey 10..the playmaker. It must have been my first time in a Merc. He was playing orchestra, clean, crisp and pure music. 180km/hr! And by the time the team bus reached Dibete we had caught up with them. He stopped them and I joined the team in the bus, naughty boy. Flip-side, I fell in love with the Mercedes Benz S500 and the day I own one, it will be in his memory, his inspiration!

Thank you for giving us a chance to grow in a positive environment Rre Tlhaselo. Thank you for your immense contribution to Botswana Football and to the Transport/Logistics industry. You are iconic and that will not change regardless the circumstances of your demise.

So long my leader!
Tebogo Sebebo
Attorney-at-Law

Why a SKD vehicle plant is unlikely to be viable in Botswana?

-Lessons from Hyundai's experience

BILLY SEKGORORANE*

SETTING UP AN SKD PLANT FOR VEHICLE assembly in Botswana may initially seem attractive, especially when compared to importing fully assembled vehicles. However, a closer look at the practical and economic realities suggests that this model is unlikely to be viable, particularly when learning from Hyundai's experience in the region.

Several key factors support my position:

1. Limited Tariff Advantages Due to SACU Membership

Botswana is a member of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), which means that it cannot offer preferential tariff treatments outside the agreements set by SACU. In Hyundai's earlier operation, the company took advantage of a loophole in SACU's tariff system to import SKD kits with lower import duties. This loophole has since been closed, and it now requires that assembly operations meet more stringent standards or face the same duties as fully assembled vehicles.

Without the benefit of lower import tariffs, the new SKD plant would face the same financial burden as fully importing vehicles from China, where production costs are far lower due to China's advanced economies of scale, cheaper Labour, and established supply chains.

Without tariff relief, the cost difference

between an SKD plant and fully assembled vehicle imports will be negligible, if not higher in favour of importing.

2. Absence of Economies of Scale: Economies of scale are crucial in the automotive industry, where mass production drastically reduces the per unit cost of vehicles. China, as a global leader in manufacturing, has perfected large scale production, benefiting from vast supply chains, specialized labour, and technological advancements that drive down costs.

A small scale SKD plant in Botswana would not be able to compete with China's manufacturing power. Hyundai faced similar challenges, and despite being a well established global brand, it struggled to make its local assembly operations financially viable when it could not reach the scale necessary to compete with lower cost production hubs. For a new player without established market penetration or the ability to mass produce at the same level as China, the cost per unit will remain uncompetitive.

3. High Logistics and Operational Costs: While SKD kits may take up less shipping space than fully assembled vehicles, they still require significant local assembly, which comes with high costs. Hyundai's Botswana operation revealed that local assembly processes often involve additional logistical challenges,

including hiring and training a skilled workforce, purchasing or importing assembly equipment, and maintaining the necessary infrastructure to meet quality and safety standards.

Given that the plant would bring in vehicles that are already nearly fully assembled, the operational costs of completing the assembly locally will add to the financial burden without significant value addition.

4. No Significant Value Addition: Additionally, labour in Botswana, while lower than in developed countries, is not as cheap as in China, and the costs of running the plant, including utilities, rent, and overheads, will quickly erode any perceived financial advantage.

5. Unfavourable Competitive Position: Hyundai's experience in the region demonstrated that even large automotive brands find it difficult to compete when their production models are not perfectly aligned with local market conditions. A new player entering the SKD space, without the brand recognition or consumer loyalty of Hyundai, would face even steeper challenges in a market that is heavily influenced by price sensitivity.

Consumers are likely to favour fully assembled, imported vehicles from China that are not only competitively priced but also come with the assurance of being produced in world class factories under stringent quality controls. An SKD plant that cannot offer significantly lower prices or better quality will struggle to establish a foothold in such a market. Given these realities, a new SKD plant in Botswana, under the current conditions, is unlikely to be a viable business venture. Without the ability to leverage lower tariffs, achieve economies of scale, or offer significant value addition, this operation would likely face the same challenges that Hyundai did, and potentially with worse outcomes.

The costs of local assembly, when compared to fully assembled imports from China, will almost certainly outweigh any perceived benefits, making the venture unsustainable.

*Facebook Post



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Masisi is killing Botswana's diamond dream

THABO FANU MASALILA*

WHEN PRESIDENT Mokgweetsi Masisi swore the oath of office on two occasions, he assumed immense responsibility to be at the helm of the levers of government, and critically to safeguard Botswana's assets, its most enduring being credibility.

Botswana is respected for its sentimental reverence of tenets of democracy and truth, all cemented by integrity and strength of a fiscal policy.

Traditionally, disinformation, banana republics and failed states were the purview of dictators. On Sunday and at Peggy Serame's launch we witnessed yet a continuation of debunked statements with Eric Molale reduced to an errant schoolboy giving legitimacy to false statements.

The 2011 negotiations between De Beers and the government were the toughest in the history of negotiations, delivering three notable successes. First was the longest sales agreement of 10 years. The milestone deliverable was the transfer of London based rough diamond international global sightholder sales to Gaborone. Lastly the agreement provided an independent sales outlet for Botswana, giving birth to ODC. From 2011, ODC was to receive 10% of Debswana's production, rising to 15% over a five year period.

Society needs to appreciate two things – the ownership structure of Debswana and what when totalled is the flow of revenue. Perhaps a third element could be the partial ownership of De Beers by the government of Botswana.

What is now Debswana used to be called De Beers Botswana Mining Company. At inception in 1970, the government of Botswana held 15% equity in De Beers Botswana Mining Company.

Botswana Diamond Valuing Company was formed in 1971. This was a 50-50 partnership between Botswana and De Beers, the parent company.

The flow of revenue accruing to Botswana as early as 1970 was 50% of total diamond revenue, derived from corporate royalty and corporate tax and dividends. After deduction of costs, dividends are paid of which the government through double taxation pocketed from the De Beers

dividend. It is this combination of royalties, taxes and dividends that I will refer to as the flow of revenue.

The negotiations of 1974 increased Botswana's equity in De Beers Botswana Mining Company to 50%, with the flow of revenue increasing to 75%. In the subsequent years and negotiations of 1978, 1986, 1996 and 2006, the flow of revenue increased until plateauing at a staggering 81% to benefit Botswana.

The 1987 acquisition of a 5% stake in De Beers, which increased gradually to 15% by 2001 extended Botswana's gains to proceeds from South Africa, Namibia and Canada. The opening of DTC-B in 2008, resulting from a decision of 2006 created about 3000 jobs. Translocating the De Beers Global Sightholders Sales to Gaborone localised skills previously domiciled in London.

Successive negotiations have delivered two things – employment and an upturn in the economic fortunes of Botswana. The opening of Orapa mine came with jobs, and so did Lethakane and Damtshe; and Jwaneng as well as the additions of the DTC-B, ODC and DBGSS. From around 2001, there was an upward spike in net returns accruing the Botswana in monetary terms.

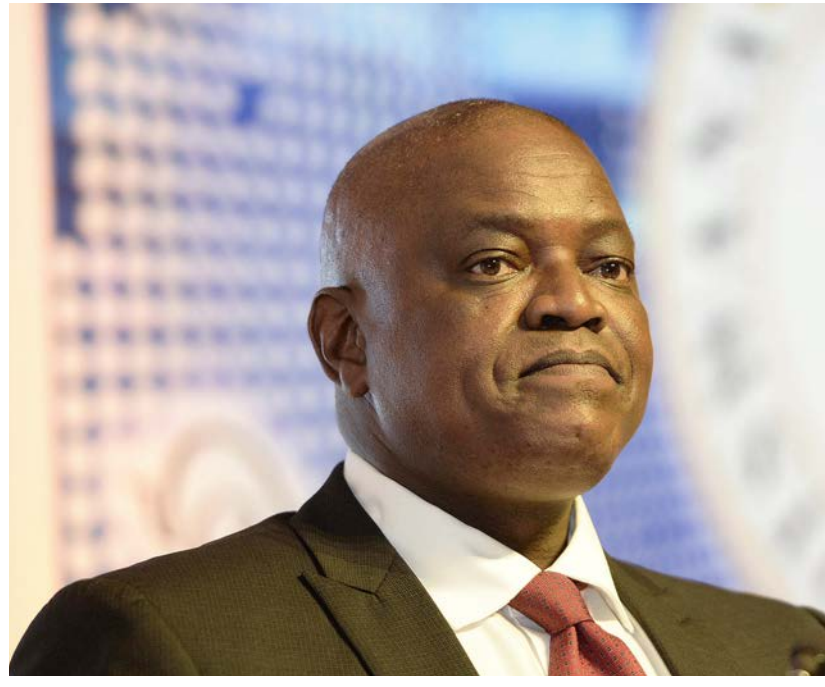
Previous negotiations had immediate tangible deliverables whose benefits trickled to the average Botswana just as the ink settled.

Masisi's problems start here! There is little to extract in terms of jobs insofar as the current negotiations are concerned. Equally, the expected economic benefit is pie in the sky. In view of these two ardent outcomes, a theatrical performance of unfairly and dishonestly imputing criminality in the part of De Beers became Masisi's feasible option to derive relevance.

No president has engrossed himself so much into negotiations the way President Masisi has.

The protracted 2021 negotiations are yet to be signed. At present only the heads of terms have been signed and either party could renege on finality. De Beers' major principal Anglo America is emboldened, with four key decisions the major source of discontent. Out of respect to both parties it is not necessary to delve into these at present - in due course I will.

President Masisi excels with



Masisi

distinction in masterful deception. There he has no match. Needing campaign content, Masisi set out to hoodwink an unsuspecting nation, positing De Beers as a criminal entity that has robbed Botswana, and he the saviour who took on a giant. Even RB1 and some opposition candidates believe Botswana has been getting the raw end of the deal, something very far from the truth.

The yet to be finalised deal does not come with real jobs and does not influence an upturn in economic fortunes. Instead, it risks Botswana's position in its entirety as a republic, and as a long term partner in the success that is De Beers.

On average since 2010 Botswana produced and sold about 21.5 million carats annually. In 2022, the largest volume produced and sold generated about \$4bn, exchanging to roughly P50bn annually. Diamond prices have either remained the same or are in decline, meaning whatever sales outlet is there will make less money compared to the glory years.

With prices, volume of carats and revenue from rough diamond all effectively on the decline, somewhere in there Masisi's "negotiations" want to claim success in arm twisting De Beers of P10bn fund. Against P50bn what would the value of a P1bn fund every year for 10 years be, assuming all else remained equal?

Masisi's only proposition in the negotiating - moving ODC quota from 25% to 50% - presents the first shortfall in what was steady and assured revenue for Botswana. Should the agreement be signed,

De Beers generated revenue and by extension royalties, taxes and dividends coming from same will be halved in ten years should everything including pricing remain the same. ODC will also have to perform at par with DBGSS to return the similar revenue. Constell Group, resident in Botswana since 2015, and as a consequence of the 2011 agreement, is one such company committed to expanding the downstream polishing and cutting within our borders. Whether diamonds are sourced from ODC or DGBSS, it will matter little for Constell. It will be a Botswana diamond, from either portion of the 21.5 million carats. As a side bar, from an ease of doing business, matching India's cost of production will be an attractive incentive for most companies forced to be in Botswana. This is a topic for another day.

As mines deepen, annual production of carats reduces, costs shoot upwards, forcing the inevitability of automation. Introducing a start up like ODC is a saturated market maybe self-injurious.

Without bursting anyone's bubble, the P10bn fund for development will be an exchange for royalties and or taxes, or a combination of both coming from Debswana, DTC-B and DBGSS for this purported fund. In effect, it will be monies moving from the left hand to the right, with no net increase in the flow of revenue to Botswana other than already accruing to government coffers anyway.

In closing, Masisi does not seem to be a person capable of reconciling his actions with potential consequences. If he was, he would have toned down on the misplaced rhetoric against De Beers.

When the 2011 negotiations began in 2010, Masisi was Assistant Minister of Presidential Affairs, deputizing Lesego Motsumi, the lady he must refer to in video. Rre Ponatshago Kedikilwe was Minister of Minerals Energy & Water Resources and is ultimate signatory on behalf of the government. If indeed former President Khama "hated" him then, what resulted in him being appointed as Vice President in November 2014. This, however, is neither here nor there, except to highlight the idleness of pedestrian thinking that overcomes Masisi. We have bigger problems.

On the African continent, a precedence of indigenization has been set, something that must exist as a threat to the psyche of long-term partners De Beers.

Unlike in previous years, our position as a partner is not as strong as we purport ourselves to be. Copper is Anglo America's most valuable commodity contributing well over 25% of earnings. De Beers, with a troublesome Masisi led government contributes 4%. Analysts both in London and New York support the idea of Anglo removing Anglo Plats and De Beers from its portfolio. The two assets, De Beers and Anglo Plats, besides being little contributors are seen as complex and unreliable contributors because of complex deals involving governments and in De Beers' part, unpredictable demand cycles.

Just last week Anglo America's CEO Duncan Wanblad's reiteration that Anglo was definitely divesting De Beers saw the share price increase by up to 5%, buttressing the notion that shareholders and analysts really support for Anglo to dump De Beers.

In 1981, then Zaire decided to withdraw its diamonds from the Central Selling Organisation (CSO) in London. In response, De Beers flooded the market with similar products to those from Zaire, lowering the price from \$3/carats to half. Zaire backtracked quickly. Even Australia's Argyle mine was put in line quickly when they tried to be funny.

At present, President Masisi and

his erratic conduct towards partners De Beers is holding Botswana at ransom. Should the country be thrown into an economic crisis, Botswana should take responsibility for allowing themselves to be sold a lie, believing it and failing at the least, to ask the President for once to be serious, and lead in the truth.

Partial blame and culpability of the diamond disinformation must extend to the media. It appears our journalists are unable for the sake of the country to debunk Masisi's animating alternative facts in a way that even Masisi-loving supporters would at the least get a version of the truth. Assessed objectively, with exception of extension of duration of contracts and the allocation of 50% of the Debswana production to ODC, the ongoing negotiations judged against historical achievements, will be seen to have had minimal impact on jobs and the economy.

And there is nothing wrong with it. By the flick of his arm, Moses split the Red Sea for the Israelites to gain passage away from Egypt.

The administration led by Sir Seretse Khama made two critical policy decisions. Firstly, vesting mineral rights to the republic and secondly granting the Botswana government the sole authority to decide how these resources would be explored and exploited.

Sir Ketumile Masire invested directly in De Beers and Festus Mogae increased that stake. Both Masire and Mogae can be credited with lifting the flow of revenue to an acceptable ratio for both partners, one that doesn't break backs. SKI Khama delivered ODC and DBGSS, sustaining a partnership of 40 years at the time. The diamond world knows that at present, no deal exists between Botswana and De Beers, save for some temporary extension. The same world is also on a decline. Unprovoked and uninvited, Masisi proverbially threw himself into the "buffalo's horns", intertwining himself with a false narrative which when the time comes for it to unravel, he will be the scapegoat.

*Facebook Post

History will judge Mokgweetsi Masisi harshly, when then it becomes clear in abdicating the oath he took, he allowed greed, flirting with market upstarts like HB Antwerp and sheer ignorance deal a five-decade relationship a fatal blow.

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■ launches exclusive signature card

ABSA BANK BOTSWANA HAS RAISED the bar in premium banking with the launch of its new Signature Card, a sleek and metallic offering tailored to the bank's Affluent and Premier customers. Launched Thursday, the Signature Card provides an array of luxurious benefits aimed at enhancing the lifestyle experiences of Botswana's most discerning clientele.

Designed with both functionality and luxury in mind, the card offers an elevated experience that reflects the growing demand for exclusive services within the banking sector. The Signature Card comes with exclusive discounts on high-end lodging, transportation, and shopping, alongside lifestyle rewards that range from gourmet dining experiences to bespoke travel perks. For frequent flyers, it includes complimentary access to global airport lounges, ensuring a seamless travel experience wherever they go.

At the launch event, Absa Bank Botswana Managing Director, Keabetswe Phoko-Moshagane, highlighted the bank's commitment to providing products that not only meet financial needs but also offer added value through premium lifestyle benefits.

"The Signature Card is not just a payment tool; it's a symbol of exclusivity and luxury. It offers unmatched benefits and services tailored for those who value convenience and premium experiences," she declared.

The strategic importance of this launch



was reinforced by Saviour Chibiya, Chief Executive Officer ARO-International Assignees, who noted that the Visa Signature Card exemplifies Absa's commitment to introducing innovative banking solutions.

He added, "This launch is yet another example of our dedication to meeting our customers' ever-changing needs. Rest assured the Visa Signature Card is only the beginning. We are continuously working behind the scenes to develop more

innovative and tailored solutions to meet your evolving needs". Chibiya emphasised that Absa's strong local connections and international presence enables the bank to remain a trusted financial partner across Africa and beyond.

The introduction of the Signature Card underscores Absa's strategic move to cater to a niche market of high-net-worth individuals in Botswana. As banking customers increasingly seek not

only financial services but also curated experiences that reflect their personal aspirations, Absa's latest product aligns with this evolving trend. Beyond the immediate offerings of the card, the bank aims to deepen its relationship with the Affluent and Premier segments, positioning itself as a key player in Botswana's competitive banking sector. With features like global acceptance, access to private events, and exclusive offers, the Signature Card is

expected to become a coveted item for the country's top-tier customers. Absa Bank Botswana's introduction of this premium product reflects the institution's continued drive to innovate and lead in the financial services sector, particularly in meeting the sophisticated needs of its affluent customer base. By blending luxury with practicality, the bank is positioning itself not only as a financial service provider but as a lifestyle partner for Botswana's wealthy elite.

BOL
prioritises
citizen
contractors



Moagi

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BOTSWANA OIL LIMITED (BOL)'s Frantstown oil storage project which boasts of being the first and biggest of its kind in the country, benefits the city's residents as well as local contractors. Speaking at the launch of the Frantstown depot gantry in Frantstown on Thursday, the Minister of Minerals and Energy Lefoko Moagi applauded BOL for prioritising and empowering citizen contractors through the project.

Moagi said the development and expansion of the facility entails construction of a road loading and offloading gantry with other associated infrastructure developments, construction of a tank farm, rail offloading facility and office building which will be completed in two phases. The first phase of the project, which has already been completed, included mechanical and civil works at a cost of approximately P219 million.

He further announced that citizens have been contracted through strategic partnerships for the delivery of some works in the same project, with more than P213 million having been spent on citizen contractors. The project has created employment for 452 people including artisans from Frantstown and surrounding villages, he added.

"The social and economic benefits of a project such as this one cannot be overemphasized. As a Government we believe that State Owned Enterprises like Botswana Oil should facilitate citizen economic empowerment," he echoed.

Moagi reiterated that the involvement of citizen and local companies through collaborations or any form of partnership fosters skills transfer, development and capacity building for locals, which in turn makes it easier for contracted companies to offer maintenance services post completion of the projects.

For his part, City of Frantstown Mayor Godisang Radisigo highlighted that the infrastructure project holds numerous avenues for citizen economic empowerment as well as entrepreneurship development for the city's youth, local communities, the city of Frantstown and the northern region of the country as a whole.

"We look forward to contributing and having our society participate as well as take pride in the developments led by Botswana Oil in our areas and to achieve more together. This project is directly aligned to our Vision 2022 Strategy which aims to "Transform the City & Motivate Partnerships for Investment & Development Impetus," he said.

Giving a background of the project, BOL's Chief Executive Officer Meshack Tshakedi acknowledged that because Botswana imports all petroleum products, which brings some significant security of supply challenges for the country and in turn caused the Government to realise the critical and strategic importance of petroleum supplies to the nation as well as the establishment of a strategic reserve programme culminating in the construction of two petroleum storage depots years ago.

The project seeks to expand existing storage capacity for petrol and diesel in Frantstown to increase days cover from 15 days to at least 60 to 90 days without there being any supply disruptions.

Tshakedi reiterated that the main reasons for the expansion of the Frantstown depot was to accommodate surges in inventories due to intermittent rail tanker arrivals and variation in sales shipments; allow for unplanned delays in shipments as well as to make provision for long supply interruptions.

Debswana hosts CEEP business partners forum

■ CEEP exceeds target, spend P28.9 billion, creates 16,989 jobs (85% of target)



Ludo Tema, Debswana's Head of Legal

[PIC: PINOKILANO]

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DEBSWANA ON WEDNESDAY HOSTED A Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP) engagement forum, marking the final stages of their five-year One Dream, One Team strategy, which concludes this year.

The forum was designed to foster dialogue between service providers and industry stakeholders, focusing on how CEEP can further advance citizen participation in the supply chain and create a lasting impact on the local economy. This comes ahead of Debswana's forthcoming Transitional 2025 Strategy, which aims to build on the successes achieved so far.

To date, Debswana's CEEP has exceeded expectations by spending P28.9 billion, significantly surpassing the initial target of P20 billion. The programme has facilitated the creation and support of 16,989 jobs, which represents 85% of the 20,000 job target, and has directed 55% of the overall spend towards citizen-owned enterprises, while achieving 87% in local procurement. These figures underline the programme's role in driving economic growth and fostering local business development.

"Citizen economic empowerment remains a critical component of Debswana's ongoing operational strategy, One Dream, One Team 2024. This strategy highlights our ongoing commitment to sustainability, digitisation, and community empowerment. By prioritising these key elements, we are working to ensure that our efforts not only contribute to the growth of citizen-owned enterprises but also leave a lasting and meaningful impact on the broader economy, fully aligning with our goal of sustainable development," said Debswana Managing Director, Andrew Motsomi.

Double edged sword

Joseph Tsimako, president of the Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU), raised concerns about the implementation of CEEP, suggesting that it has created more challenges than benefits for workers. According to Tsimako, the programme has failed to achieve its target of

creating 20,000 jobs due to issues such as social dumping, casualisation of work, and inadequate regulatory oversight.

Tsimako expressed concern over weak monitoring within CEEP's supply chain, particularly the lack of control measures, which has led to deteriorating working conditions. He pointed out that some Botswana companies are involved in fronting practices, undermining the programme's objectives and raising concerns about possible corruption in tender processes.

He further addressed the growing trend of mining licence holders forming subsidiary companies, highlighting Debswana's replacement of Majwe Mining with Naledi Mining Services. Initially set up to improve working conditions and boost local ownership, Naledi is now seen as a cost-cutting tool, transferring employee risks from Debswana to the subsidiary. Tsimako argued that this practice has resulted in a decline in job quality, with Naledi offering short-term contracts ranging from three months to three years, undermining the national priority of sustainable job creation outlined in Vision 2036.

"Debswana, once a major employer in the mining sector, is now outsourcing roles to Naledi Mining Services, offering unsustainable fixed-term contracts. This contradicts the country's decent work programmes and hampers the achievement of Vision 2036's goals for sustainable employment," he said.

Fraudsters warned

Meanwhile Ludo Tema, Debswana's Head of Legal, revealed that they have encountered various forms of fronting in dealings with business partners under the Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP). These include practices such as "window dressing," "benefit diversion," "transfers to foreign owners," and "outsourcing to contractors from other countries."

"Fronting undermines the very goals of our economic empowerment laws and policies. It perpetuates economic inequality in Botswana and stifles the development of our economy. If we fail to address this issue, it could jeopardise Debswana's legal standing and, ultimately, our ability to operate, which would in turn threaten our partnerships with you," Tema cautioned.

Botswana cements its position as Diamond Hub

Its Home to the Kimberly Process Secretariat

■ Govt to cover operational costs for three financial years



Minister of Minerals and Energy Lefoko Moagi commissioned the KP Secretariat headquartered in Gaborone, a move that cements Botswana's position as the natural diamonds hub

[PIC: PINOKILANO]

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THE LONG WAIT TO HAVE THE Kimberly Process Secretariat fully operational is now over.

The wait ended this week when the Minister of Minerals and Energy Lefoko Moagi commissioned the KP Secretariat headquartered in Gaborone, a move that cements Botswana's position as the natural diamonds hub.

The KP unites administrations, civil societies and industry in reducing the flow of conflict diamonds, which are the rough diamonds used to finance wars against governments around the world.

Moagi said Botswana would support the office in kind and financially.

"In kind support Botswana bid to provide a fully furnished office, including its maintenance for the first three years of operation. Financially Botswana is to provide 20%, 22% and 22% of operational cost for the first three years respectively," said Moagi.

He said Botswana would like to contribute to the review and betterment of the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), adding that there was a need for

a permanent office which will facilitate the smooth operations and running of the KPCS. Moagi also said Botswana has heightened desire to support all KPCS activities.

He said these include the consolidation of the KP successes, knowledge management, institutional memory and nurture its evolution and adaptation given the review and reforms needed. There is need for research and development to keep KPCS fit for purpose.

Moagi indicated that as a founding member of the KP, Botswana was motivated to bid to host the Secretariat because of the value and importance diamonds have had and continue to play in her economy and development.

He said Botswana also sought to improve the efficiency of its implementation and contribute to its continued evolution to stay relevant and fit for purpose in this dynamic global diamond trading market environments.

"Our interest is in preserving the integrity of the diamond industry. Diamond trade is the mainstay of our economy. There is no greater motivation than to host the KPCS and continue the legacy and the spirit of the KP Certification Scheme," he added.

Meanwhile, the Chairperson of Kimberly Process Ahemed Bin Sulayem said the KP was born out of Africa for Africa, adding that it is fitting therefore that the KPCS permanent secretariat finds its home in Botswana.

He said the KPCS Office is more than just an office or building because it establishes continuity, institutional memory and ongoing support for the working groups and focal points that drives the KPCS mission forward.

"It provides the structure and stability needed to ensure that the KPCS can operate better, faster and in a more organised fashion. This Secretariat will help ensure that diamonds continue to be a positive force for African development, bringing real benefits to the communities and economies alike," said Sulayem.

The Kimberley Process (KP) unites administrations, civil societies, and industry in reducing the flow of conflict diamonds - rough

The Kimberley Process (KP) unites administrations, civil societies, and industry in reducing the flow of conflict diamonds - rough diamonds used to finance wars against governments' - around the world.

The BIHL Trust, Bomaid partner in the Fit For Life campaign

THE BIHL TRUST, IN COLLABORATION with Bomaid, is excited to announce the return of the Fit for Life campaign, a holistic health and fitness program aimed at encouraging healthier lifestyles and raising awareness about lifestyle diseases. The campaign is designed to educate the public on the prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), as part of a wider effort to promote wellness in Botswana.

Fit for Life is a lifestyle-focused initiative targeting individuals who lead non-active lifestyles and are at risk of lifestyle-related illnesses. Through this campaign, Bomaid and BIHL Trust will bring together an incredible cohort of 600 contestants from Gaborone, Maun, and Francistown to embark on a transformative health journey. The initiative aims to address the growing concerns of obesity, inactivity, and the related health risks that many individuals face.

Who Can Apply?

We are inviting anyone aged between 21 and 60 years who currently leads a non-active lifestyle to apply for this exciting program. Applicants must meet the following criteria: Men: Weighing above



84kg; and Women: Weighing above 75kg.

These participants will be guided through a comprehensive fitness and wellness journey, designed to reshape not only their physical health but also their mindset towards maintaining a healthier lifestyle.

Application Details:

Applications are open now, and all

submissions must be received by 16th October 2024 at 23:59hrs CAT. This is your chance to be part of a movement that seeks to revolutionize health and fitness in Botswana, while also contributing to a national effort to curb non-communicable diseases.

Participants will benefit from personalized fitness plans, nutritional

guidance, and regular health check-ups, ensuring they have all the tools they need to achieve their fitness goals. The Fit for Life Campaign is not only about weight loss but about cultivating lifelong habits that promote wellness and prevent chronic diseases.

This campaign is part of the broader national health effort to combat lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular illnesses, which are increasingly becoming prevalent in Botswana. Through this initiative, Bomaid and the BIHL Trust aim to inspire participants to take proactive steps toward healthier, more active lifestyles.

Bomaid CEO, Moraki Mokgosana said, "We are thrilled to once more partner with BIHL Trust on this important initiative. As we continue to advocate for a healthier nation, the Fit for Life campaign provides a platform for individuals to transform their lives, not just physically, but mentally as well." BIHL Trust Board Trustee Samson Setumo added, "Our goal is to empower individuals with the knowledge and tools they need to live healthier lives, while addressing the growing epidemic of lifestyle diseases in our country. Fit for Life is a crucial step in that direction."

Madimabe appointed Minergy CFO

MINERGY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE to the shareholders and the market the appointment of a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Omphile Madimabe, effective 7 November 2024. Mr. Madimabe is a seasoned chartered accountant who has been in the profession for 30 years, 23 of which are post his chartered status. He is an alumnus of the University of Stellenbosch Business School's Executive Development Programme (EDP). Omphile has served the bulk of his work experience in the mining industry covering different mineral commodities (diamonds, base metals and coal). His mining background covers work for Debswana Diamond company, Tati Nickel Mining Company, a subsidiary of the global nickel major, Norilsk Nickel (listed in the Moscow Stock Exchange) nickel company, reporting to the international head of finance. His most recent role is as Finance Manager at Morupule Coal Mine (MCM), an underground and open-cast coal mining company. Omphile's earlier experience in the mining includes the original equipment manufacturer ("OEM") environment, affording him the dual and rare perspectives of the mining industry's supplier and client sides. Minergy welcomes Omphile's



Madimabe

wealth of experience as he becomes a member of the team during this exciting period of stabilisation, turnaround and transformation. By the same token, the board and management wish to thank Mr. Julius Ayo, who has been acting in the role of the CFO for a couple of years, the best in his new adventures as he pursues other interests. [bse.co.bw]



Know Your Corporate Leader

Full Name: Mathews Bagopi

Position: Acting CEO

Institution: Minergy Coal

Date Started: September 2023

Nature of business: Coal Mining

Diamond prices decline in September

DIAMOND PRICES FELL IN SEPTEMBER as the market continued to suffer from an oversupply.

Indian manufacturers reduced rough-buying and polished production to rebalance supply and demand. Polished inventories began to decline, but it will take a few weeks for them to fall to healthy levels. Shortages of in-demand items are likely.

The RapNet Diamond Index (RAPI™) for 1-carat goods — reflecting round, D to H, IF to VS2 diamonds — fell 4.1% in September. The index dropped 4% for 0.30-carat stones, 4.2% for 0.50 carats, and 2.5% for 3 carats.

Lower-quality stones saw a gentler decline, with prices of round, 1-carat, D to H, SI diamonds slipping 3.5% in September. Prices of fancy shapes decreased less sharply than rounds.

US retail sales were stable ahead of the holiday season. Store owners and the wholesalers supplying them were cautious about restocking diamonds. Retailers remained focused on memo.

RAPNET DIAMOND INDEX (RAPI™)

	Index	September	Year to Date Jan. 1, 2024, to Oct. 1, 2024	Year on Year Oct. 1, 2023, to Oct. 1, 2024
RAPI 0.30 ct.	1,026	-4.0%	-27.7%	-27.9%
RAPI 0.50 ct.	1,676	-4.2%	-15.3%	-13.6%
RAPI 1 ct.	4,688	-4.1%	-21.6%	-22.7%
RAPI 3 ct.	18,360	-2.5%	-16.6%	-17.2%

Source: Based on RapNet data.
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RAPAPORT

India's domestic jewelry market supported the trade in diamonds under 1 carat. Chinese retail orders remained weak. Diamond trading at the Jewellery & Gem World show in Hong Kong was slow, as many Chinese buyers were absent. Sentiment among diamond dealers was low at the Vicenzaoro fair in Italy, though exhibitors of finished jewelry were more upbeat.

The rough market was quiet as manufacturers reduced their inventories. India's net rough imports slumped 47% year on year to \$642.3 million in August,

the lowest since November 2023, when the country was in the middle of a voluntary freeze on rough imports. Belgium's diamond activity (combined rough imports and rough exports) fell 33% year on year to \$671 million in September.

De Beers continued to allow deferrals and keep rough prices firm at its September sight. Alrosa told customers it would also maintain prices for the time being, insiders reported. This indicates that the two miners have no intention of flooding the market.

[Rapaport News]

Botala gets EIA approval

BOTALA ENERGY LTD IS PLEASED TO advise that it has received approval from the Department of Environmental Protection to proceed with commercial development of its Serowe Energy Hub located centrally within the large village of Serowe and shown in Figure 1, near all necessary services.

Developments will need standard approvals and permits from local authorities.

Kris Martinick, CEO of Botala said: "We are pleased to have secured environmental approval following a detailed social and environmental appraisal and look forward to working with local investors and the Serowe community-based Ngwato Development Trust, which are finalising funding arrangements.

We now have environmental approvals for all our proposed gasfield and related energy development plans, including commercial gas production, liquefaction and/or compression of gas, pipelines and establishing two strategically located Energy Hubs, each with substantial solar components and LNG production and distribution capacity. This will enable us to supply local demand and export electricity and especially LNG to South Africa and neighbouring countries. With the identified gas shortage in South Africa, we are focussed on expediting LNG production. We remain well positioned to achieve our



Martinick

objectives in a sustainable and socially responsible manner."

Botala's prime focus is development of its 100% owned Serowe coal bed methane gas project. The secondary focus is to develop solar energy and related opportunities, hence the development of the 110ha Serowe Energy Hub and 1520ha Leupane Energy Hub and Industrial Park adjacent to Palapye in Botswana.

Serowe, with a population of more than 50,000, is an important administrative and culturally significant village. Our proposed Energy Hub is centrally located within Serowe (see Figure 1) with good access

to infrastructure and services, including connection to the local electricity grid.

Botala's Energy Hub at Leupane is larger than that at Serowe and includes staged development of a 500MW solar farm and 200MW gas hybrid plant. Stage-1 will be developed in joint venture with AAAS Energy BV 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 A\$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. [bse.co.bw]

BERA to discontinue use of unleaded petrol

THE BOTSWANA ENERGY REGULATORY Authority (BERA) wishes to inform the public of the decision to discontinue the sale and use of unleaded petrol 93 (ULP93) in Botswana with effect from 1st February 2025.

The Authority wishes to highlight that most of the petroleum products requirements are sourced from, or through the Republic of South Africa (RSA) with small quantities sourced from the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of Mozambique. Over the years, the refining capacity in RSA, as the main source of supply to Botswana, has significantly declined with some of the major refineries having shut down. The decline in refining capacity in RSA is attributed to aged refineries and the lofty investment required to repair or upgrade such facilities to produce cleaner fuels. Regionally, ULP 93 is produced in limited quantities only in RSA at the NATREF Refinery. This refinery is the main source for the ULP 93 imported into Botswana and other countries in the region. Although there may be ULP 93 through some sporadic imports from other



regions of the world and possibly into South Africa, there are currently challenges with such products being re-exported owing to the South African Revenue Services (SARS) rules. It is upon this background that other countries in the region such as Namibia, Mozambique and Eswatini moved decisively to discontinue the use of ULP 93. Through active engagement with various stakeholders at local and regional levels, the Authority has been made aware of the Republic of South Africa's plan to discontinue the

supply of ULP 93 around the year 2026. Considering challenges with the supply of ULP 93 and particularly with the Republic of South Africa being the only producer of the product in the region, it became prudent that Botswana discontinued the sale of the product locally.

The Authority would like to assure the public that the discontinuation of ULP93 will not adversely affect them since all petrol engines can run on unleaded petrol 95 (ULP95) which is in abundance and readily available both regionally and internationally. In fact, ULP95 is a better-quality product compared to ULP93 which is an older grade. The Authority will continue to monitor fuel supplies as well as technological advances for possible introduction of newer fuel grades and discontinuation of older grades in consideration of various factors such as security of supply and environmental protection. Furthermore, the Authority will endeavour to keep the public informed about any improvements or changes to the fuel supply as may be necessary. [PRESS RELEASE]

Modikele joins FSG



FSG LIMITED IS PLEASED TO announce the appointment of Group Head of Insurance, Milton Modikele effective 5th September 2024. Milton joins FSG Limited from Alexforbes Botswana where he was heading the Administration department, strategically managing operational performance and workflow.

Previously, Milton served as the Group Head of Operations for Old Mutual Botswana, driving long-term strategic goals of the business and spearheading business growth initiatives. He was also Head of Insurance Agency for First National Bank

of Botswana's Insurance agency and also served as Absa Life's Regional Sales and Broker Consultant. With over 19 years of experience in leadership roles within the financial services and insurance sectors, Milton has consistently driven operational efficiency and promoted best practices. His track record demonstrates a successful history of fostering growth, implementing strategic programs, and leading high-performance teams.

Milton is a versatile and seasoned professional with skills in process automation, digitalization, customer growth and retention, operations management, and team leadership. Known for his strategic vision, he instills a culture of innovation and intelligent problem-solving within his teams to develop technological solutions that enhance the quality of life for others.

In his new role as Group Head of Insurance, Milton will oversee the Insurance function across the company's three markets, ensuring efficiency and fostering exponential growth within our insurance business.

Preparing your SME for a digital future

WITH SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMEs) becoming increasingly important in the global economy, the need for a solid security foundation has never been more important. According to The World Bank, SMEs represent about 90% of businesses and more than 50% of employment worldwide. Formal SMEs contribute up to 40% of GDP in emerging economies, representing significant contributors to job creation and global economic development.

Liquid Intelligent Technologies, a leading pan-African technology group, recently hosted an online seminar exploring the fundamentals of security for businesses, and important considerations in setting SMEs up for success in Africa's AI-driven future.

Odirile Tamajobe, Managing Director of Liquid Intelligent Technologies in Botswana, where SMEs account for 50% of private sector employment and 15-20% of GDP, highlights five of these key security considerations to help the country's SMEs proactively improve and manage their security practices:

The attack surface has expanded significantly

Today's businesses are no longer the fixed location brick-and-mortar buildings of a decade ago. Hybrid working models mean several different access points, from corporate devices to personal mobile devices. Along with this

distributed environment comes an increased number of vulnerabilities and potential access points for attackers to exploit. Traditional security measures are no longer sufficient to protect this expanded attack surface, and businesses need to implement next-generation antivirus solutions and monitor all entry and exit points within their networks to mitigate risks.

Identity and access management must be impenetrable

With cyber threats growing more sophisticated by the day, businesses are adopting a zero-trust approach to identity and access management. Because attacks can come from the most unexpected sources, it is important to enforce least-privilege access policies that limit access to sensitive data and systems to authorised users only. Advanced antivirus software [like Microsoft Defender] can automate the detection and response to unauthorised access attempts and reduce the likelihood of breaches.

An endpoint management solution is crucial

Because of the number of devices accessing corporate networks, it is essential to implement stringent endpoint security measures that secure both devices and manage applications [through a solution like Microsoft Endpoint Management]. By centrally managing all devices – whether corporate-issued or personal – businesses can ensure that these devices meet minimum security standards, reducing the



Tamajobe

risk of unauthorised access to secure networks. Mobile devices also bring the risk of shadow IT, where users download unauthorised applications which in turn compromise corporate systems. Controlling the applications that users can download and use on corporate devices is key to preventing this.

Data security and compliance must be top priority

Recognising the importance of data privacy, regulations like the European Union's GDPR

(General Data Protection Regulation), South Africa's POPIA (Protection of Personal Information Act), and Botswana's Data Protection Act enforce strict data protection regulations. For any business, the protection of its data should be a top priority, with regulatory compliance supplemented by internal governance policies that ensure that data is properly classified, labelled, and encrypted. A unified data governance solution can simplify this task, automating, managing, and governing a business's entire data landscape, identifying potential risks, and ensuring compliance with regulations.

AI integration calls for advanced security measures

With Africa's digital transformation gaining impetus, traditional security measures are no longer enough to protect 21st century businesses. It is imperative for organisations to invest in advanced security solutions that incorporate AI and analytics to pre-emptively identify and address potential threats. Equally important is investing in the security of the underlying data and systems that will ensure the effectiveness of these AI-driven tools.

Securing businesses of all sizes against cyber threats is non-negotiable. It is also key to engage with a technology service provider like Liquid Intelligent Technologies that has an in-depth understanding of Africa's cyber landscape, and the solutions and industry partners that will securely position the business for Africa's digital future.

Diversifying portfolios for transgenerational wealth transfer



DR. SETOR QUASHIGAH
HEAD, AFFLUENT & WEALTH
MANAGEMENT OF STANDARD
CHARTERED GHANA PLC

RECORDS SHOW THAT THE OLDEST company in the world is one that lasted for over 1,400 years. Between 578 A.D. and 2006, Kongo Gumi operated as the world's oldest continuously operating company.

Started by a temple carpenter of the same name, the company lasted over 40 generations. His name and legacy endures, a testament to the power of sustained vision and wealth passed down through generations.

Such family legacies, while difficult to replicate, are not at all uncommon in the

modern world. Indeed, across the globe similar stories abound. The Rothschilds banking dynasty shaped modern Europe.

Their influence is still strong in the global financial ecosystem. Henry Ford's automotive empire transformed American industry and the Ford family continues to be an American institution. The impact of multi-generational wealth like this is undeniable, where the dearly departed founders laid a deep and solid foundation upon which their descendants can still be relevant to the same or divergent industries.

These families would build empires, shape the economies and set up their heirs for decades – even centuries of influence right up to the present. Their financial might is evidence of strategic foresight and careful wealth preservation.

Our African context

The narrative of intergenerational wealth, often remains as a big what-if, a tale usually spoken of with a wistful shake of the head. Many successful businesses, built on years of sweat and sacrifice rarely survive the transition to the next generation. This oft-repeated misfortune isn't the result of a lack of ambition or work ethic but often an unintentional approach to wealth

preservation and transfer. The focus remains on building for the present, leaving the future of that wealth vulnerable.

Understanding available options is crucial for wealth transfer. For many such businesses whether in manufacturing or extractive industries, the road to riches might not have had direct links with banking. However, to sustain this wealth, a shrewd understanding of how the age-old world of global finance is needed to be at the cutting edge.

Diversifying portfolios

Market events often underscore the need for smart investors to remain abreast with the times and review their portfolios on an ongoing basis to ensure investments are aligned with their financial aspirations.

This underscores the critical need to maintain diversified portfolios at all times. Diversification is more than just spreading risk. It gives investors the opportunity to participate in the upside of the market in addition to downside protection. Spreading investment portfolios across different asset classes, currencies, sectors, and geographies allows investors to build portfolios that

remain resilient through the various stages of economic cycles. This also promotes the ability to capitalise on emerging opportunities and avoid the inherent vulnerability of relying on a single asset class.

Beyond traditional investments, private equity presents a compelling avenue for building intergenerational wealth. Investing in promising Ghanaian, Botswana and other African companies, particularly in sectors poised for growth like technology or renewable energy, not only generates attractive returns but also contributes to a nation's economic development.

Furthermore, stretching horizons beyond our borders to expand reach into other African countries could potentially enhance investment return profiles. With the continent's growing economies and youthful demographics, Africa presents a compelling investment case.

Navigating this landscape, however, requires expertise. Understanding the distinctions of each market, from geopolitical risks and cultural nuances to the exciting fintech landscape, is crucial. This is where

partnering with institutions experienced in navigating the complexities of cross-border investments becomes invaluable.

As a bank, Standard Chartered is proud of the presence and expertise of our personnel across Africa. Case studies abound of the bank's influence in various sectors in countries with different languages, tax regimes, and regulatory frameworks.

It is important to remain guided by past events while keeping an eye out for future opportunities. More than ever, the world is rapidly evolving. The great founders' next generation, Millennials and Gen Zs who are digital natives comfortable with the language of cryptocurrency and blockchain, will demand a different approach to wealth management. Equipping them with the required levels of financial literacy will give them the ability to not just inherit wealth but to grow, protect and preserve it for future generations.

This is where embracing innovative digital wealth platforms like Standard Chartered offers, platforms that offer real-time insights, personalized advice, and seamless access to global markets, becomes an advantage and a

necessity.

Standard Chartered is well positioned and adequately resourced to deliver tailored investment advice and support clients with top-of-the-range investment opportunities that generate steady streams of income in multiple currencies. Its team of licensed professionals provide deep insights to help make sound decisions at every bend.

No economy has prospered without the wealth of titans of industry that have handed down tangible wealth as a trust bequeathed to future yet unborn generations. We look forward to an emerging class of business owners obsessed with leaving behind a legacy that far outlives them for the benefit of all.

Building for generations requires more than just financial success today. Without a conscious, strategic approach to wealth preservation and transfer, this will remain a wish on paper. By embracing diversification, exploring new avenues like private equity, and equipping future generations with the tools and knowledge to navigate an increasingly complex financial world, we can help ensure that the stories of African success stories transcend generations to come.

The symbiotic relationship between tourism and the finance sector



BERNARD RAKGAMANYANE
SENIOR RELATIONSHIP MANAGER
BANK GABORONE

THE TOURISM AND FINANCE SECTORS, particularly banks, have long had a mutually beneficial relationship. As the world increasingly shifts toward sustainability, both sectors have a unique opportunity to embrace practices that ensure long-term resilience. Sustainable tourism not only safeguards the environment and local cultures but also opens up new opportunities for financial institutions. In Botswana, where eco-tourism is an essential part of the economy, the role of banks in promoting sustainability is becoming even more critical.

Tourism's Impact on the Finance Sector
Tourism tends to generate significant financial activity, from foreign exchange transactions to increased demand for loans and payment services. In a country like ours, where natural attractions like the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park draw eco-conscious travellers, the financial sector stands to benefit from this growing demand while increasingly focusing on sustainable practices.

Despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Botswana's tourism sector has demonstrated resilience. Having been voted Best Safari Country of 2024, the country has seen a promising return of international tourists, coupled with increasing demand for sustainable, nature-based travel experiences. This resurgence is further supported by the finance sector, with institutions like Bank Gaborone, playing a pivotal role through green financing options and post-COVID relief measures.

In addition to the increase in transaction volumes and the demand for currency exchange, financial institutions like Bank Gaborone are at the forefront of promoting green financing, particularly in the tourism sector. With the introduction of Green Financing and sustainable finance products aimed at supporting eco-friendly tourism businesses, lodges and camps in conservation areas like the Okavango Delta are increasingly seeking financing to develop renewable energy projects, reduce their carbon footprints, and support community-based tourism.

The Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) promotes low-impact, high-revenue tourism projects as a strategy to preserve the country's fragile ecosystems, in which financial institutions play a crucial role. By investing in eco-lodges and sustainable infrastructure, banks contribute to the long-term viability of Botswana's tourism sector.

Moreover, sustainable tourism ensures that Botswana's natural resources—its most valuable tourism assets—are preserved for future generations. By supporting projects that prioritize environmental conservation, we are also safeguarding Botswana's wildlife and ecosystems, ensuring that the tourism sector remains viable and competitive in the long term.

As evidenced, tourism does indeed positively impact the finance sector as banks have an equally vital role in shaping the future of tourism through financial innovation. In a country like Botswana, where environmental conservation is paramount, banks are increasingly offering products and lower interest rates that incentivise sustainability in tourism. This not only promotes sustainability within the tourism industry but also attracts investors who are increasingly prioritising Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria. The tourism and finance sectors are intricately linked, and by embracing sustainability, both can benefit from long-term stability and growth. Together, the two sectors can create a more resilient, responsible, and prosperous future for Botswana.

Hotwire charts double win at Global Business Awards and PRISM Awards



Taazima Kala

HOTWIRE, PART OF THE ESTEEMED Hotwire Family of Brands, has been awarded Best Public Affairs & Communications Firm 2024 - Botswana at the prestigious eighth annual Global Business Awards. This recognition further solidifies Hotwire's position as a leader in the public relations, public affairs, and reputation management landscape in Botswana, and indeed fast making its mark across the continent.

Each year, Corporate Vision's Global Business Awards recognise companies from all sectors who demonstrate exceptional innovation, ethical practices, and sustained growth, setting new benchmarks for success. This year sought to recognise organisations who have risen to the challenges of modern-day business, and whose practices distinguish them firmly from the rest of their peers. The Global Business Awards 2024 is merit-based, and winners were not decided by factors such as turnover or number of votes received, but by a dedicated Research and Judging team.

In addition to the Global Business Award, Hotwire recently garnered a Bronze Award at the 2024 PRISM Awards in Cape Town, South

Africa, for its exceptional work on the Wilderness Botswana Inaugural Local Suppliers Expo. This achievement is particularly noteworthy as it was Hotwire's first time participating at the prestigious PRISMs, hosted by the Public Relations Institute of Southern Africa (PRISA). The award was granted within the B2B Diversity & Inclusion category, with the project designed to enhance the number of local suppliers as part of Wilderness' procurement ecosystem.

Taazima Kala, General Manager & Chief Consultant of Hotwire, expressed her pride in the company's recent achievements, stating: "Winning the Best Public Affairs & Communications Firm at the Global Business Awards is a testament to the dedication of our team and the trust our clients place in us. It's an honour to also be recognised on a regional stage at the PRISMs for our innovative work in promoting local suppliers in Botswana. While awards are not the reason we do what we do, they do allow us to help shine an even greater light on the important work within our industry, and the phenomenal work we are privileged to do with our clients. We remain committed to driving purposeful change through strategic communication and engagement."

Known for delivering impactful communication strategies and solutions, Hotwire continues to set the benchmark for excellence in a rapidly evolving industry. Purposed to help nurture mutually beneficial relationships for its clients, Hotwire has earned a stellar reputation for crafting authentic narratives and fostering strong relationships with key stakeholders with value, innovation, relevance, and integrity. Hotwire has consistently driven results for its clients, addressing complex challenges in both the public and private sectors for going on 20 years now as a proudly Botswana-born business.

Hotwire remains unwavering in its dedication to excellence and innovation, further reinforcing the company's position as Botswana's leading communications firm.



Stanbic Bank Business & Commercial

Public Notice: Introduction of Monthly Service Fee for Enterprise Online Banking (EOL).

Stanbic Bank Botswana advises the public that effective **30th October 2024**, a **monthly fee of P50** will be introduced for the use of Stanbic Bank's Enterprise Online Banking platform. This fee will be automatically deducted from the client's account on a monthly basis and will apply to all Business and Commercial Banking clients who have signed up for Enterprise Online Banking.

For further clarification, please **contact +267 3987820**.

Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana



Mr. ...



Ms. ...



Mr. ...



Mr. ...



Ms. ...



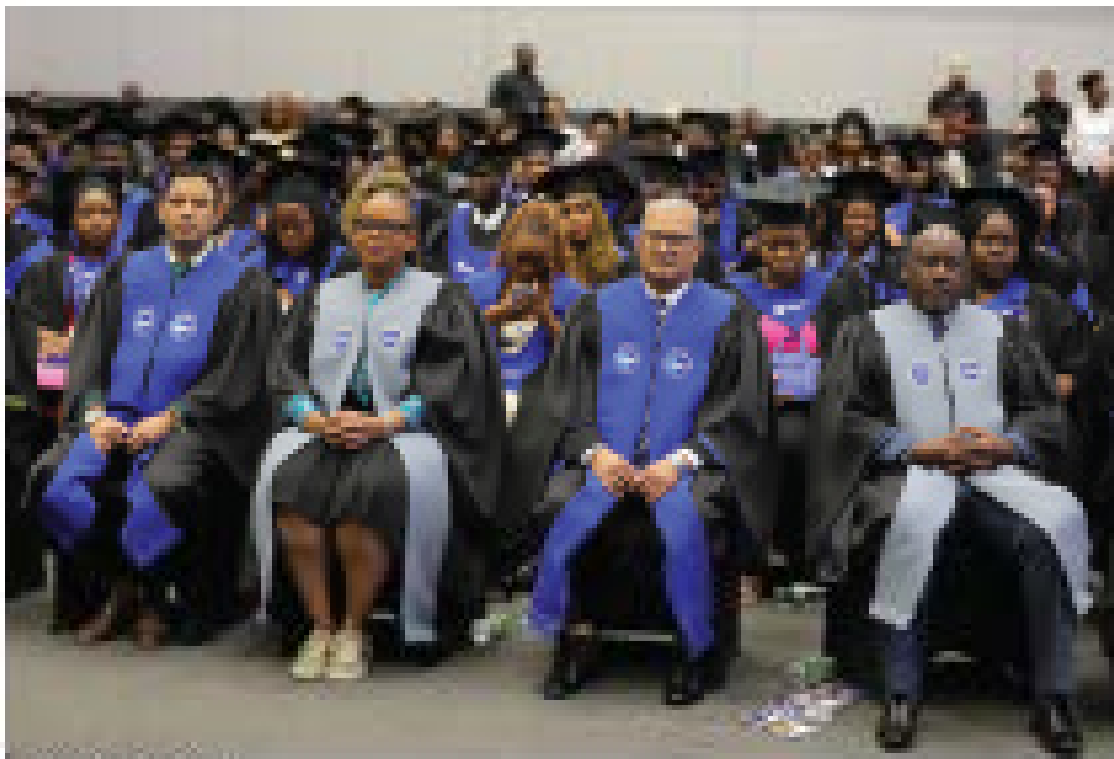
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Mr. ...



Ms. ...



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ISBS' class of 2024

Imperial School of Business and Science celebrates 222 graduates

The ceremony celebrated the achievements of 222 graduates who have completed their studies at the Imperial School of Business and Science (ISBS) over the past year. The graduates, who are from various backgrounds, are being recognized for their hard work and dedication to their studies.

The graduates, who are from various backgrounds, are being recognized for their hard work and dedication to their studies. The ceremony was held at the Imperial School of Business and Science, where the graduates were presented with their diplomas and certificates.

The ceremony was held at the Imperial School of Business and Science, where the graduates were presented with their diplomas and certificates. The event was attended by family members, friends, and faculty members, who all congratulated the graduates on their achievements.

The graduates, who are from various backgrounds, are being recognized for their hard work and dedication to their studies. The ceremony was held at the Imperial School of Business and Science, where the graduates were presented with their diplomas and certificates.

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BA ISAGO University: Empowering Botswana, One Graduate at a Time



BA ISAGO
UNIVERSITY



Procession



Opening Prayer by Dean Student Welfare and Support Services - Ongkomditse Makgonatsothe



Directors of Ceremony, Pauline Kwarapi and Kgosi Saungweme



Introduction of Guests by BA ISAGO President Dr Ruramayi Tadu



Welcome Address, Managing Director and Founder of BA ISAGO University - Odirile B Gabasiane



Introduction of the Chancellor by Deputy Board Chairperson and Co-Founder - Ruth Gabasiane



Acceptance Speech By Chancellor Dr Joseph Tsonope



Keynote Address by the Guest of Honour - Kgosi-Kgolo wa Ba-Gamalete-Kgosi Mosadi Muriel Seboko



Speech by Valedictorian Tlhalefo Kesetse



Speech by Valedictorian, Tinashe Melusi Murindagomo



Vote of Thanks Board Member, Information and Digital Technology Chair, Katlego Mathodi Arnone



Installation and Inauguration of the 2nd Chancellor



Overall Best Student in the Masters Programme Tlhalefo Kesetse - Master of Educational Leadership and Management



Overall Best Student in the Degrees Programme, Tinashe Melusi Murindagomo - Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Banking and Finance



Graduates

A Legacy of Excellence

Since it was founded in 2002, BA ISAGO University has remained committed to delivering high-quality education that contributes to National Development. Starting as a private University College, the University attained full University status in 2015, symbolising its dedication to Academic excellence. This commitment is encapsulated in the Theme of its 19th Graduation Ceremony: Your Future, Our Commitment.

"As a University, our promise has always been to provide the highest quality education, to equip you with essential knowledge and skills and to inspire you to become Leaders and change-makers," remarked Mr Odirile B. Gabasiane, BA ISAGO Managing Director and Co-Founder, during his address to the Graduates. His words resonate with the University's long-standing mission to foster success through education.

During the 2024 Graduation day, held on Friday, BA ISAGO University proudly unveiled its first cohort of Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Fiscal Studies Graduates. This unique Programme, developed in collaboration with the National University of Science and Technology, marks a significant milestone for the Institution. Additionally, the University celebrated its inaugural batch of Bachelor of Arts Graduates in Landscape Architecture, a forward-thinking Programme designed to meet market demands.

These Academic offerings align with Botswana's National Development Strategy, equipping Graduates to contribute to key sectors and foster economic diversification, innovation and sustainable

growth. "By introducing these Programmes, BA ISAGO is not only responding to the needs of the job market but also playing an active role in shaping Botswana's economic future," Gabasiane highlighted.

A Holistic Approach

BA ISAGO's focus goes beyond Academic achievements. The University's holistic approach to education ensures that Graduates leave with technical expertise and values of integrity, leadership and service, all vital to shaping Botswana's future. "The Degrees conferred today represent not only the Academic accomplishments of our Graduates but also their growth as individuals ready to make meaningful contributions to Society," Gabasiane remarked.

Delivering the Keynote address, Kgosi Mosadi Seboko, Kgosisgolo of Ba-Gamalete, underscored the significance of the Graduation day. "Today is a day that will be etched in your memories forever," she said, applauding the resilience of the Class of 2024. She commended the Graduates for their perseverance and urged them to embrace lifelong learning, lead with integrity and remain adaptable in the face of a fast-changing world.

"BA ISAGO has given you the tools to unlock a future of endless possibilities," Kgosi Seboko stated. Her words echoed the Ceremony's Theme, emphasising the University's role in preparing Students to meet future challenges. She also praised the leadership of BA ISAGO's Founders Rre and Mme Gabasiane, for their vision and dedication in shaping the Institution. "Their foresight

and unwavering commitment to Academic excellence have been pivotal in shaping BA ISAGO into the distinguished University it is today," she remarked.

Installation of Chancellor

Additionally, BA ISAGO University celebrated and entered a new chapter with the installation of Dr Joseph Tsonope as its second Chancellor. Known for his intellectual rigour and extensive Academic background, Dr Tsonope's appointment signals a new era of growth and innovation for the University. During his acceptance speech, he expressed his gratitude to the University's Founders and outlined his vision for BA ISAGO.

Dr Tsonope pledged to "intimately work towards the advancement of the Institution locally and internationally," drawing on his decades of Academic and administrative experience across ten Universities worldwide. He outlined the evolving role of a modern Chancellor, noting that the position requires not only Academic leadership but also negotiation, administrative and entrepreneurial skills.

Innovative Partnerships

BA ISAGO University has established itself as a leader in creating industry-specific Programmes. One such initiative is the recent collaboration with the Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) to develop a specialised course tailored to the needs of tax professionals. In a bold move, BURS sponsored 25 of its employees to participate in this new Programme, showcasing their trust and belief in the University and its commitment to addressing real-world

challenges through education.

This partnership exemplifies BA ISAGO's forward-thinking approach, creating courses that meet emerging market demands. "As we continue to expand our Academic offerings, we remain committed to our mission of providing relevant, high-quality education," Gabasiane noted.

Addressing Global Challenges

In his speech, Dr Tsonope also addressed the global misconceptions affecting Africa, urging caution against scare tactics like the 4th Industrial Revolution and the lingering effects of colonisation. He highlighted the misrepresentation of Africa's true size on world maps as an example of how perceptions are shaped by global powers.

With Dr Tsonope at the helm, BA ISAGO is poised to navigate these complexities, positioning itself as a leader in education both locally and internationally.

In his closing remarks, Dr Tsonope paid tribute to the Acting Chancellor, Mrs Valencia K.D. Mogegeh and acknowledged the collective effort of the BA ISAGO Community. His appointment marks a bold new chapter for the University, setting it on a path to further cement its role as a beacon of Academic excellence and a key player in Botswana's educational advancement.

With every Graduate that walked across the stage, BA ISAGO continues to fulfil its vision of shaping Botswana's future, one Graduate at a time.

lifestyle

2024 UB Marathon



THE 2024 UB MARATHON gets underway on Sunday, 13th October 2024, starting at 0500hrs at the UB Stadium. The Marathon, an annual event organised by the UB Foundation, will feature

different categories - 42km, 21km, 10km and a 5km fun run designed for the entire family. This year's event has attracted over 2000 participants from across Africa, including South Africa, Kenya, Namibia and

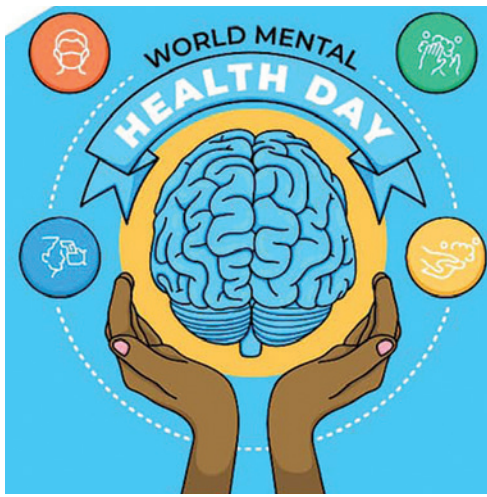
Zimbabwe. The primary objective is to raise funds for the UB Foundation Endowment Fund which supports scholarships for underprivileged graduate students. In addition to fostering a spirit of health

and wellness, the event will feature activities such as aerobics, fitness sessions, health education, screenings, corporate stalls and more. The Marathon also aims to strengthen relationships with

key stakeholders, including UB alumni, corporate partners, the public and UB's staff and students. Race packs were ready for collection at the UB Stadium VIP Lounge starting at 1000hrs on Friday, 11th October 2024.

World Mental Health Day commemorated

BOTSWANA JOINED the rest of the world on 10/10/2024 in commemorating the World Mental Health Day. This year's World Mental Health Day will be commemorated under the theme, 'It is Time to Prioritize Mental Health in the Workplace.' World Health Organization's member states, which include Botswana, observe this day annually on the 10th of October, as an initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH), in order to raise awareness about mental health and advocacy against social stigma. This year's theme aims to enhance protective factors such as safety and healthy working environments. Some of the predisposing factors to mental health challenges includes financial problems, bullying in the

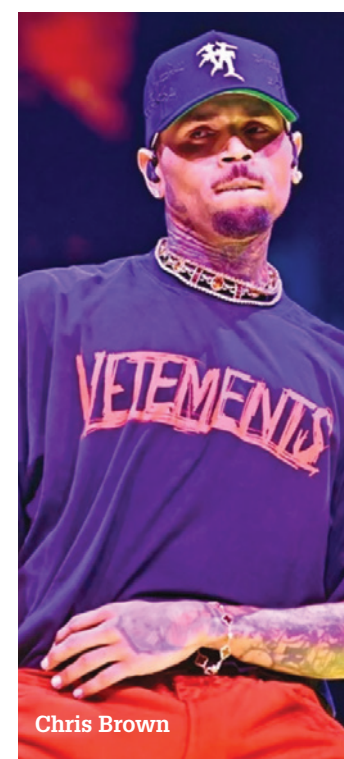


workplace and lack of progression. These risk factors can affect employees' mental wellbeing, quality of life and result in decreased productivity in the work place. This is a big problem because the working class comprises 60% of the global population. In Botswana, the most prevalent mental health conditions in the work place include depression, anxiety and substance use disorders.

Botswana and all residents of this country, are encouraged to help prevent mental health problems and illnesses in the workplace by focusing on positivity, combating mental health stigma and by always being each other's keeper. They should also be accommodative and inclusive to people struggling with mental health issues. By showing this support to people with mental health conditions, they will be helping to rid our country of mental health stigma. The Ministry of Health is ready in its hospitals and DHMTs, to offer support and interventions as may be necessary, to all people with mental health conditions. In an endeavor to sensitize the public about mental health, the Ministry will be conducting sensitization activities across the country, in collaboration with other stakeholders.

Chris Brown Live in Joburg

CHRIS BROWN, A MULTI-talented force in R&B has revealed his long-awaited return to South Africa. Presented by Big Concerts and Y, the Live in Johannesburg, Breezy in South Africa concert will take place at the iconic FNB Stadium in Johannesburg on Saturday the 14th of December 2024. This will mark Chris Brown's first performance in the country in nearly a decade, promising fans an Fans are strongly advised against purchasing tickets from Viagogo and other secondary sites. These tickets are unlawfully resold by deceitful sellers for commercial purposes at multiple times the face value and are not legitimate tickets. Should you purchase these tickets you will be denied entry into the venue, and you will not be entitled to a refund. All tickets will be 100% digital, mobile only tickets, and only verified Ticketmaster accounts will be eligible to



purchase up to 8 tickets per Fan. Ticket Transfer will only be available 30 days before the Event, and mobile ticket barcodes will be suppressed until 3 days before the Event.

Lake Ngami GM's Cycle Classic




MMG KHOEMACAU Copper Mining has announced the return of the Lake Ngami GM's Cycle Classic, now in its third year. Scheduled for 20th October 2024, the highly anticipated challenge will bring together cycling enthusiasts, community members and sponsors under the empowering theme #CyclingForProgress.

The 3rd Annual Lake Ngami GM's Cycle Classic is poised to be an exciting, meaningful event where sport meets purpose. It introduces an improved prize matrix, adding an extra layer of excitement for participants. The annual cycle challenge not only offers thrilling competition but also underscores MMG Khoemacau's commitment to driving sustainable development in Ngamiland. The Cycle Classic has grown significantly since inception, with participation rising each year. This year, the challenge will welcome 300 cyclists, an increase from last year's 250, demonstrating the growing enthusiasm and support for the cause. Cyclists of all skill levels are invited to partake in this journey through the breathtaking landscapes of Ngamiland, with a carefully designed route that promises to challenge even the most seasoned riders while also accommodating newcomers to the sport. "The Lake Ngami GM's Cycle Classic has evolved into more

than just a sporting event. It is a testament to our commitment to community development and progress. Through the theme #CyclingForProgress, we want to emphasize the important role that collective efforts play in transforming communities for the better. Every pedal turned during this event is a step forward in ensuring a brighter future for Ngamiland," Boikobona Paya, Director of MMG Khoemacau Copper Mining, spoke passionately about the upcoming challenge. "Our goal is to encourage healthy lifestyles, unity and a sense of shared responsibility among all who participate. The overwhelming response from cyclists, sponsors and the broader public is evidence of the strength of our shared vision to uplift the communities that surround us," he added. The funds from this year's Lake Ngami GM's Cycle Classic will support community initiatives, including education, infrastructure development and programs that uplift local livelihoods. As we enter the third year, we aim to grow the event in line with Khoemacau's values and the mission of mining for progress. With planned initiatives to enhance the learning environment at Ngami JSS, we are building a lasting legacy in the region. The 2024 edition seeks to build on past successes, expanding the scope of supported projects for greater long-term benefits. Over the past two years, the

Cycle Classic has had a tangible impact on the region, with funds supporting key projects such as the refurbishment of schools, access to clean water and infrastructural improvements that have enhanced the daily lives of many in the local communities. The 2024 edition aims to build on these successes, with plans to expand the scope of supported projects even further. In addition to the cycling challenge, the day will feature a 10 km run/ walk, range of activities for spectators and supporters, including a community market, local entertainment and family-friendly events. This inclusive approach ensures that even those who are not cycling can still contribute and enjoy a day dedicated to making a positive difference. MMG Khoemacau Copper Mining is also grateful for the support of numerous sponsors and partners whose contributions have been instrumental in the success of the event. Their dedication to corporate social responsibility and community development continues to play a critical role in the impact made through the Lake Ngami GM's Cycle Classic. "We are proud to partner with such a wide network of sponsors and stakeholders who share our vision for progress. Their involvement ensures that we can continue to grow the event each year, making an even greater contribution to the communities we serve," said Paya.




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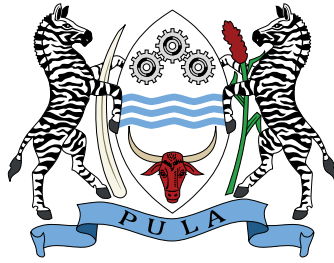
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Africa's Eden, SATSA partner

AFRICA'S EDEN AND SATSA have announced a strategic partnership that will leverage the respective strengths of both associations for the benefit of their members across Southern Africa. The partnership combines SATSA's formidable lobbying power and industry issue management in South Africa with Africa Eden's marketing strengths and extensive network across Southern Africa. Members of both associations can look forward to Amplified marketing opportunities: Leveraging Africa Eden's extensive marketing initiatives, such as their international road shows and workshops. Powerful advocacy: Benefit from SATSA's proven track record in government and media lobbying and resolving industry issues. Cross-regional opportunities: Market linkages between members that span borders within Southern Africa. United industry voice: A stronger, more cohesive representation on behalf of members in global tourism dialogues. "By combining SATSA's lobbying muscle with Africa's Eden's marketing finesse, the members of both associations now have access to expanded benefits that will directly help their businesses grow. Our partnership makes sense because of our complementary strengths and areas of focus," said David Frost, CEO SATSA. "Members across the Southern African region now have the full force of regional marketing and advocacy best practice behind them. We're establishing a tourism ecosystem where every member thrives and the collective regional tourism sector grows," the alliance is about maximising potential, says Jillian Blackbeard, Africa's Eden CEO. Immediate collaborative opportunities for members: 101 Adventures Campaign, Africa's Eden North America Roadshow, 23-31 January 2025, Africa's Eden Europe Roadshow, 24-28 February 2025, Africa's Eden Africa Travel Show, 30 March-2 April 2025, WTM Africa 2025 Pavilion, 9-11 April 2025, Africa's Travel Indaba 2025 Pavilion.



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTIFICATION FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) FOR THE PROPOSED SHOPPING COMPLEX AND FILLING STATION AT KAZUNGULA

In compliance with Section 10 of the Environmental Assessment (EA) Act (Cap 65:07), this public notice presents the major findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the above-mentioned project.

A. Nature and Magnitude of the Study

The Far Property Company Limited intends to construct and operate a shopping complex and a filling station on their existing plot in Kazungula in Chobe District.

The proposed shopping complex will comprise of:

- Fourteen (14) shops
- Ablution block (toilets for both females and males)

The proposed filling station will comprise of:

- 1 x 46,000litre Underground Unleaded Petrol Tanks 93-Octane
- 1 x 46,000litre Underground Leaded Petrol Tanks 95-Unleaded
- 1 x 46,000litre Underground Diesel Tanks (50ppm)
- Kiosk
- Forecourt canopy
- Fuel dispensers

B. Location of the Activity

The proposed project site is located in Chobe District, at Kazungula Lot 5745. To access the project site from Kasane one must use the A33 Road, Upper Road. Heading east from Kasane to Kazungula, there is an Aquaculture farm (Chobe Bream), which is located on the right; pass it, and immediately, a giant Baobab tree will be spotted on the same direction. The project site is situated behind the Baobab tree and it consists of a dilapidated single room. The proposed project site is defined by the following coordinates:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	17°47'43.98" S	25°12'14.16" E
2	17°47'44.06" S	25°12'19.06" E
3	17°47'46.48" S	25°12'19.01" E
4	17°47'46.20" S	25°12'13.64" E
5	17°47'44.29" S	25°12'13.70" E

C. Anticipated Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Some of key anticipated environmental impacts for each project phase as identified by Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study with the mitigation measures proposed are presented in the following table;

Environmental Impact	Mitigation measure
Decommissioning Phase	
Elevated Noise Level	<input type="checkbox"/> Fitting decommissioning machinery and equipment with silencers <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory use of hearing protection equipment for all workers in noisy working areas.
Land Pollution (solid and liquid waste)	<input type="checkbox"/> The developer should engage the service of a licensed waste management for waste disposal. <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation should be removed and manholes backfilled with clean topsoil.
Pre- Construction Phase	
Loss of Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/> As much as possible clearing should be limited to proposed site only. <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation clearance should be undertaken in such a way that it minimizes the exposure of bare soil in order to prevent the onset of erosion.
Soil Contamination	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste oil containers should be provided on site. <input type="checkbox"/> Machine and equipment operators should be trained about proper handling of used oil on site.
Construction Phase	
Soil Contamination	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific site should be gazetted for emergency on-site maintenance of machinery. <input type="checkbox"/> Waste oil containers should be provided on site.
Ground and Surface water contamination	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles and machinery used on site should be checked daily for leakages. <input type="checkbox"/> Moveable spill containment and clean-up equipment should be provided at the project site <input type="checkbox"/> In the event of a spill, the contractor shall take prompt action to clear the polluted area and prevent the spread of pollutants
Dust pollution	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular sprinkling of water on surface roads, un-vegetated areas to reduce dust generation. <input type="checkbox"/> Workers should go for regular health check-ups to ascertain their health standards and should be encouraged to put on PPE to protect against any dust.
Human and wildlife Conflicts	<input type="checkbox"/> Site barricading using iron sheet surrounded by spiky stones to deter animals such as elephants.
Land Pollution (solid and liquid waste)	<input type="checkbox"/> Skips and bins for waste collection should be strategically placed within the construction site. <input type="checkbox"/> The skips and bins should be emptied regularly at Kasane Landfill.
Operation Phase	
Elevated noise levels	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles should be switched off when not in use. <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor machines should be serviced regularly
Risk of fire	<input type="checkbox"/> Serviced fire extinguishers should be nearby and easily accessible on site. <input type="checkbox"/> There should be smoke detectors and fire alarms on the development facility.
Employment opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> As much as possible, labour should be sourced from Kazungula village. <input type="checkbox"/> Consideration should be given to gender balance during the recruitment exercise
Human and wildlife conflicts	<input type="checkbox"/> Site barricading using animal deterrent fence surrounded by spikes of about +- 6m to deter animals such as elephants.
Decommissioning Phase	
Surface and Ground Water contamination	<input type="checkbox"/> Portable spill containment and clean-up equipment should be provided at the project site <input type="checkbox"/> In the event of a spill, the contractor shall take prompt action to clear the polluted area and prevent the spread of pollutants
Land pollution (solid and liquid waste)	<input type="checkbox"/> All waste materials should be sorted out first such as contaminated soil and rubble, metal, wood and other waste materials so that they are disposed of appropriately. <input type="checkbox"/> The developer should hire the service of a licensed waste management and disposal specialist to undertake clean-up of the site and the equipment to be reused and recycled.
Occupational Risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Putting up danger warning signs and general direction signs to guide both workers and the public <input type="checkbox"/> Provision of adequate and appropriate PPE.

D. Conclusion and Recommendations of the study

The conclusions from the findings of the EIA are that all the negative impacts identified can be mitigated and their severity minimized through the implementation of the mitigation measures and recommendations made in the Environmental Management Plan. It is therefore recommended that the project be allowed to proceed.

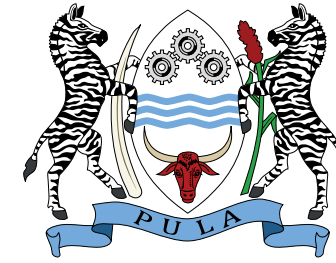
E. Environmental Impact Statement Placement

Copies of the Environmental Impact Statement have been placed at the following locations for review by the public and the interested and affected parties (IAPs):

- Department of Environmental Protection (Kasane)
- Kazungula Kgotla

F. Correspondences

Written comments or objections from those likely to be affected by the project and other interested persons should be submitted to: The Director, Department of Environmental Protection, Private Bag 0024 Kasane, Tel: 624 0197/198/199 or hand delivered to DEP Office, Kasane Old Cooperatives Office (Opposite Shoprite), Kasane. Comments should reach the DEP office by the 18th October 2024.



KITSISO MO SECHABENG

KANOKO YA MOKWALO WA TSHEKATSEHO TIKOLOGO MABAPI LE TIRO YA GO AGIWA GA MABENTLELE LE MADIRELO A LEOKWANE MO KAZUNGULA

Go diragatsa temana ya bo lesome ya molao wa Tshekatsheko Tikologo (Environmental Assessment Act (Cap 65:07)), kitsiso e e tsibosa sechaba le banaleseabe ka maduo a tshekatsheko tikologo mabapi le tiro ya go agiwa ga mabentlele le madirelo a leokwane mo Kazungula.

A. Tiholego le Bokete jwa dipatlisiso

Ba kompone ya The Far Property Company Limited ba ikaelela go aga mabentlele le madirelo a leokwane mo lehatsheng la bone mo Kazungula mo kgaolong ya Chobe.

Tihabololo e e tla akaretsa tse di latelang;

Dikago tsa mabentlele

- Mabentlele a le lesome le bone (14)
- Matlo a boiteketo a borre le bomme

Madirelo a leokwane

- Ditanka tse pedi tsa selekanyo sa 46,000 liters tsa go beeleisa leokwane la Unleaded 95, Unleaded 93 le e le nngwe ya selekanyo sa 46,000 liters ya diesel (50ppm)
- Lebenkele la marekisetso
- Moriti wa fa go tshelwang teng
- Dipompo tse di tshelang leokwane

B. Lefelo la tiro

Lefelo le go tla dirwang tiro e, le mo motseng wa Kazungula fa thoko ga tsela ya A33, ee fa thoteng. Fa o lebile ko bothabatsatsi o tswa Kasane o ya Kazungula, go na le polase ya ditlhapi (Chobe Bream) ka fa mo jeng, o a e feta mme go tla thaga setlhare se setona sa mowana ka fa mo jeng. Setsha se, se ka fa morago ga setlhare sa mowana ebile se na le kago ya ntlo e kgologolo.

C. Ditlamorago tsa thabololo mo tikologong le kakanyetso ya seelo sa tharabololo

Dingwe tsa ditlamorago tse tshekatsheko tikologo e di boneng ka legato la ditlhabololo le le lengwe, le kakanyetso ya tharabololo ya ditlamorago tse di supilwe mo tafeleng e e latelang.

D. Tshoboko ya ditlamorago mo tikologong le methale ya go fokotsa manokonoko a tsone

Ditlamorago mo tikologong	Methale ya go fokotsa manokonoko a tsone
Nako ya go thubiwa dikago	
Koketsego ya modumo	<input type="checkbox"/> Didirisiwa tse di thubang dikago di tshwanetse go tsenngwa didirisiwa tse di fokotsang modumo. <input type="checkbox"/> Babereki ba tshwanetse go fiwa dilwana tsa tshireletso modumo o feteletseng ga ba berekele fa go nang le modumo o ko godimo.
Kgotlelesego ya tikologo ka matlakala	<input type="checkbox"/> Mogwebi o tshwanetse go thapa rakonteraka o hilweng tseletso ya go latlha matlakala ka ha molaong. <input type="checkbox"/> Leswe la kago le tshwanetse go ntshiwa morago go katelwe ka mmu o phepa.
Pele ga kago	
Go kgaolwa ga dithare	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgaola dithare tse di yang go amiwa ke lefelo la go aga mabentlele le madirelo a leokwane. <input type="checkbox"/> Go kgaolwa ga dithare go diragatswe ka tsela eleng gore mmu otlhe ga o sale ole mo lebaleng.
Kgotlelesego ya mmu	<input type="checkbox"/> Didirisiwa tse di tsenyang matlakala a ole e e dirisitsweng di tshwanetse go nna teng mo lefelong la tiro <input type="checkbox"/> Babereki ba ba dirisang dimechine ba tshwanetse go rutunshiwa ka go tshwara ole e e dirisitsweng sentle.
Nako ya kago	
Kgotlelesego ya mmu	<input type="checkbox"/> Paakanyo ya di dirisiwa e tshwanetse go direlwa ko mafelong aa maleba <input type="checkbox"/> Di dirisiwa tse di beeleliwang fa go tshloga leokwane di tshwanetse go nna teng mo lefelong la kago
Kgotlelesego ya metsi	<input type="checkbox"/> Go tshwanetse ga netefadiwa gore dikoloi le di dirisiwa gadi tsholole leokwane kana ole ka dinako tsothe. <input type="checkbox"/> Didirisiwa tse di dirisiwang go phepafatsa leokwane le le tshologileng di tshwanetse go nna teng mo lefelong la tiro <input type="checkbox"/> Phepafatso ya tse di gasegang le tse di dutlang e tshwanetswe ya dirwa ka bonako le manongthotho go dirisiwa tse di maleba tsa phepafatso
Lerole mo tikologong	<input type="checkbox"/> Go tshwanetse ga gasiwa metsi mo ditseleng tse dikoloi tsa kago di di dirisang le mafelo a sa thagolwang go fokotsa lerole. <input type="checkbox"/> Babereki ba tshwanetse go ya ditlhabololo go itse seemo sa bone sa botsogo le go apara kapari e sireletsang kgathano le lerole.
Kgotlhang fa gare ga batho le diphologolo tsa naga	<input type="checkbox"/> Lefelo la ditlhabololo le tshwanetse go agelelwa go itsa/kganela diphologolo go tsena mo teng jaaka ditlou.
Kgotlelesego ya tikologo ka matlakala	<input type="checkbox"/> Didirisiwa tse di tsenyang matlakala di tshwanetse go nna teng mo lefelong la tiro <input type="checkbox"/> Matlakala a tshwanetse go nna a tsewa a latlhelwa kwa mafelong aa letlelesegang go latlhelwa matlakala.
Nako ya tiriso	
Koketsego ya modumo	<input type="checkbox"/> Dikoloi di tshwanetse go timiwa ga di se mo tirisong. <input type="checkbox"/> Dimechine di tshwanetse go nna mo seemong se se itekanetseng ka nako tsothe
Tlhagogo ya molelo	<input type="checkbox"/> Ditimamolelo di tshwanetse go nna teng mo lefelong la ditlhabololo.
Tlhamo ya ditiro	<input type="checkbox"/> Fa go thokafalang teng, banni ba motse wa Kazungula ba tshwanetse go hirwa. <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya phiro go tshwanetse go hirwa batho ba bong jo bo farologanyeng (bomme le borre).
Kgotlhang fa gare ga batho le diphologolo tsa naga	<input type="checkbox"/> Lefelo la ditlhabololo le tshwanetse go agelelwa ka terata ya selekanyo +-6m e ka itsang/kganela diphologolo go tsena mo teng jaaka ditlou.
Nako ya go thubiwa dikago	
Kgotlelesego ya metsi	<input type="checkbox"/> Didirisiwa tse di dirisiwang go phepafatsa leokwane le le tshologileng di tshwanetse go nna teng mo lefelong la tiro. <input type="checkbox"/> Fa go ka nna le leokwane le le tshologileng, ra konteraka o tshwanetse go tsaya dikgato tse di maleba go tlhatswa lefelo le le amegileng go itsa gore leokwane le seka la anamela kwa mafelo a mangwe le mo metsi.
Kgotlelesego ya lefatshe	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgaoganyana matlakala ka mofuta wa one go kgona go a latlha ka fa go tshwanaetseng. <input type="checkbox"/> Matlakala a go thuba kago a tshwanetse go lathiwa ke rakonteraka o hilweng tseletso ya go dira jalo ka ha molaong. Moitsanape wa tsa matlakala o tshwanetse go fiwa sebaka sa go phepafatsa tikologo le didirisiwa tse di ka dirisiwang gape.
Tlhagogo ya dikgobalo	<input type="checkbox"/> Go bewa ga matshwao a ipababalelo go tsibosa babereki le beng gae go nna podi matseba <input type="checkbox"/> Didirisiwa tsa thuso ya potlako di tshwanetse go nna teng ka nako tsothe

E. Tshoboko le dikgakololo tsa Tshekatsheko

Mo pheleletsong ya tshekatsheko ya tikologo, maduo a supile fa go na le ditsela tse di ka fokotsang manokonoko a ditlamorago tse di sa siamang mo tikologong. Kgakololo ke gore ditharabololo tse di ka fokotsang manokonoko a ditlamorago di diragadiwe mme tlhabololo e tswelle.

F. Mafelo a go beilweng bukana ya Tshekatsheko

Meriti ya bukana ya tshekatsheko ya ditlamorago tsa tikologo e, e tla bo e beilwe mo mafelong a a latelang a sechaba se ka ya go ipalela:

- Lephata la tsa merero ya tikologo (DEP Kasane)
- Kgotla ya Kazungula

Dikakgelo tsothe di ka romelwa go: Mookamedi; Lephata la Tikologo, Private Bag 0024, Kasane, kana mogala wa: 624 0197/198/199 kana romela kagelo kwa dikantorong tsa laphata kwa Kasane Old Cooperatives Office (go lebagana le Shoprite). Dikakgelo di tshwanetse tsa romelwa pele ga kgwedi ya Phalane e tlhola malatsi a le lesome le boferabobedi ngwaga wa 2024.

Sport

Branch wins Gold!

■ First African rider to win the world championship



LOCAL MOTORCYCLIST, ROSS BRANCH, was on Friday afternoon officially crowned the 2024 FIM World Rally-Raid (W2RC) Champion in Morocco. He is the first rider from Africa to win the world championship, marking a historic moment for Botswana and for rally raids.

Since the creation of the W2RC in 2022, the FIM and FIA rally-raid world championships have been unified, but the motorbike championship dates back to 2003. In that time, ten riders have etched their names into the FIM history books. Marc Coma holds the record with six titles, while Cyril Despres, Mathias Walkner, Pablo Quintanilla and Sam Sunderland each boast two titles. Other champions, including Pal Ullevåseter, Marek Dąbrowski, Hélder Rodrigues, Paulo Gonçalves and Luciano Benavides, have claimed one title each.

Today, an eleventh name joined this prestigious list. Ross Branch crossed the finish line, and became the first rider from Africa to win the world championship, marking a historic moment for Botswana and for rally raids. His victory would also cement Hero MotoSports' place in the history of the sport, making it the sixth manufacturer to earn a FIM world title, joining Yamaha, Honda and GasGas, with one title apiece. KTM leads the standings with thirteen championships, far ahead of Husqvarna, which has three.

Olympics, Paralympics teams in the delta



Botswana Olympic team

[PIC:NGAMITIMES]

WILDERNESS SAFARIS LAST WEEK played host to the 2024 Botswana Olympic team at Wilderness Vumbura. An initiative championed by His Excellency the President and supported by the Government, BNOC and HATAB, and co-hosted by Wilderness and Great Plain, Wilderness welcomed two cohorts one after the other for a true Wilderness experience! Vumbura in the NG22 Okavango Community Trust concession was recently recognised by readers of Conde Nast (UK) as one of the top camps in Africa. "What a pleasure to celebrate Botswana's incredible

talent in Botswana's pristine wilderness! We celebrate, appreciate, and commend them for using the language of sport to inspire and unite our nation!" said Joe Matome, Wilderness Botswana Caretaker Managing Director. A total of 20 talent and support team visited the camp and paid a courtesy visit to Wilderness' Maun office. "Not only did we have the pleasure and privilege to host this group of national heroes for them to relax after a grueling, successful Olympics showing, but we as a nation and an industry at large have gained ambassadors of tourism, always flying Botswana's flag high," said Matome.

Orange splashes P46,000 on Gabs 7's Rugby

THIS WEEKEND, THE UNIVERSITY OF Botswana Stadium will come alive as rugby clubs from across Southern Africa gather for the much-anticipated Gabs 7's Rugby International tournament. Sponsored by Orange Botswana, the event promises an electrifying experience for rugby fans, with teams from South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana battling for supremacy on the field. Orange Botswana has stepped in as a key sponsor, providing BWP 46,000 to support the tournament's logistics and cash prizes. In a move that underscores its commitment to gender equality in sports, Orange Botswana is sponsoring the prizes for the women's teams, including prize money, kits for match officials, ball boys, medals, and trophies. This generous sponsorship aims to elevate the women's division, ensuring their efforts are duly celebrated and recognized.

"We are thrilled to be part of the Gabs 7's Rugby International tournament, which not only showcases exceptional athletic talent but also promotes inclusivity in sports," said Orange Botswana Chief Marketing Officer, Mr. Yves Famien. "Our support for the women's teams demonstrates our dedication to empowering women athletes and fostering equal opportunities in the sporting arena." In addition to financial sponsorship, Orange Botswana will provide essential technical services to support the



Botswana Rugby team vs Leopard Rugby Club (South Africa)

event, ensuring seamless communication and efficient operations throughout the tournament. From coordinating the matches to enhancing the fan experience, Orange Botswana's technological expertise will play a pivotal role in making the event a success. The tournament will feature several teams, including both men's and women's squads. The men's teams will include SAAS, Hogs 7s, Rhinos 7s, Jwaneng Wildebeest, Ryders, Spartans Academy, Buist, Jaguars, BDF 1, Legends, BDF 2, and Rhinos 2. On the women's side, teams such as UP-TUKS, Wise Leadership Phoenix 7s, Jwaneng,

Shakawe, BDF, Ryders, UB Rhinos, and Buist will compete for glory. The Gabs 7's Rugby International tournament will feature exhilarating matches, with a diverse range of talent from both established and emerging rugby clubs. Spectators can expect thrilling performances from the men's and women's teams, as they compete with skill and determination for the top spot. Orange Botswana's involvement in the Gabs 7's Rugby International tournament further solidifies its dedication to promoting sports, community engagement, and

inclusivity in Botswana. By supporting local and regional sporting initiatives, the company continues to make a meaningful impact, leveraging its resources to uplift the community and encourage active lifestyles. Rugby fans are invited to come and witness the excitement, as top teams from Southern Africa converge on Gaborone for a weekend of fast-paced, hard-hitting action. With Orange Botswana's support, the Gabs 7's promises to be an unforgettable event that celebrates the spirit of rugby and the values of teamwork, resilience, and unity.



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