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## BDP split looms

- Factions align ahead of revival or finish off July congress
- BDP SG Dr Kwape denies Balopi suspension
- Central committee consults BDP regions

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**B**OTSWANA DEMOCRATIC Party (BDP) is grappling with a wave of emerging factions behind the scenes and some of the renowned democrats hint forming a break away party, should the July elective congress outcomes go against those they support, blaming leadership for favouritism.

BDP is heading for a decisive elective congress in July in Maun and some of the heavyweights in the party are hitting the ground running canvassing

TO PAGE 5

### GRAIN IMPORT BAN

## Food shortage crisis

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**T**HE LAST IMPORTATION OF maize, wheat and sorghum into Botswana from its key suppliers in South Africa was on January 16th, 2025, when Government announced an abrupt ban after the detection of Goss Wilt and Bud Rot disease in some maize products in that country.

The grain importation ban by the department of Plant Protection has left the country's millers, poultry industry operations and agriculture feed producers reeling from fast declining stock levels that could not keep alive various sectors in particular poultry, feedlots, and millers. "This means that in the coming week we will run out of mealie meal, flour and others because there is no supply. This will push up the prices," warned one of the local producers, who said they are struggling with identifying alternative sources.

The abrupt grain importation ban has led to insufficient stock levels of raw materials and limited time to source alternatives. This sudden disruption in supply chains raises serious concerns, as any depletion of raw materials and finished products could have far-reaching consequences. Such shortages would not only affect farmers and producers but would also negatively

- Poultry industry hard hit, 25 000 jobs on the line
- Mealie meal, flour shortage to push up prices
- Producers call on government to lift the ban
- 'No consultation or risk assessment done' -complaint



Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Micus Chimbombi

impact consumers across the country.

Of even more serious concern to the producers is that this action was taken without consultations and there is no indication that a serious risk assessment was undertaken. Surprisingly, trucks continue to travel across Botswana carrying the maize supplies to other countries in

the north.

#### Business Botswana efforts

On Thursday, the private sector mouthpiece -Business Botswana informed stakeholders that while they may experience some shortages in input supplies and finished products in the short term, they should rest assured that producers are working closely with the relevant

Ministry to identify and implement immediate and long-term solutions.

"Given the urgency of the matter, we assure all the stakeholders that we are actively engaging and collaborating with Ministry of Lands and Agriculture officials and industry associations to restore supply chains and resume production," reads part of Business Botswana statement.

Through the communique, Business Botswana alerted farmers, particularly those in outlying areas, that stock feed supplies are likely to run out shortly, even if maize imports are restored soon. Farmers are therefore advised to prepare for possible shortages and are strongly encouraged to seek alternative feed sources in advance.

"The situation will be alleviated if maize supplies are fully restored before the weekend, but in the meantime, proactive measures are necessary to minimise the impact," warned Business Botswana.

However, by the end of the week it was not clear if the Ministry of Lands & Agriculture would accede to request by stakeholders to lift the grain importation ban to save fragile industries facing destruction.

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## Kgafela II's bogosi troubles

- SA govt recognise his nemesis Nyalala as Bakgatla ba Kgafela kgosi
- Kgafela II to challenge Northwest Premier's decision in court
- Doubt over Kgafela II's promised May 2025 return



Kgosi Kgafela II

derecognized Ramono, previously appointed by Kgafela II and made no mention of the latter.

The proclamation has infuriated hordes of Bakgatla in Mochudi. The recognition of Nyalala comes after Kgafela II had announced his intention to return to Botswana in May this year, a decision which observers say will be put in abeyance.

Addressing Bakgatla virtually from Moruleng on Thursday, a livid Kgafela II said premier Mokgosi betrayed the royal family

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**J**UST WHEN HE BELIEVED TO have solidified power in Moruleng, South Africa where he currently resides and promising to return to Botswana in May, Kgosi Kgafela II of Bakgatla ba Kgafela finds himself headed for a fresh power struggle in the minerals rich Bakgatla territory in the North West Province.

Northwest Premier, Kagiso Mokgosi on Wednesday granted Nyalala Pilane recognition as kgosi of Bakgatla ba Kgafela in South Africa, much the to the chagrin of Kgafela II. In the same announcement, Mokgosi

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# Mohwasa engages DCEC

**T**HE MINISTER FOR STATE President, Honourable Moeti Caesar Mohwasa, will meet the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) Senior Management, to appreciate the overview mandate of the Directorate, key achievements, challenges, and proposed interventions to strengthen the Directorate's efforts in eliminating corruption. Furthermore, this session seeks to align the DCEC's mandate with the priorities of the Government.



Mohwasa

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

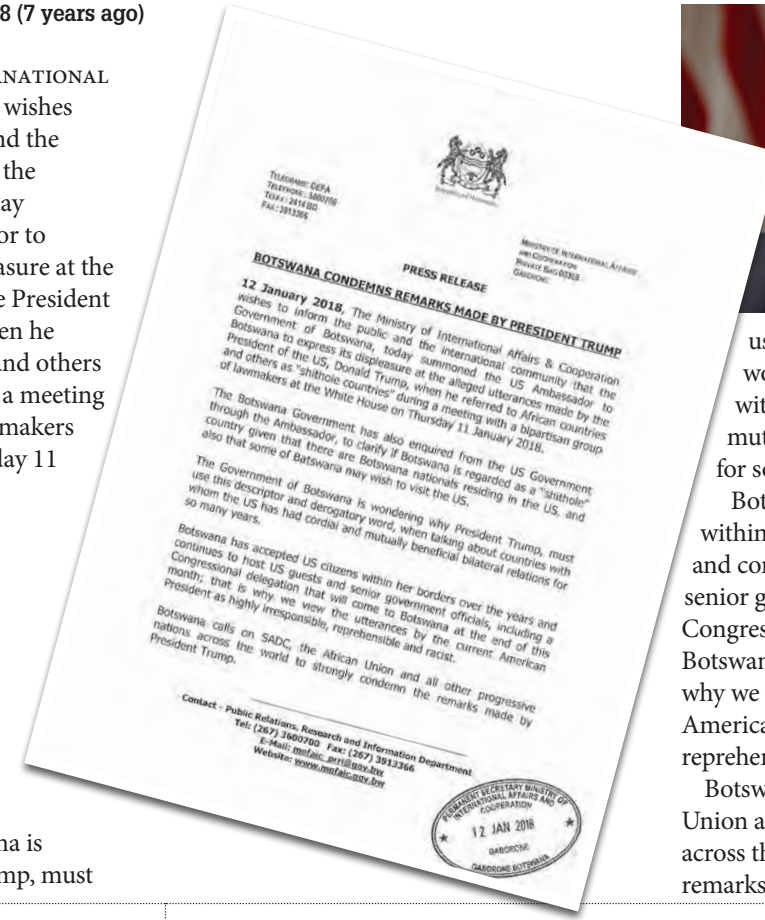
# Botswana furious over 'shithole' shaming

FLASHBACK: 12th January 2018 (7 years ago)

**T**HE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL Affairs & Cooperation wishes to inform the public and the international community that the Government of Botswana, today summoned the US Ambassador to Botswana to express its displeasure at the alleged utterances made by the President of the US, Donald Trump, when he referred to African countries and others as "shithole countries" during a meeting with a bipartisan group of lawmakers at the White House on Thursday 11 January 2018.

The Botswana Government has also enquired from the US Government through the Ambassador, to clarify if Botswana is regarded as a "shithole" country given that there are Botswana nationals residing in the US, and also that some of Botswana may wish to visit the US.

The Government of Botswana is wondering why President Trump, must



use this descriptor and derogatory word, when talking about countries with whom the US has had cordial and mutually beneficial bilateral relations for so many years.

Botswana has accepted US citizens within her borders over the years and continues to host US guests and senior government officials, including a Congressional delegation that will come to Botswana at the end of this month; that is why we view the utterances by the current American President as highly irresponsible, reprehensible and racist.

Botswana calls on SADC, the African Union and all other progressive nations across the world to strongly condemn the remarks made by President Trump.

# Orthopaedic surgeries backlog reduced



Dr Nyanga

**T**HE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IS HAPPY to announce that of the 200 orthopaedic patients that were on the waiting list at Princess Marina Hospital as at December 2024, a historic 120 cases have been operated. Many of these were mainly trauma patients (patients who have been physically injured eg during accidents).

A strategic decision was made to

address this backlog by having some of these patients operated at Princess Marina Hospital, Mahalapye District Hospital and Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital (SKMTH), with the assistance of existing Ministry of Health's public private partnerships. The Ministry has taken this deliberate decision in order to restore health and better quality of life for the patients and their families.

In line with Government's commitment to achieve Universal Health Coverage for all people, regardless of who they are or where they live, the Ministry is also working on implementing some new initiatives to permanently address all backlogs including for eye surgeries and gynaecology.

More updates will be provided on progress made on this and other burning pains in the health system.

Dr Christopher Nyanga  
For Permanent Secretary

# LKC gets 100% Form 5 IGCSE pass



**L**AST THURSDAY, CAMBRIDGE International released the November 2024 IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) Examination results. At Livingstone Kolobeng College (LKC), 122 students were examined in 8 or more of 23 tested subjects at the end of last year. With just over a thousand grades received this morning, all students passed their certificate examination, achieving a virtually 100% (99.8%) combined pass rate in all subjects. Notably, just over a third of all students' grades were either an A\* or an A, an

achievement that opens the door to top achiever scholarships. Our excellent 2024 IGCSE student pass rate is consistent with previous Cambridge IGCSE and A-Level (Form 6) results.

LKC is an independent Unified Secondary School that, since 2006, has prepared its students for the University of Cambridge International IGCSE and A-Level Examinations. In this endeavor, the school has, over the past two decades, consistently achieved at or near 100% pass rates in all subjects for all students. They offer on-campus boarding for Forms 1-6.

# Chinese FM's Africa visit enhances friendship

**C**HINESE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG Yi's Africa visit was a complete success, strengthening the China-Africa all-weather friendship and demonstrating the firm resolve of China and Africa to jointly respond to the rapid changes in today's world, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on January 13.

Wang's recent trip took him to four African countries, namely Namibia, the Republic of the Congo, Chad and Nigeria. The visit continued the 35-year-long tradition of a Chinese foreign minister visiting Africa on the first overseas trip at the start of a year.

At a regular press conference, spokesperson Guo Jiakun provided more details on the visit.

"The visit was a complete success," Guo said, adding that a series of new consensus and results were achieved on implementing the six proposals and 10 partnership actions proposed by the Chinese president at the 2024 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Guo said that the global situation is ever-changing, but the original commitment of

China and Africa to treat each other as equals and support each other is as firm as the rock.

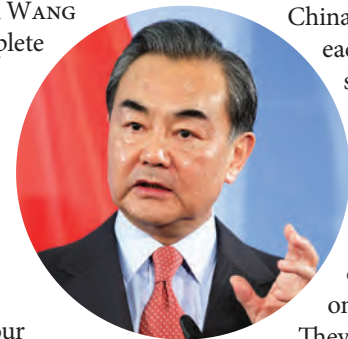
African leaders who met with Foreign Minister Wang reaffirmed commitment to the one-China principle.

They expressed sympathies over the earthquake in China's Xizang, he said.

The visit has achieved tangible outcomes, promoted cooperation between China and Africa across various fields, and fostered broad consensus in areas such as inter-civilization exchanges, green development and agricultural cooperation.

The visit also contributed to China-Africa all-round coordination and stronger joint efforts to redress the historical injustices to Africa, promote solidarity and prosperity of the Global South and build a just and equitable global governance system.

"China and Africa are on the forefront in building a community with a shared future for mankind and will become a shining example of this endeavor," Guo said.



Ribbon cutting



Welcome remarks by Mediland CEO Scott Senwelo



Keynote address by Neil Herman, Co-owner of The Laser Beautique Franchisor



Introduction of Guests by MC Reagile Kopi



Musical performance by Samantha Mogwe



Beautique tour



Service sampling

# The Laser Beautique Grand Opening

**W**ednesday evening was a night filled with joy and excitement as The Laser Beautique Gaborone officially opened its doors to the public at the Fields Mall, CBD. The South African based hair removal and skincare specialists have over 13 years experience in the industry, they've done over 412 388 treatments and have 13 000 customers across South Africa. The event was graced by influencers, industry leaders, makeup artists and different notable stakeholders. The CEO of Mediland Botswana Mr Scott Senwelo revealed that it had been a tedious journey for them to finally have these services in Botswana but beams with excitement that they finally managed to do so.

Located in the prime shopping centre of The Fields Mall the

new store offers a number of budget friendly hair removal and skincare services to both men and women. The Laser Beautique which started operating in South Africa is a multinational franchise which has stores across South Africa and one in Botswana, even though the franchise just opened its doors plans of expansion to other parts of Botswana are in place. "We plan to grow our brand across Botswana," said Senwelo.

Co-founder and franchisor Mr Neil Hermann said their services were introduced to expose South Africans to pain free laser hair removal. With a unique value proposition, The Laser Beautique offers affordable services using cutting edge technology which currently compares to none in Botswana. It is the first in Africa to offer safe pain free permanent hair removal.

The technology used for the permanent laser hair removal is safe for all skin tones, does not scar and is pain free but most importantly comfortable. Services offered by The Laser Beautique are seen in markets like Europe and it's availability in Botswana is a game changer to the industry. Customers can book a skin consultation where they can get advice from specialists on the treatments they need.

Some of the services offered are permanent laser hair removal, dermaplaning, collagen induction and waxing. They also offer skin consultations and scientific skincare facials and peels. The store also carries a number of skincare brands like Nimue, Heliocare and their in house products.

# Letlole, Mmusi escape jail

- Charges of unlawful administration of corporal punishment dismissed
- School head disowned teachers after assigning them to punish six students

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Lowani

THREE TEACHERS WHO WERE dragged before court accused of unlawfully administering corporal punishment on six students at a school in Gaborone, finally heaved a sigh of relief on Monday after spending three years in suspension, when Broadhurst magistrate court dismissed the case.

The accused teachers are Tlamele Letlole, Unangoni Phindela and Sophie Phetogo Mmusi. The three were arraigned on a single count of unlawful administration of corporal punishment contrary to the section 2 (i) and (iii) of the Education (Corporal Punishment Regulations, Laws of Botswana) on the 6th April 2023.

Delivering the judgement on Monday, Broadhurst principal magistrate Goratle Moremi -Ramakoloi said the teachers are acquitted of the charge of unlawful administration of corporal punishment contrary to section 2 (i) and (iii) of the Education (Corporal Punishment Regulations), Laws of Botswana.

Moremi-Ramakoloi noted that the prosecuting team out of the six (6) complaints students, they have only managed to locate one student, Beauty Madilola who has since submitted a withdrawal statement citing her disinterest in proceeding with the prosecution of the case.

According to Moremi-Ramakoloi, the student cited her unwillingness to proceed with the case because it has caused her unwellness and does not want to recount the alleged incident. She said another student Oratile Motlhokwa is unable to attend the trial allegedly due to ill health and is currently attending psychiatric evaluation owing to the alleged corporal punishment incident. "Two students named Karabo Matholo and Karabo Sephikwe respectively have both furnished the investigating officer with an incorrect residential plot numbers and they are not reachable on mobile phones nor they can be located," said Moremi-Ramakoloi.

She said as for Lefa Setshwano who is allegedly resident in Mogoditshane, his cellphone is not going through while the last student Kgosi Setlhare is allegedly relocated from Oodi to Francistown, and his parents are unwilling to provide their current residential address.

### Attorney

In an interview, Lowani said the teachers acted within parameters of law as they administered corporal punishment to the students authorized by the headmaster. He said after conclusion of disciplinary hearing as teachers were subjected

to it, the case suggest that it is best that teachers leave the administration of corporal to headmasters if regulations still permit.

He also said or in the event that they are required to administer such and to avoid being to follow instructions, teachers should demand written authorization every time they are instructed to administer corporal punishment.

"In short teachers, should follow directions of their trade unions BOSETU and BTU and stay away from administering corporal punishment unless there is written authorization from the headmaster," he said.

Taking that route, he said teachers would be saving themselves from the trouble of being wrongfully prosecuted on the basis that they administered corporal punishment unlawfully.

Lowani said had they been found guilty; the three teachers would have been charged P50 or face three months imprisonment but the big cost is the legal fees they incurred to defend themselves against state.

"Another thing is that for the teachers this was not a light issue. Had they been convicted; they were liable to be dismissed form the public service. They were at risk of losing their careers and livelihood just because they did what they were asked by school management," said Lowani.

### BTU

Commenting on the judgement, BTU Publicity Secretary Innocent Puso said their position remain the same because the act regulating corporal punishment has been repealed under new government. He said BTU's position is based on ensuring teachers don't go through the ordeal that the three teachers went through, adding that its better to stay clear of such offences.

After the state opened the case against the teachers, teacher trade unions Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) and Botswana Sector of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU) instructed their members to cease administering corporal punishment.

The ministry of education had cautioned the teachers against the excessive use of corporal punishment on students and indicated that that teachers should only seek permission from head teachers when they need to apply corporal punishment, a move which many believe led to massive indiscipline in schools.

# Govt pursues green economy ambition

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- Boko courts global investors to invest in the green space
- Minister Kenewendo hopeful on 2030 Green Botswana

TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE concerns, Botswana government has committed to being a fully-fledged green economy by 2030 with the energy sector playing a key role in attainment of reducing the country's carbon footprint.

Speaking in Davos, Switzerland where he attended the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting, President Duma Boko invited global investors to invest in the country, highlighting that there is every reason for them to explore opportunities in Botswana within the energy sector. He said the investment priorities that are aimed at unlocking economic diversification include the green economy and digitisation, buttressing that Botswana has great potential in the two.

"We are very passionate about growing our economy away from the dependence on minerals. We are focused on attracting green investments to Botswana. Digital investment is another core area that we are aggressive about. We have young innovative people who can exploit the space to create jobs," he said.

### Kenewendo

Minister of Minerals and Energy Bogolo Kenewendo reiterated the government ambition of greening Botswana on Tuesday during the ministry stakeholder consultative forum with the electricity sub



Duma Boko

sector, emphasizing key role energy sector plays. She said there is a lot of potential in the energy sector in Botswana but the potential is only as valuable if there is an action taken by the government, the private

sector and other key stakeholders to unlock it. Therefore, Kenewendo said the stakeholder engagement with the electricity sector is meant to give a platform to the industry to give feedback and direction on

the ministry ability to deliver its mandate.

"It should be regarded as an open forum where honest, objective and progressive discussions will be shared with a view of shaping sustainable development of the energy sector. Please share your insights in a transparent manner," she said. She said they are expecting to receive feedback on current policies, projects and programmes as the ministry strives to provide the energy security for the country and to improve access to reliable and adequate supply of energy in order to facilitate a sustainable and low carbon economic development.

Meanwhile, Kenewendo said there are challenges that the electricity sector grapples with and need urgent attention.

She indicated that some of the challenges include slow uptake of the Roof Top Solar programme in the household sector due to high capital investment required for solar installations and the vandalism of distribution infrastructure impacted operations, as well as disrupting electricity supply to customers.

Another challenge she said is related to land issues, noting that securing land for energy projects has been a lengthy process due to land ownership issues, legal hurdles and competing land uses as well.

"In addition, solar technologies are land intensive and may comprises other important land uses as well as increasing deforestation," said Kenewendo.

### Funding

To augment to green economy efforts by the government, Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) last year noted that it is embarking on green energy projects in a bid to reduce the country's carbon footprint while also improving the security of supply. The envisaged game-changing projects include two 50 MW stations to be built in the former mining town of Selebi-Phikwe and diamond town of Jwaneng.

Also, the World Bank and the Green Climate Fund respectively have approved a package of loans and grants amounting to \$125.5 million (P1.7 billion) to help Botswana develop its first 50-megawatt utility-scale battery energy storage system.

The energy storage system, a key project under government's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), is expected to support the wave of renewable energy generation in the country, allowing "smooth integration" in the national grid. In a statement last year, the World Bank and its funding partners said the loans and grants would also go towards the necessary grid investment required for the project, as well as grid expansion to rural villages and the improvement of electricity services in the Southern districts. "The World Bank is pleased to support Botswana's commitment to expand domestic energy generation with renewable solutions," said World Bank country director for Botswana, Satu Kahkonen at the time.

# Mokgware quells diamond industry tensions

- Rampant abuse alleged in diamond cutting and polishing companies

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A DISPUTE THAT HAS BEEN raging for years between the diamond cutting and polishing industry investors and workers has finally attracted the attention of the new government. Now, Botswana Diamond Workers Union (BDWU) has renewed hope that their plea will not fall on deaf ears as it happened with the former government that failed to resolve workers' rights violations in the diamond industry.

The new Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, Pius Mokgware engaged BDWU after they announced plans to hold demonstrations against some of their employers. The union, which is facing an uphill battle for recognition among predominantly foreign owned diamond cutting and polishing

companies, said they were advised to engage the labour minister first before escalating their grievances to OP.

Mokgware confirmed that he met the BDWU leadership before Christmas holidays. He promised to address the matter in reasonable time. Addressing a kgotla meeting in Gabane recently, Mokgware cautioned that the new government will not tolerate employers who violate workers' rights and those who disregard trade unions as workers' representatives in labour disputes.

The Patriot on Sunday is in possession of Labour and Home Affairs Ministry research findings confirming rampant disregard for labour laws by companies in the diamond cutting and polishing industry. BDWU Chairperson, Dominic Mapoka said chief among issues relate to some of companies who refuse to recognize BDWU, workers' rights, racial discrimination and sexual abuse in the workplace

He said they have approached courts on several occasions where diamond cutting and polishing companies had unfairly dismissed and retrenched individuals for



Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, Pius Mokgware

belonging to the union. "We continue to represent them even if they are not our members because their employers deny them an opportunity to unionize," said Mapoka.

"The minister promised to intervene on issues that we have raised. We remain hopeful that he will give the matter priority because the previous regime failed to resolve issues affecting workers in the diamond cutting and polishing industry," added Mapoka.

BDWU complains that on several occasions they had to seek recognition through dispute resolution mechanisms despite that they meet all the requirements according to the law. The union leaders are concerned that the Department of Labour and Social Security continues to fail to address issues between employers and employees.

"Employers do not take dispute resolution seriously especially mediation to an extent that it has

become tedious and frustrating to employees," they said, adding that, therefore, the diamond industry continues to employ expatriates workers to replace those who are pro-unionisation.

"We have an influx of expatriates who come here under the pretext that they are coaches and trainers. Most of the expatriates do not have the necessary qualifications and experience. Batswana are forced to train them.

This scenario denies Batswana an opportunity for employment and it is a violation of the immigration and employment of non-citizens Acts by the system," the letter stated.

Meanwhile, the Department of Labour and Social Security inspection which was conducted in 2023 found that companies in the diamond cutting and polishing industry were resistant when it comes to working with trade unions. "They perceive trade unions as outsiders with parallel mandate. They believe trade unions destabilise the relationship between employer and employee, and prefer working with internal Workers Committee," reads part of the report.

# Xi Jinping, Donald Trump hold talks

CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING on January 17 held a telephone conversation with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump at the latter's request.

Xi congratulated Trump on his reelection as U.S. president. He pointed out that both he and Trump attach great importance to interaction with each other, hope that China-U.S. ties will have a good start in the new U.S. presidential term, and stand ready to push China-U.S. relations to make greater progress from a new starting point. Xi stressed that both China and

the United States, two great countries, are pursuing their own dreams and are committed to making the lives of their people better.

China and the United States share extensive common interests and broad space for cooperation, and the two countries can become partners and friends, contribute to each other's success, and enjoy common prosperity, which will benefit both countries and the whole world, Xi said.

Xi said that it is inevitable that China and the United States, two major countries with different national

conditions, have some differences, and the key is to respect each other's core interests and major concerns, and find appropriate ways to solve issues.

He said that the Taiwan question concerns China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and it is hoped that the U.S. side handles it with caution.

The nature of China-U.S. economic and trade relations is mutually beneficial and win-win, and confrontation and conflict should not be the choice of the two countries, Xi said. He also called on both sides to


step up cooperation and do more great, practical and good things that are conducive to the two countries and the world at large based on the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, so as to keep the two giant ships of China and the United States moving forward on the course of stable, healthy and sustainable development.

Trump thanked Xi for his congratulations, saying that he cherishes his great relationship with Xi, hopes to continue to maintain dialogue and communication, and looks

forward to meeting Xi at an early date. The United States and China are the most important countries in the world today, and they should maintain long-lasting friendship and work together to safeguard global peace, Trump said.

Xi and Trump exchanged views on major international and regional issues of common concern, such as the Ukraine crisis and the Israel-Palestine conflict.


They agreed to establish strategic communication channels and maintain regular contact on major issues of common concern.



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# The plight of temporary Teachers



LAGAGO TAMOCHA\*  
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-A call for comprehensive reform in education sector

EARLIER THIS WEEK, BOTSWANA witnessed a surge in activism among temporary and unemployed teachers, bringing to light longstanding issues within the nation's education sector. On January 22, 2025, a group of unemployed teachers staged a protest in Gaborone, advocating for the prioritization of local educators in employment opportunities. Minister of Labor and



Home Affairs, Pius Mokgware, addressed the demonstrators, announcing that the government had ceased issuing work permits to foreign teachers and truck drivers to protect local jobs. He revealed that 140 applications for work permits were rejected in the previous month alone.

Thabang Kopelo, representing the unemployed teachers, emphasized that their actions were not xenophobic but a plea for the government to prioritize citizens in hiring practices. He stated, "We now demand the cancellation and the immediate suspension of issuing of work permits to teachers who come from outside of Botswana... There are already thousands and thousands" of local teachers.

This protest is part of a broader movement addressing the challenges faced by temporary teachers in Botswana. In December 2024, temporary and qualified unemployed teachers petitioned the Ministry of Basic Education, urging authorities to provide permanent employment opportunities. They highlighted issues such as delayed payments, lack of access to benefits, and exclusion from staff amenities. Nono Kgafela, the Minister of Basic Education and Child Welfare, acknowledged these concerns but cited budget constraints as a barrier to absorbing all temporary teachers into permanent roles. She reassured the teachers that the ministry is working closely with the Ministry of Finance to find viable solutions.

The Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) has also been vocal about the welfare of temporary teachers. In September 2022, BTU President Godlamang Oitsile appealed to the government to improve the turnaround time for payments to temporary teachers, following reports of some educators going for three months without pay. He emphasized that such delays could adversely affect teaching and learning.

The current administration, led by the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), has made commitments to reform the education sector.

In July 2022, the UDC promised to restore the dignity of teachers by introducing incentives and improving their working and living conditions. They pledged to review and overhaul school curricula to align with the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Despite these promises, the challenges faced by temporary teachers persist. Many have remained in their roles for over a decade without prospects of permanent employment.

Delayed payments and lack of benefits continue to impact their morale and well-being, with negative effects spilling over to learners. The government's recent decision to halt work permits for foreign teachers is a step towards prioritizing local educators. However, without comprehensive reforms addressing the systemic issues faced by temporary teachers, such measures may

only offer temporary relief. It is imperative for the government to engage in meaningful dialogue with educators and their unions to develop sustainable solutions that ensure the stability and quality of Botswana's education system.

## The Ripple Effect: How Temporary Teacher Challenges Impact Education

The challenges faced by temporary teachers in Botswana extend beyond the personal frustrations of delayed salaries and job insecurity. They also have far-reaching implications for the quality of education in classrooms across the country.

Temporary teachers often find themselves struggling to meet their basic needs due to delayed payments. When teachers are uncertain about their next paycheck, their focus can shift from lesson planning and classroom engagement to personal survival. This financial instability directly affects their morale and reduces their capacity to deliver lessons effectively. A demotivated teacher often results in disengaged learners, which can lead to declining academic performance.

Additionally, the lack of permanent status means temporary teachers are excluded from professional development opportunities and staff benefits such as pensions, housing allowances, and medical aid. This exclusion not only demoralises the teachers but also stunts their professional growth. Without access to these resources, temporary teachers may struggle to keep up with modern teaching methods or effectively integrate new technology into their classrooms—elements that are vital for preparing learners for the demands of the 21st century.

For students, the lack of continuity in teaching staff creates instability. Temporary teachers often rotate between schools or leave mid-year due to job uncertainty, disrupting the consistency needed for effective learning. Learners thrive on structure, and frequent changes in educators can hinder the development of trust and rapport, critical components of the teacher-student relationship.

Moreover, schools facing staff shortages due to the challenges of employing temporary teachers may resort to overcrowding classrooms. Larger student-to-teacher ratios strain resources and reduce the individual attention each learner receives. This environment compromises not only academic achievement but also the holistic development of students.

The systemic neglect of temporary teachers creates a domino effect, starting with their welfare and cascading down to learners and the broader education system. Addressing these challenges is not just a matter of fairness but a necessity for ensuring the delivery of quality education. A stable and well-supported teaching workforce is the cornerstone of any robust educational system—and Botswana cannot afford to neglect this reality.

## Kgafela II's bogosi troubles

FROM PAGE 1

by unilaterally appointing Nyalala as Bakgatla kgosi, threatening legal action to challenge the decision. Kgafela II revealed that his lawyers have since written to Mokgosi instructing him to set aside Nyalala recognition by the 29th January 2025, failing which he will proceed to court. According to Kgafela II, failure by Northwest Provincial Government to remove Nyalala as the chief would also leave the royal family with no choice but to report Mokgosi to Hawks for criminal conduct. "It is a blatant lie that the royal family at any point and time that Kgosi Ramono Linchwe be replaced by Nyalala. We in fact agreed for Matshego Kgafela to be appointed and recognized together with his traditional council. We are going to fight against this misrepresentation, fraud and corruption by Mokgosi," said Kgafela II.

Matshego is the first son of Kgafela II and was recently officially introduced to Bakgatla-ba- Kgafela by Bakgatla Deputy Chief Kgosi Bana Sekai when his father was addressing Bakgatla virtually in Mochudi. Kgafela II said the previous premier Professor Job Mokgoro revoked certificate that granted Nyalala recognition in 2020 with court orders affirming that and he is surprised by Mokgosi's conduct.

"We are going to challenge this unconstitutional decision by Mokgosi with an urgent application. He cannot impose Nyalala on Bakgatla. Nyalala messed up Bakgatla's wealth and resources. A court order on September 2020 emphasized that Nyalala must handover the administration of the tribe to me. That must remain so," said Kgafela II.

The developments in Moruleng unsettled Bakgatla in Mochudi and are of the view that the power struggle between Kgafela II and Nyalala would come back again to

haunt Bakgatla just like in the past.

Bakgatla are said to have been advanced with plans to prepare for the heroic return of Kgafela II who briefed them in December that he will be in Mochudi on the 21st May 2025, ending 13 years of exile. On Friday, deputy chief Kgosi Sekai said he was awaiting a formal briefing about the developments in South Africa from Kgafela II.

### Politics

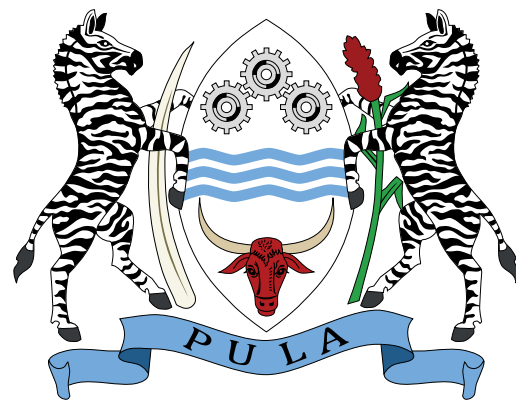
Meanwhile, political science lecturer at University of Botswana (UB) Dr Adam Mfundisi said the self-exile of Bakgatla paramount chief Kgafela II in SA has been a thorny political matter in the country. He said since the assumption of chieftainship of Bakgatla ba ga Kgafela in Moruleng in SA by Kgafela II, there have been controversies and court case mounted to challenge his reign or those who support him.

"The recognition of Kgosi Nyalala Pilane is another challenge to Kgosi Kgafela's reign. Kgosi Kgafela, according to his own words will be visiting Botswana does not return from exile in SA. There are uncertainties in his future in a "foreign" country. All rests with the tribe in Moruleng, SA," he said.

Kgafela fled the country in 2012 following a fallout with the then Ian Khama administration, which de-recognised him as Bakgatla paramount chief after he refused to join Ntlo ya Dikgosi or become a civil servant under Bogosi Act.

In October 2011, government took the decision to invoke provisions of Section 15 (b) of the Bogosi Act Chapter 41:01, in the public interest, to de-recognise Kgosi Kgafela II of Bakgatla with immediate effect.

Kgafela II and some of his regiment members were also facing criminal charges from the government over illegal floggings of Bakgatla as a way of enforcing discipline in Kgatlang.



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Ref: MCKT 4/2/1 I (57)

6<sup>TH</sup> January 2025

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For any enquiries contact Recruitment and Selection division at 3625618/3625524/3625525, or 3612000

**Closing Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

# The P27b Development Manager Model Series

ARTICLE 1  
 Appoint a truly Independent Review Team

Background

IN OCTOBER 2023, THE MINISTRY of Transport and Infrastructure (MTI) started the implementation of the Development Manager Model (DMM). Through this model, 148 projects with a total contract sum of over P13 billion of public funds was handed over to nine (9) private companies to pretty much spend as they wished. This is because they operated outside the guard rails of known public procurement legislation being PPADB/PPRA.

When answering a question from Member of Parliament for Bobonong Taolo Lucas, the current Minister of MTI, Noah Salakae indicated that the contract sum for these projects has more than doubled to over P27 billion. This is curious as the Ministry had taunted the DMM as poster child for cost saving. How then is it that the contract sums doubled even before the projects go to site?

Furthermore, that an amount of over P433 million has already been disbursed to these nine companies. Public funds must be accounted for publicly. It will be interesting pit these amounts with the actual services and work done at the time of payment

There is also a plethora of other issues associated with the introduction and implementation of the DMM which includes but not limited to non-compliance with the laws of Botswana by foreign professionals practicing in the DM, exclusion of a large percentage of local industry players, risks associated with putting all eggs in one basket, secrecy as to the form of contract used and possible inflated project cost. A more surgical approach has got to explore all these and more if any. An attempt at just focussing on "... to determine its financial sustainability ..." as per MTI letter Ref: MTI/1/15/1 I (7) dated 16th January 2025, would be a mockery of the process.

MTI, under the new UDC led government, has since resolved to set up a Task Team to review the DMM. In this first article of a series, the authors seek to engage two issues being:

1. Appointment of the DMM Review Task Team
  2. The Terms of Reference (TOR) Appointment of Review Task Team
- It is important to note that this task team will effectively be investigating or reviewing the decision of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure to implement the DM



Minister of MTI, Noah Salakae

| PAC NO | ENTITY/COMPANY            | COUNTRY                 | AMOUNT (BWP)             |
|--------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1      | GH JOINT VENTURES         | South Africa/Botswana   | 1,367,439,405.00         |
| 2      | OKAVANGO CONSORTIUM       | South Africa/Botswana   | 1,961,000,000.00         |
| 3      | HATCH ASSOCIATES          | South Africa            | 1,141,750,000.00         |
| 4      | NAMA CONSULTING ENGINEERS | Greece/South Africa     | 1,349,793,000.00         |
| 5      | BIGEN AFRICA              | South Africa            | 1,190,037,142.00         |
| 6      | K-HILL CONSORTIUM         | Botswana                | 1,688,719,000.00         |
| 7      | PRO-SERVE CONSULTING      | South Africa            | 1,315,931,060.00         |
| 8      | ZUTARI (PTY) LTD          | South Africa / Botswana | 1,607,653,686.00         |
| 9      | DEVCOM                    | South Africa            | 1,423,861,413.00         |
|        | <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>        |                         | <b>13,046,184,707.00</b> |

Model. Begs the questions therefore:  
 • Would it be proper for the same Ministry with the involvement of the PS, and possibly other high-ranking officers, who were instrumental and fought tooth and nail for the introduction and implementation of the DMM are now involved in setting up the task team. There is a clear conflict of interest here.

The fact of the matter is that the PS, and possibly other high-ranking officers, who were instrumental and fought tooth and nail for the introduction and implementation of the DMM are now involved in setting up the task team. There is a clear conflict of interest here. One of the critics of the way the DMM model was implemented was its secrecy and lack of consultation with other construction industry stakeholders. As a matter of fact, Rre Saleshando has even on numerous occasions stood in parliament and raised concern that the then Minister of MTI was the only person in parliament who seemed to understand why the DMM is being introduced and how it worked.

Some of the key stakeholders in the construction sector are the regulatory bodies and associations including but not limited to PULA (Planners), ARC (Architects), ERB (Engineers) and QSRC (Quantity Surveyors). These were set up through acts of parliament and thus dully recognised as legitimate and legal representatives of these professions. A truly fair and representative Task Team must include representatives from these

bodies, duly nominated by them or their respective associations. It cannot be the prerogative of the PS and Ministry as to who they accept when nominations have been made by these bodies as this would borders on choosing the jury to sit at your own trial. This is an issue of huge national interest. To this end, one would have expected that each of the core consultancy team professions being Architects, Engineers and Quantity Surveyors would be represented by one retired professional and one active member. This is because you then have the benefit of FIRST-HAND knowledge of the previous and current implementation of public works.

The PS and Ministry position is that there should not be any practicing professional as there is potential for conflict. Even this, it would seem is not being applied consistently as the Engineers and QSs has nominated persons who are actively practicing. Why does this not apply to the Architects? What is the implication: that the review must be conducted by students and retired people only?

The Ministry is hellbent on ensuring an under-representation of Architects who are typically lead consultants particularly in building works. This is evidenced by the fact that the others (Engineers and QS) were asked to nominate their representative to the Task Team in December 2024, the Architects were only asked to do same on the

morning of 15th January 2025 and that it had to be done by 1300hrs same day.

It is worth noting that the President of the Architects Association of Botswana is a DM and thus heavily and directly conflicted. He is leading the Okavango Consortium which apparently has already been paid well over P250 million as was divulged by the Minister in answering one of the questions in parliament. The same Okavango Consortium that was awarded the Francistown – Nata Road for P1.8 billion, which has now ballooned to a whopping over P4 billion as per the Minister's answer in Parliament.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) It is important that the terms of reference (TOR) are drawn with input from other stakeholders to avoid a one-sided narrative and ensure that the review leaves no stone unturned. TORs that are grafted by the same Ministry whose decisions are being reviewed are bound to be biased and possibly attempt to sell a narrative that is favourable to them.

In a typical project on site the key players are Client, Consultants and Contractor. A serious review will seek to deeply explore the capacity of all these and how they have in the past affected project delivery. The well-known narrative from the Ministry is that projects fail because of lack of capacity to administer contracts. This bias and narrative is already evident on the TOR. This may as well be the case; however, it will be disingenuous to even suggest that public works has been failing because of only capacity of consultants.

The Ministry is known to amongst others to make it very difficult for consultants to execute their mandate by not paying them on time, not taking recommendations to terminate contractors who are underperforming amongst others and insisting on carrying the task of Clerk of Works services.

Some contractors lack capacity to execute these works. It is worth noting here that once the project is on site, contractors carry the elephant's share of the responsibility to deliver. Despite this, contractors are not regulated whilst consultants are. Imagine in a project where the contract sum is P200 million, fees for all consultants would be around 10% at best. Yet the contractors are not regulated despite all these funds going through them?

In short, the Terms of Reference must guard against the Ministry, in defence of their DMM, driving a false narrative without substantiation. They must produce tangible evidence that led them to go against the norm and operate outside public procurement policy.

# BDP split looms

FROM PAGE 1

for votes as Domkrag embarks on a rebirth journey. Impeccable sources within the party note that deep inside the BDP leadership knows that things are pretty ugly and could go terribly wrong in July when the BDP elects a new central committee in Maun.

On Friday, BDP Secretary General (SG) Dr Lemogang Kwape said the leadership is not aware of any potential divisions ahead of the congress more so that members are not yet allowed to campaign.

Dr Kwape while addressing the media said the central committee will meet on the 21st February 2025 and could possibly take a resolution that will open up window for members to launch their campaigns.

He cautioned those who are said to be secretly campaigning on the ground to stop as it is unlawful.

"The elective congress preparations are underway and currently overseen by the central committee. As the party Secretary General, I have not received any names by those who are interested to contest. I expect name submissions when the central committee gives members a go ahead to campaign," he said.

Speculation has been rife this week that former BDP SG Mpho Balopi could be suspended accused of his early campaigning together with his followers but Kwape denied that the party plans some suspensions.

Dr Kwape said he had been accused by some members of the party to use his position to target some of influential party members who are said to be interested to contest against those favored by leadership.

"By the way, let me make it clear to you that I will not be contesting for central committee either as



Kwape

Secretary General or any position. Also just like president Mokgweetsi Masisi highlighted, he will not contest," said Kwape

Regional Tours

Dr Kwape said the central committee led by Masisi is embarking on regional tours to interact with members to get feedback from them after the party suffered defeat in October 2024 general election.

Some members of the party are said to be unhappy with the tours citing that central committee could be using them as a platform to campaign and endorse potential candidates supported by the party.

It is said the tours have divided central committee with some members feeling to be sidelined to partake on them.

However, Dr Kwape said the tours are undertaken by the party

president, chairman, SG, member of central committee of a region toured and members of the subcommittee refuting sidelining of others. "The leadership is not campaigning for anyone on these tours. We are focused on rebuilding our party. So far we have covered two regions being Western and South Western. This weekend we will be in South East and Gaborone regions," he said.

Kwape said the feedback that they got from the members is that the BDP could have lost elections because of delayed Bulela Ditswe as there was no enough time for members to reconcile for healing purposes. He said the party remain hopeful that it will come out of the regional consultative tours and the congress united as it launch a journey to win back power in 2029.



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24 JANUARY 2025

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4. Interested companies may purchase the tender documents for a non-refundable fee of P350.00 (Three Hundred and Fifty Pula, VAT inclusive). The payment can be done by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or cash at the Bank's Banking Hall in Gaborone, or at Francistown Branch Banking Hall, from 28 January 2025 to 12 February 2025, Monday to Friday at 0900 to 1400 hours in Gaborone and from 0900 to 1245 hours in Francistown Branch during weekdays. The 50% price discount for purchase of the tender document will be applied to companies owned by youth, women and people living with disability who should provide proof of the same to qualify.
5. Companies are advised to email proof of payment to keekeek@bob.bw who shall send the complete tender documents by electronically.

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 Please include reference (Company Name)

6. Enquiries and clarifications relating to this tender may be addressed to enquiries20250101@bob.bw.
7. The tender will be closed on 13 February 2025, at 1000 hours. The tender submissions will be opened on 14 February 2025 at 1015 hours or later as the Bank of Botswana may advise.

# Dr Malebang is Clerk of National Assembly

THE PRESIDENT, ADVOCATE Duma Gideon Boko acting in terms of Section 112 of the Constitution of Botswana, has appointed Dr. Gabriel Goitsemodimo Gosiame Malebang as the Clerk of the National Assembly of the Republic of Botswana. The appointment process was also done in terms of the provisions of Section 70 of the Constitution of Botswana, Section 20 of the Public Service Act, Standing Order 3 and Standing Order 11 of the National Assembly of Botswana.

The appointment is with immediate effect. Dr Malebang is

a Political Science Lecturer at the University of Botswana and a former Head of Politics and Diplomacy at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Directorate of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs. He is a seasoned Political Scientist, Conflict Transformation, Foreign Policy, Diplomacy, Democracy and Governance Professional, Leadership and Strategy Expert with over 20 years of experience.

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Peace and Co-Existence from Hiroshima University in Japan, a Master's Degree in Public and Development Management from the University of the



Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, a Master's Degree in Politics and International Relations from the University of Botswana and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences (Double Major in Political Science and Public Administration) from the University of Botswana. Dr Malebang is recognized as one of

Botswana's foremost and trusted Political Scientists and contributors who has been involved in organizing Executive Courses for senior security sector personnel, panel discussions, conferences and media interviews in Botswana. Through this work, he has also facilitated Youth Leadership Development programmes on Foreign Policy and International Relations. He has convened numerous workshops and seminars attended by Government and non-state actors under the auspices of the Southern African Defence and Security Management (SADSEM) network and also spoke at several local and international conferences.

# Food shortage crisis

FROM PAGE 1

Poultry industry disaster

Botswana's poultry industry consumes about 10 000 tonnes of maize per month, a producer has disclosed – adding that the industry is worth P4 billion and is the leading contributor to the overall agriculture GDP. It currently employs over 25 000 people. "This is a huge industry that is now in jeopardy of closing. So many people survive on it and there is a big risk of losing jobs," he warned. To restore it to full operation, he declared, will take well

over two years. As things stand, time is fast running out as those holding stock in their cages might be forced to kill them early because soon there will be no food to survive on.

The producers complain that despite attempts to engage government officials their response has not been inspiring enough. According to them their discussions with authorities as millers and feed suppliers have not yielded any concrete solutions as they were met with hostility on the pretext that the country puts ahead the protection of

its borders. If government officials wished to listen the producers wanted to make them aware that the disease has been discovered on crops that are currently in the fields and not in the harvested crop that is already in silos. It is for this reason that they want government to allow them to import maize that is already in silos and therefore free of the disease just as a temporary measure while they look for alternative sources to import from. "We can do without a maize crop but not without food," warned one producer.

Stock runs out

To most producers, their stock is due to end this weekend – pointing to a perilous week ahead where hard decisions will have to be made. With no production, they will be forced to send workers back home.

Nutri Feeds, Irvines, Kgodiso, Bolux, Bokomo, and Bamb – among others – have all reported that stock is almost finished. Ministry of Lands and Agriculture spokesperson Neo Lenkopane had promised to respond to our inquiries but had not done so at the of going to print.

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# Opinions, Reviews & Analysis

## COMMENT

# Boko's charm offensive impressive

**ATTENDING THE WORLD Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland this week, Botswana's President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko was the life of the party, celebrated and admired from all angles - the star of the show.**

**Promoting Botswana**  
Boko put our best foot forward by spending time to tell the beautiful story of the recent elections where Botswana upheld the tenets of democracy as demonstrated during the October 2024 free and fair general elections, followed by a smooth transition of power from

Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) - who had ruled for 58 years, to the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC).

Once again, Botswana stands out as the shining example of democracy in Africa, where smooth elections and transition of power is unheard of.

In the same breath Boko announced Botswana's appreciation of the youth, and how the ruling party is not all talk and no action, as demonstrated by the inclusion of young people in decision making.

The 26-year-old Lesego Chombo is undisputedly the youngest cabinet minister on the continent and around the

world. These, coupled with a stable economy, were touted by President Boko as draw cards for investors to come to Botswana to assist the country diversify the economy away from mining, particularly diamonds.

**Promoting Africa**  
Highlighting Africa's potential, Boko delivered a powerful message about Africa's untapped potential during an interview with China Global Television Network (CGTN).

He emphasized the transformative impact of the Africa Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is nearing full implementation.

"We've now begun and are about to conclude, get everybody on board in relation to the Africa Free Continental Trade Area, which will remove all barricades to trade within Africa, amongst African countries, and increase the volume of trade amongst the African countries," he declared, boldly.

Highlighting Africa's demographics, he noted, "That is a population of about 1.4 billion.

And that's a very young population whose dynamism and youthful vitality

will drive the economy. By 2050, we will have a much larger population and will be the youngest continent in the whole world."

Boko stressed that Africa's potential can only be maximized through political stability, strong institutions, and sustained economic growth.

Africa can maximize on the benefits of this potential by ensuring that it has stability politically.

It has institutions that are durable, that can sustain the countries outside of individuals, and that the economies grow, and the GDP of each country and

collectively of the African continent is increased exponentially as it should and can be."

Indeed, as Boko reiterated, Africa is not just the next frontier but the now frontier, urging the global community to recognize the continent's significance.

The world will now have no option but to pay attention to Africa.

It is the future.

As AfCFTA continues to unify the continent, President Boko's vision underscores the pivotal role Africa will play in shaping the global economy.



**ADAM PHETLHE ON SUNDAY!**

**HIS HONOUR THE VICE PRESIDENT of the Republic of Botswana, Minister of Finance and Member of Parliament for Gaborone Bonnington South Rre Ndaba Nkosinathi Gaolathe is in the storm of the controversial Capital Management Botswana (Proprietary) Limited (CMB) scandal that has gripped the nation for close to a decade. The VP's troubles are located in the Ruling delivered by Phuthego J on 22 September 2022 between him and The Liquidator of CMB. The Liquidator was seeking to recover over P 1 million paid to the VP. Following this Ruling whose effect was in favour of the Liquidator, the VP launched an appeal with the Court of Appeal (CoA) which he withdrew probably upon the realisation that it stood no prospects of success. Further to the withdrawal of the appeal, the VP may have feared something similar to what happened to Rre Carter Morupisi when he attempted to appeal the decision of a lower court. In arguing my case that the VP resigns, I will rely on the Phuthego**

# Gaolathe must resign over CMB scandal

**J Ruling.**  
I have always wondered why the VP's matter was not fully investigated by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) given that the matter appears to exhibit the hallmarks of economic corruption and outright white collar crime. When this matter emerged, it was around the same period when the CMB scandal was fully ventilated in the media arising out of the company winning a controversial P 500 million tender from Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF). It is this tender that led to the investigation, trial and conviction of Morupisi together with the revelations about the Permanent Secretary to the President Mme Emma Peloetsetse's infamous Cape Town Jazz Festival trip. Given these circumstances, it beats logic why the VP's matter was not investigated to establish whether or not he improperly benefitted from the 'CMB gravy train.'

The VP's troubles began when the Liquidator discovered during the liquidation process of CMB that a total amount of P 1 333,328.00 was paid to him and crucially that the payment according to the Liquidator in the Ruling, 'was not supported by any proof of any justifiable basis, or supporting documents'. The VP does not dispute the fact that he was indeed paid by CMB while he did not undertake any job on its behalf. It emerges he did some job for a company called Capital Management Africa



**Gaolathe**

(CMA) which company it would appear, was associated with CMB though he could not produce documentary proof to that effect owing to the fact that he could not locate such. Phuthego J held at paragraph 32 of his Ruling that 'As the Applicant has not demonstrated at all that there was any connection between him and CMB that warranted CMB to pay him for any service he had rendered to it, costs against him have to be at a higher scale to compensate CMB for the legal costs it has unnecessarily incurred.'

To be fair to the VP, he has not been found guilty of corruption and/or money laundering by a competent judicial authority. But on face value, would a reasonable and objective person not form an opinion that the VP may have acted inappropriately by receiving payment from an entity he did not undertake any job on its behalf? And why wouldn't an objective and reasonable person not conclude the controversial payment to the VP by CMB is akin to Morupisi's case wherein money from the controversial CMB was cleaned in

the value chain whose end result would be to ultimately pay for his confiscated land cruiser? These I believe, should be thought provoking questions capturing the minds of reasonable and objective persons.

As I write, Morupisi is facing the prospects of returning to prison arising from corruption and money laundering convictions whose origins are from the CMB scandal.

In the letter and spirit of ethical and moral behaviour, this case does not bode well for the VP given the political offices he currently holds as alluded to in the opening paragraph. It is undesirable, notwithstanding that he has not been found guilty by a competent judicial authority, for him to hold those offices particularly that the mantra of a New Botswana is a buzzword. The New Botswana I want to believe, espouses leadership with unquestionable moral and ethical conduct. The offices the VP holds do not require any hint of unethical and immoral conduct or behaviour of the holder. It is a pity that in Botswana, those with aspirations to hold political office are not subjected to grilling vetting processes where if this was the case, the VP would have not been appointed a Minister or VP given the CMB scandal. Put differently, the standard required for one to become a VP or Minister is embarrassingly too low or non-existent. Anyone comes in with their baggage whatever that is and are able to access big political and corporate

offices. It is my submission that given the furore around the CMB at the time the VP chose to have a commercial relationship with it, someone of his standing in society would have foreseen the deleterious consequences of doing so by staying very far from it. It was in my view, a very costly error of judgement to which he must answer hard and difficult questions. While paying the money should be applauded, it is not enough to let the matter rest. The DCEC must investigate the matter the same way it investigated Morupisi in order to establish the truth about the payment the VP received from CMB. There is every reason to suspect the payment was akin to 'riding on the CMB gravy train' that was running at full throttle at the time. It will be a tragedy of epic proportions to investigate others and leave others scot free while the source of established wrongdoing or suspicion is from the same source. In the circumstances that the VP controversially received payment from CMB under mysterious circumstances, it is reasonable to demand that he resigns from political positions he holds. Former Ministers in the persons of Ndelu Seretse, Peter Mmusi and Daniel Kwelagobe resigned their positions when their questionable conduct over different matters emerged. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

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

# Duma Boko, Saleshando meet

**THE BOTSWANA CONGRESS PARTY wishes to thank the Office of the President for acceding to the request by Hon Dumelang Saleshando,**



**President Boko with Leader of Opposition Saleshando**

in his capacity as the leader of the official opposition (LOO) for a meeting with President Duma Boko. The meeting took place on Friday 17 January, 2025. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- i. pay a courtesy call on the President,
- ii. identify and promote bi-partisan collaboration on issues of national importance,
- iii. appreciate the responsibility and need of oversight and alternative policy positions by the official opposition in the 13th Parliament.

1. During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on the challenges facing the country and the need for the national leadership to execute its duties to the best of its ability. The two leaders appreciate that the voter expects those it has entrusted to lead, to deploy their collective energies for the benefit of the nation. The two leaders expressed their determination to prioritise this cardinal expectation.

2. While differences between opposition and ruling parties over policy issues are a norm with all democracies, the two leaders appreciated that such differences

should not be used as a basis for attacks that distract from the national discourse that unnecessarily heighten tensions. It was further agreed that future engagement should be used to identify and promote bi-partisan collaboration on issues of national importance that our different parties have separately supported (e.g. constitutional reform and electoral reforms).

3. The courtesy call on the President was preceded by a similar visit to the Speaker of the National Assembly Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse.

As the leadership of the BCP, we support the initiative by our leader to reach out to his counterparts in national leadership positions. The BCP remains committed to performing our duty of oversight and offering alternative policy positions with vigour.

Our democracy will be the biggest winner when we hold each other accountable and place the interests of the voter at the centre of all our deliberations.

**Cde Mpho M. Pheko**  
BCP Publicity Secretary

# Gaolathe owes pensioners a solid explanation

**THE BOTSWANA CONGRESS PARTY (BCP) has noted with utmost shock and concern, the decision by His Honour, the Vice President, and Minister of Finance, Hon. Ndaba Gaolathe, to withdraw his appeal against a high court judgement in a case in which the Liquidator of Capital Management Botswana (CMB) had sought an order for Rre Gaolathe to return the amount of P1.3 million he illegally received from CMB. His honour's decision to withdraw the appeal is essentially an admission of guilt. The public will recall the following:**

1. His Honor, the Vice President, Ndaba Gaolathe, Received over of P1.3 million from CMB, a company that was contracted by the Botswana Public Officers' Pension Fund (BPOPF) to manage public officers' pension. Court documents suggest that he was neither an employee nor a service provider to the company and was therefore not entitled to the payment.
2. Hon. Gaolathe claimed that he understood he was being paid by CMB for work as Executive Director of Flemming Asset Management. However, the Minister of Finance could not provide the letter of appointment or any documents to support his claims.
3. At the times His honour was unduly paid P1.3 million from public officers' pensions, former Permanent Secretary to the President, Carter Morupisi, also received an undue benefit from the same source, a brand new Toyota Landcruiser double cab bakkie.
4. Rre Morupisi has been criminally charged, tried, convicted, and sentenced. He appealed the high court judgment, tried to withdraw the appeal, but was denied the withdrawal by the Court of Appeal (COA), citing abuse of process. Rre Morupisi was handed a prison term. Curiously, Mr Gaolathe was not criminally charged for an essentially similar offense. He was sued by



**Dr Pheko**

the CMB liquidator, was ordered to return the P1.3 million, appealed the judgment, and was granted leave to withdraw the appeal by the COA when he sought one. Why?

5. CMB has been used by politically connected individuals to steal public officers' pensions. Thousands of retirees have had to endure delayed pension payments.

6. The Minister holds a position of significant responsibility, managing the nation's finances and ensuring the proper use of public funds. The Minister oversees many strategic institutions such as Bank of Botswana, NBFIRA, FIA and BURS which require the highest level of integrity. His involvement in this case suggests that the national asserts may be at high risk.

His Honour's decision to withdraw his appeal is a grave indictment of his integrity and his fitness to hold both the Office of the Vice President and Minister

of Finance. Botswana is emerging from a brutal assault on its Treasury, in part due to an enabling Minister of Finance. His Honour, the Vice President owes the public an explanation regarding his involvement in the disappearance of millions of Botswana's pensions.

The BCP calls on His Honor to immediately address the nation on this disturbing development BEFORE HE PRESENTS HIS INAUGURAL 2025/26 NATIONAL BUDGET. We further call on Botswana to demand the highest level of accountability from those entrusted with the responsibility of managing national resources. We shall be keeping a close eye on Honorable Gaolathe's actions with a view to taking further interventions as may be necessary.

Yours comradely,  
**Cde. Mpho M. Pheko**  
BCP Publicity and Information Secretary

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Postal: P.O. Box 404583, Gaborone, Botswana or  
email to dibeela@thepatriot.co.bw /  
ditiro@thepatriot.co.bw

# Projects and initiatives in Molepolole North

**ARAFAT KITSO KHAN\***

AS YOU WILL RECALL, A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS (about 30 questions) and motions were presented in Parliament (1 motion is being debated, one was deferred (CEDA) after being notified that something was being done!! I have submitted 4 more motions) to seek clarity and address some of our challenges in the Constituency ranging from potable water, healthcare, education, agriculture, infrastructure development and equally on national issues such as fiscal resources, corruption and procurement processes across the public sector.

**Consultative Meetings**

In line with our commitment to inclusive governance, we embarked on a series of consultative meetings with key stakeholders, including District Commissioner, Kweneng District Council leadership, Molepolole Sub Landboard Village Development Committee (VDC), Marara/Dikgosana and the Organizers of Dithubaruba Cultural Event

Our stakeholder engagements focused on development matters, project implementation, programmes uptake, governance and accountability issues as well as service delivery.

We have toured health and school facilities as well the Water Treatment Plant.

During the tours of health facilities, we appreciated such problems as acute shortage of water, medicine and non consumables.

To ameliorate some of the challenges, we have resolved to mobilize the business community to assist in drilling a borehole at Scottish Livingstone Hospital to provide water.

The issues of shortage of medicine and other resources were drawn to the attention of the Minister of Health during his recent familiarization tour.

Our engagements with Dikgosana reflected on their conditions of service and we have resolved to engage the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs on the matter.

Discussions with Dithubaruba organizers focused on governance and accountability issues. We implored the Organizers to ensure that this grand Bakwena

Cultural Event becomes inclusive and equally cater for small businesses and cultural enthusiasts.

We have implored the Water Treatment Plant contractors and project managers to ensure that the project is completed within scope, time and budget to address water and sanitation problem in Molepolole North.

More consultative meetings will be held with other key stakeholders, including School Heads, local artists, Anne Stine, Rural Metro and the business community to assume full and collective ownership of our challenges and equally come up with solutions to bring about change and transformed lives within Molepolole North Constituency.

As we begin the year, we are looking at a number of projects and initiatives in the Constituency to bring about transformation as broader part of our commitment towards Inclusive Growth, anchored on our devotion to decent lives and decent jobs.

In alignment with the theme of this year's Budget, "Our Budget, Our Right", we remain truly committed to engaging with our key stakeholders to come up with programmes, projects and initiatives that are inclusive and transformational, and of course, anchored on our Government's commitment to human rights.

To achieve this, we are going to set up Molepolole North Legal Clinic every two months on last Saturday of the month to bring justice closer to the people and equally facilitate advisory services on legal matters.

**Healthcare**

Another initiative hinges on provision of universal healthcare as Molepolole North Constituency will embark on Medical Outreach Programme first weekend of February 2025, targeting vulnerable groups, including the Elderly.

**Upcoming Projects and Initiatives**

Establish Molepolole North Constituency Fund. The Molepolole North Constituency will equally embark on initiatives targeting the youth, farmers, athletes, the creatives and the Elderly.

To put it into perspective, the Constituency will organize a youth empowerment seminar, an Agricultural Show, Choir Festival, Horse racing and



**Khan**

cultural event in Suping, a Marathon in June 2025, a soccer tournament and a music festival to fundraise for the less privileged, as well as a networking session for the Elderly in December 2025 (Christmas part for

the elders)

All these events are geared towards ensuring that Molepolole North becomes vibrant and enterprising through creation of entrepreneurial ecosystem across

all sectors. The Bakwena Iteng Initiative will look into development projects such as gymnasium and community hall seminars to promote health and wellness as well as discourse on development matters respectively.

As part of our commitment to develop the Constituency, we are going to revamp the old Library and Community Hall to inculcate the culture of learning and community engagement.

Equally on our plans and initiatives targeting education and social protection as we alluded to during our campaigns for public office.

**Social Protection**

Guided by our commitment to providing social protection services, the Molepolole North Constituency will mobilize the private sector and volunteers on a project to provide housing for vulnerable groups in all 11 Molepolole North wards, which is aligned with our commitment to decent lives. In a nutshell we pledge to build 11 houses during our tenure

Similarly, the Molepolole North Constituency Burial Scheme will be launched on 30th October 2025 to support vulnerable groups and interested Molepolole North residents.

**Education**

To support education, there shall be a fund to assist all Molepolole North primary schools and award P5000 to the best performing school

As I conclude, let me assure you of our unwavering commitment to bring about developments in Molepolole North, in consultation with the residents and other key stakeholders.

We shall constantly engage with you and through you to update Molepolole North constituents on all the envisaged programmes, projects and initiatives in our concerted efforts to make Molepolole North vibrant, energised, enterprising and engaged. A model Constituency worthy of everyone's emulation and adoption.

In essence, Molepolole North will never be the same again.

**\*MP for Molepolole North**

BUSANG J.

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE** CASE NO: CVHGB-001495-23

In the matter between:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA</b><br>And<br><b>SOLOFELANG GABANCHEBE M RAMAJA</b> | <b>PLAINTIFF</b><br><br><b>DEFENDANT</b> |
|---|--|

**NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION**

**BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE** That pursuant to Court Order of this Honourable Court dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and stamped on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendants will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff D.P. Gabobakwe in the manner hereinafter set out.

**DATE OF SALE:** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
**TIME OF SALE:** 10:00 Hours  
**PLACE OF SALE:** Piece of land being Lot 29609, Mogoditshane

**TERMS OF SALE:** Cash or EFT

**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:** The defendant's rights, title deed and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 29609, Mogoditshane measuring 885m<sup>2</sup> (Eight Hundred and Eighty Five square metres) held under Notarial Deed of Cession No MA 285/2020 dated 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020 made in favour of Solofelang Gabanchebe Mosetsana Ramaja with developments thereon being a two bedroomed house, kitchen, sitting room, toilet, bathroom, unfinished 4 rooms each with 1 room, sitting room, toilet and kitchen

The condition of sale may be inspected at the Offices of Gobhoza Legal Practice at the addresses below.

**DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2024**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <br><b>GOBHOZA LEGAL PRACTICE</b><br><small>Attorneys, Conveyancers, Notaries, Administrators &amp; Corporate Services</small> | <b>Deputy Sheriff D. P. Gabobakwe</b><br>73900288 / 72901534<br>C/o Gobhoza Legal Practice<br>Plaintiff's Attorneys<br>Plot 115, Unit 19, Kgale Mews<br>Gaborone International Finance Park<br>P O Box 26168, Game City<br>Gaborone |
|--|---|

## Stop the Norrification of UB

■ A reply to Sibusiso – The buffoonery at UB must stop

**DEAR SIBUSISO:**

**I** KNOW WHO YOU ARE. NO NEED TO HIDE. NO, SIR, there are no clowns at UB. UBASSU is a union which is legitimately recognized and takes its role as the voice of university of Botswana worker's seriously. For your free education: Note that the Union mandate is to maintain and uphold worker's democratic rights in the workplace, staff welfare and the integrity of the institution, which is UB.

For the above reasons, the Union cannot defend leadership incompetence in favor of a poorly thought-through transformative agenda, which is self-serving and ruinous to the employment of hundreds of workers.

Let's name a few examples:  
How can a credible leadership of an institution issue 'Potential dismissal' letters in July 2023 to staff and

having not concluded their intended re-structuring/retrenchment exercise one and a half year later?

How can an institution put its staff under severe disadvantages, such as denied access to financial loans, because UB Management does not understand the process they intend to engage in and consequently were not able to meet their own deadlines?

How can UB Management just look on while the institution under their care is subject to serious deterioration? Just come to UB and see: The ceilings, the carpets, the toilets, the water supplies, the buildings falling apart, the lack of equipment. If that is difficult, just try to conceptualize how a once vibrant UB stadium has been left degenerating into a state beyond repair.

How can UB management decry the lack of money if it is unable to use their very own assets to raise

funds? The UB Conference & Hotel Center has never started to operate the Hotel. As mentioned, the UB Stadium is beyond repair, the UB Indoor Sports Center is acutely underused, the sports facilities deteriorating. SKMTH has never fully been commissioned to its anticipated use.

How can UB management expect that its staff become accomplice in the completely unethical and shoddy management conduct to demand just to continue teaching, knowing that students are not getting quality education they are paying for?

Sir, are you aware that UB management denies staff to leave for voluntary exit and institutes involuntary exit to staff who wants to remain employed? Do you think a High Performance Organization can be run with people who actually don't want to be at the institution and with the loss of people who thought they still could contribute positively?

How can UB management embark on a retrenchment exercise at the beginning of a semester, knowing that staff exodus will massively impact student's learning? Where are mitigating measures?

What kind of leadership does not see that something is wrong if so many employees are more than happy to leave UB and take whatever is available just to get out?

Lastly, let's talk about the union leaders 'with very poor research profiles'. Could it be that it escaped your attention that meaningful union work is a full time job?

This is why, if you like benchmarking, overseas universities and other local institutions release unionists from their work duties and let them fully manage employee's affairs. But not at UB. Union work is voluntary. It is an extra burden to the overall job description. Oh yes, and I forgot, it is not paid. Contrary to UB management who is heftily paid to do a job, and does not do it.

I could go on, but let's spare you the rest of the list. Again, Sir, there are no clowns. Many of the colleagues who participated in the toyi-toyi you mentioned are professors, senior lecturers, lecturers, support staff and manual workers.

Many of the worker's actually have higher h-indexes than UB management, excellent academic standings and respected work ethics. It is their duty to alert 'funders, diplomats, ministers and other visitors' of the sorry state UB is in. Contrary to what you are saying, UB staff desperately wants change. The status quo is unbearable.

If you claim to know UB as you do, it wouldn't have escaped your attention that UB staff work under terrible conditions and experience toxic treatment from UB management every day.

By the way, it is a sin to twist the biblical scriptures to insult and perpetuate oppressive predispositions.

You also forgot to mention that UB's existence is owed to the people of Botswana, who have contributed with cattle, funds and sweat to build this institution, hoping that their children will have a better future.

But, Sir, there is a way out. When a leader is overwhelmed by the weight of his career, he should not take the organization and its people to the cliff edge. He should do the right thing. It was written on the placards. Large and clear.

'Save UB – Sack Norris!'  
Siy abonga

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Botswana

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Please forward your application to our email: [info@vns.co.bw](mailto:info@vns.co.bw) or the below address. Closing date of the application is **7 February 2025**.

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**Gaborone**  
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# Business

## 2025/26 BUDGET

# Ndaba's economic recovery plan

- Budget to focus on economic rebuilding, closing leakages
- 2025/26 budget is forecasted to carry P11.4 billion deficit
- Ndaba puts emphasizes on strengthening collection of tax
- Budget critical as expected to honor UDC manifesto pledges

### BAKANG TIRO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**V**ICE PRESIDENT NDABA GAOLATHE has reiterated that the 2025/26 budget which marks the first ever budget of the newly elected Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) administration is putting emphasized on rebuilding the economy as well ensuring prudent use of the government monies.

Ndaba – a highly experienced economist and strategist who serves as Minister of Finance – has emphasized the importance of rebuilding the economy during his series of Budget Pitso consultative forums with diverse stakeholders in the economy.

Addressing Stakeholders Budget Pitso on Thursday, Gaolathe said the government is keen on rebuilding the economy.

“We are focused on ensuring that there is robust fiscal consolidation. There is a need to ensure that the entire government system is functioning in our effort to build a resilient economy and rise again,” he said.

Gaolathe emphasized that prudent policy decisions will have to be made to stabilise the budget to achieve efficient economic recovery. He said the ministry will focus on developing sustainable financial assets to restore Government Investment Account (GIA).

The nation's expectation is that Gaolathe's budget presentation scheduled for 10 February 2025 will show how UDC would meet its manifesto pledges such as the P1800 old age pension, P2500 tertiary education student allowances and P4000 living wage, amongst others.

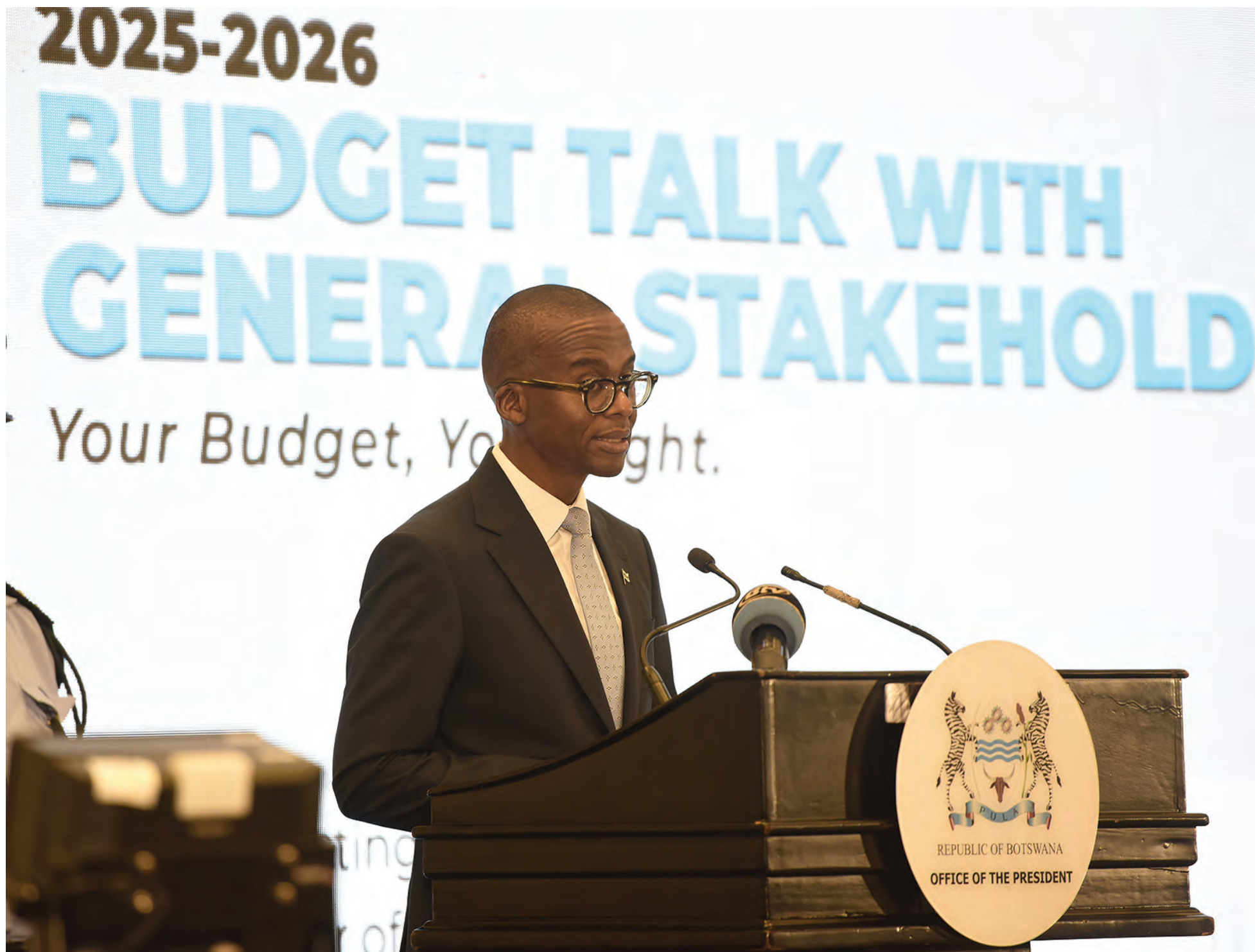
### NUMBERS

The Director for Macroeconomic Policy at the Ministry of Finance Walter Matekane said the government debt as of September 2024 stood at P27.2 billion to external lenders and P43.2 billion to the domestic borrowers.

This, he said, calls for a tight and fiscal consolidation with government now supposed to focus on reducing expenditure and save money. According to Matekane, in September 2024, total revenues and grants collected stood at P34.67 billion while total expenditure and net lending stood at P38.87 billion.

“As at October, 2024 reserves stood at P56.1 billion compared to P64.9 billion in the same month in 2023. This was due to reduced inflows from diamond receipts, weak global demand and low export earnings,” said Matekane.

Matekane said the 2025/26 financial budget is expected to carry P11.4 billion while the current financial year ending 31st March 2025 is expected to show a shortfall of P18.6 billion.



Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe

[PIC.PRESSPHOTO]

He said Botswana only managed to hold five sight holders with regards to diamonds narrowing from 10 annual sight holders, adding that the total volume of diamonds sales reduced by 20%; hence decline in government revenues.

### BURS

As part of driving growth, Gaolathe said the ministry of finance is going to put lot of pressure on the Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) to strengthen tax collection and close collection leakages.

According to him, the budget would not be secured without the full performance of

BURS to collect taxes, adding that government would ensure that BURS has the capacity to collect by investing on necessary enabling infrastructure or technology.

“There are gaps in our collections and we are aiming to collect every pula from every tax liable business. We are not collecting well with regards to online taxes. This is where BURS needs to strengthen screws and ensure that these billions of Pula that we are missing are recovered,” said the optimistic Gaolathe.

Additionally, Gaolathe said the government will be going after some businesses that are found to be circumventing taxes, buttressing

that there is no choice not to go after those businesses to pay taxes.

BURS has been given a target to collect P70 billion during the current financial year 2024/25 ending 31st March 2025 and it would be seen if the new UDC administration will increase the tax collection figures for the financial year 2025/26.

### CORRUPTION

He said government will strengthen capacity to fight corruption which significantly affect the performance and agility of the government system, saying corruption has to be fought from all angles – from the top

to the bottom.

“In the new Botswana that we envisage to build, there would be no under table dealings. Much can be said but I can promise you that in the new Botswana we will be exemplary. We will fight corruption to the bitter end,” said Gaolathe.

### GROWTH AREAS

He said there is a crucial need to harness the internet connectivity and digitalisation initiatives in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector.

He said the ICT sector present opportunities for the young people to

unlock the country's inherent energy and innovation that remain untapped, adding that the creative sector also has potential to create jobs. According to Gaolathe, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown the nation the importance of digital resilience as business connectivity blossomed during the period as service delivery continued without disruption.

“Some of the best performing companies and most innovative companies in the world were founded during period of recession and hardships, so something good must come out of the circumstances that we face today,” he said.

He added: “We shall rise again despite the economic circumstances that we find ourselves in at the moment. Young men and women roaming the streets due to unemployment shall rise and dream again.”

### STRATEGY PAPER

Meanwhile, the ministry of finance said on the 2025/26 draft Budget Strategy Paper that the 2025/26 budget priorities are aligned to the national priorities identified in the National Transformation Strategy (NTS) and has also taken into account the priorities of the New Administration.

According to the NTS, the priority sectors include mining, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, trade, sport and creative industries, transport and logistics, finance, real estate and business services.

The proposed budget priorities for 2025/2026 include: Building an Inclusive Economy; Improving Quality of Life; Modernising and Transforming Infrastructure; and Digital Transformation. The ministry also said in the 2025/2026 financial year, total Revenues and Grants are projected at P85.4 billion.

“Specifically, mineral revenues are expected to reach P17.2 billion. SACU receipts are anticipated to decline to P23.3 billion from the P26.7 billion projected in the 2024/2025 financial year,” it said.

Meanwhile, the revenue income from Bank of Botswana is projected at P700 million over the coming year in line with expected pre-set dividend income from Government savings invested in global financial markets.

On the other hand, total expenditure and net lending is estimated at P96.7 billion. Out of this, Recurrent expenditure is expected to reach P71.8 billion while development expenditure is estimated at P25.1 billion, in line with the start of the new planning period for NDP 12.

“Overall, the budget deficit is anticipated to narrow to P11.3 billion (3.6 percent of GDP) in the 2025/2026 financial year. This deficit is expected to be financed by different sources including domestic and external borrowing, with little drawdown on the GIA,” the ministry buttressed.

## Monyatsi is the new BSE CEO

**T**HE BOTSWANA STOCK EXCHANGE (BSE) IS pleased to announce the appointment of Aobakwe Aupa Monyatsi as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective April 2025, following a comprehensive recruitment and vetting process. The appointment is subject to regulatory approval. This strategic appointment marks a pivotal moment in the BSE's journey to transform Botswana's financial markets into a premier capital-raising hub for Africa.

Under the guidance of the Board and with the support of regulators, shareholders, and stakeholders, the BSE remains steadfast in its mission to drive innovation, inclusivity, and resilience within the capital markets. This aligns with Botswana's broader national objective of fostering economic growth and solidifying its reputation as a financial gateway to Africa.

A finance industry giant, who is rated amongst the top CEOs in Africa and beyond, Aupa, as he is affectionately known brings over 20 years of senior management experience, with a notable career spanning Pan-African markets, financial innovation, and digital transformation. His leadership at Letshego Holdings Limited as Group Chief Executive and, previously, as Group Chief Operating Officer, saw him successfully execute and implement Letshego's Transformation Plan. This included unlocking value for stakeholders through initiatives covering products, infrastructure, and operational enhancements, as well as restructuring various assets.

His tenure at Letshego also showcased his



Monyatsi [L] with the former BSE CEO Thapelo Tsheole

[PIC: PINO KILANO]

extensive global engagements especially across Africa, deepening his understanding of the diverse financial ecosystems within the continent. He has consistently demonstrated a commitment to fostering financial inclusion and building robust frameworks for long-term growth.

Prior to Letshego, Monyatsi held key

leadership positions at ABSA (formerly Barclays Bank), including as Managing Executive for Virtual Channels. In this role, he consolidated digital capabilities to drive financial inclusion, showcasing his ability to combine strategic vision with impactful execution across multiple markets.

Commenting on the appointment, Neo Mooki, Chairperson of the BSE, stated:

“Aupa is the right leader for the BSE at this transformative time. With his strong balance of financial and technical expertise, coupled with his proven track record in leadership, he is uniquely positioned to guide the BSE to the next level of growth. This includes driving strategic partnerships, advancing infrastructure development, and elevating the Exchange's international visibility. His appointment reinforces our commitment to positioning Botswana as a premier capital-raising hub for Africa and reflects our dedication to innovation, resilience, and stakeholder value creation.”

Monyatsi, incoming CEO of the BSE, said: “I am deeply honoured to lead the Botswana Stock Exchange and its high performing team at this exciting time.

My vision is to strengthen the BSE's role as a catalyst for economic transformation by fostering innovation, inclusivity, and collaboration within the financial ecosystem. Together with our stakeholders, we will unlock Botswana's potential as a leader in Africa's capital markets and deliver long-term value for issuers, investors, and the nation as a whole.”

## Noor takes control of Kgori Capital

... grows her shareholding to 90%

**P**URSUANT TO SECTION 53(4)(A)(II) OF the Competition Act, 2018, notice is hereby given on the decision made by the Competition and Consumer Authority in respect of the proposed acquisition of additional 45% of shares held by Alphonse Molamu Ndzingo in Kgori Capital Proprietary Limited by Sharifa Noor, resulting in 90% shareholding.

Noor is an adult Motswana citizen, who is currently one of the shareholders in Kgori Capital, a company incorporated in Botswana. Currently, Sharifa Noor has a 45% stake in Kgori Capital. Kgori Capital is an investment manager and provides investment management services both locally and internationally. The Selling Enterprise, Alphonse Ndzingo, is an adult Motswana citizen, who is currently one of the shareholders in Kgori Capital. Alphonse Ndzingo currently holds 45% shareholding in Kgori Capital.

It is important to note that both the Acquiring Enterprise and the Target Enterprise are individuals who currently hold 45% shareholding each in Kgori Capital. Therefore, the Target Entity is relinquishing its shares to the Acquirer.

This will result in the Acquiring Entity



Noor

having 90% stake in Kgori Capital. It can be concluded that the description of the activities of the merging parties reveals an internal restructuring of Kgori Capital at the company level. In this effect, the proposed transaction will not give rise to horizontal overlap post-merger. Consequently, the

status quo is expected to be maintained implementation of the transaction. The Authority has established that the Proposed Transaction is not likely to result in a substantial lessening of competition, nor endanger the continuity of service in the market relevant.

Furthermore, the proposed merger will not have any negative effect on public interest matters in Botswana as per the provisions of section 52(2) of the Competition Act 2018. Moreover, it is noted that the proposed transaction brings in the benefit of citizen empowerment. The Determination Pursuant to the provision of Section 53 of the Competition Act, 2018, the Authority has decided to unconditionally approve the proposed acquisition of additional 45% of shares held by Alphonse Molamu Ndzingo in Kgori Capital Proprietary Limited by Sharifa Noor, resulting in 90% shareholding. However, as stated under Section 61 of the Act, this approval does not override or negate any other mandatory statutory approvals or processes that any of the parties to this merger must comply with under the Laws of Botswana.

[competitionauthority.co.bw]

# Botala signs deal to address gas crisis

**B**OTALA ENERGY LTD IS PLEASED TO announce the execution of a non-binding Term Sheet with FFS Refiners (Pty) Ltd (FFS), a South African

hydrocarbon solutions leader, to establish a long-term LNG supply agreement. This partnership will leverage Botala's coal bed methane (CBM) resources from the Serowe Wellfield and FFS's established

market presence in South Africa to deliver reliable and sustainable energy solutions across the region. The Term Sheet outlines a phased approach to LNG production and supply, with initial volumes of 50 tons per

day targeted by late 2026 and scalability to meet future demand. This agreement is a cornerstone of Botala's strategy to commercialise its CBM resources and address the growing demand for cleaner fuels in industrial and commercial markets. Dual Partnerships: Strengthening Supply, Diversifying Demand This agreement with FFS Refiners complements Botala's recent partnership with NOVO Energy, creating a diversified strategy to address Southern Africa's escalating gas crisis. While the NOVO agreement focuses on developing a regional LNG supply chain with a strong emphasis on midstream logistics and distribution to a broad range of markets, the FFS partnership leverages an established downstream customer base and infrastructure tailored for industrial and commercial sectors. Together, these agreements enhance Botala's ability to scale production and reach diverse market segments, while strategically mitigating risks by distributing supply across multiple partners. This dual-pronged approach



Martinick

not only strengthens Botala's position as a critical energy supplier but also provides the flexibility to meet varying customer demands, ensuring greater resilience in addressing the region's urgent need for cleaner energy solutions. Kris Martinick, CEO, Botala Energy Ltd. "This agreement with FFS Refiners builds on the increasing momentum and overwhelming interest we've received for gas supply from our Serowe CBM Project.

South Africa's looming gas shortage has created a desperate situation for industries seeking reliable and cleaner energy alternatives. Our partnership with FFS

allows us to step up and provide a solution that directly addresses this pressing need.

The collaboration positions Botala as a critical player in meeting the energy demands of a region in transition.

By combining our scalable CBM resources with FFS's established network, we can deliver sustainable energy solutions to industries at a time when they need them most.

"This is not just about energy security—it's about leading the way in the regional energy transition to cleaner fuels while supporting economic and industrial growth in Southern Africa." [bse.co.bw]

## Know Your Corporate Leader



**Full Name:** Keith Vusumzi Manele

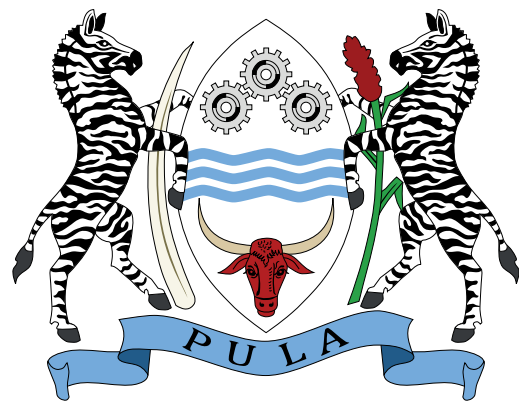
**Position:** Reinsurance Manager

**Institution:** Minet Botswana

**Date Started:** July 2019

**Nature of business:** Reinsurance Broking

**Telephone:** +267 3612000  
**Fax:** +267 3612000  
**Toll free line:** 17779



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 16 OF 2024

Ministry of Communications, And Innovation  
Private Bag 00414  
Gaborone  
Botswana

Ref: MCKT 4/2/1 I (55)

07 January 2025

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATION OFFICER I (OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY) – D3 SALARY SCALE (1 POST)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Chief Administration Officer I (Occupational Health & Safety) – D3 salary scale tenable at Ministry of Communications and Innovation – Headquarters.

#### MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:

To design and implement health and safety measures for reduction of workplace incidents, injuries and work related ill-health.

#### KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Promotes sustainable and decent working conditions.
- Develops and implements OHS policies and programmes.
- Align occupational Health, Safety and Environment with the organisational strategy.
- Provides compensation, rehabilitation and curative services to employees.
- Enhances employees' physical, mental and social well-being through health promotion.
- Educates employees on vital components of safety, health and environment.
- Develops and implements a system of occupational health and safety inspections and audits to help monitor performance.
- Identifies occupational health and hazards and develop risk assessment and incident investigation plan.
- Cultivates a culture of health and safety in the workplace.
- Advises on the maintenance and improvement of safe systems of work.
- Analyses occupational accidents and diseases and make appropriate recommendations.
- Provides guidance on occupational health, safety, hygiene and on ergonomics and protective equipments.
- Develops programmes aimed at rehabilitation and re-integration of employees.
- Provides guidance on occupational health, safety, hygiene and on ergonomics and protective equipments.
- Develops programmes aimed at rehabilitation and re-integration of employees.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor of Science in Occupational Health and Safety.

**EXPERIENCE:** At least Eight (8) years' experience in the field of occupational health services two (2) of which should have been served at Chief Administration Officer II (Occupational Health & Safety) at D4 salary scale or equivalent.

**SALARY SCALE:** D3 (P293, 652 – P323, 748) per annum

**LEAVE:** 30 Working days per annum

#### BENEFITS:

- Optional contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and employee pays 50%).

- Contributory Pension Scheme (Government pays 15% and employees pays 5%).

#### KEY COMPETENCIES:

- Creativity
- Organising
- Composure
- Drive for results
- Time Management
- Customer Focus
- Ethic and Values
- Integrity and Trust

**APPLICATION:** Applicants should quote the reference number of this advert and give the following information:-

- Full names, postal address, date and place of birth.
- Full summary of career with duties (Curriculum Vitae-CV) with **full dates**.
- Certified copies of relevant certificates and National Identity Card.
- At least two (2) copies of recent work related references (with full contact details) Confirming the relevant experience.
- Present post, salary grade and date of appointment thereto.
- Date of first appointment.

#### IMPORTANT:

All applications from serving Public officers **must** be routed through Permanent Secretaries. Applications not so routed will not be considered. Applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements will not be responded to.

Applications should be addressed to;

**The Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Communications and Innovation  
P/Bag 00414  
Gaborone**

**Or hand delivered to Ministry of Communications and Innovation,  
Westgate Mall, Records Management Unit, Ground Floor.**

For any enquiries contact Recruitment and Selection division at 3625525/3625524/3625517, 3625618 or 3612031

**Closing Date:** 27 January 2025

## Three women executives join Access bank



Duduetsang Chappelle-Molloy



Matshidiso Kereteletswe

**D**UDUETSANG CHAPPELLE-MOLLOY is the new Head of Department; Marketing, Brand and Communications, bringing over 21 years of experience in marketing and corporate communications, including 15 years in banking.

A recognised expert in business strategy, brand management, and digital marketing, Chappelle-Molloy is set to elevate the Bank's reputation and presence. She holds a Master of International Luxury Marketing from Oxford Brookes University in England, a Master of Business Leadership from the University of South Africa, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Broadcast Journalism from Emerson College in the United States of America.

Matshidiso Kereteletswe, steps into the role of Chief Information Officer for Information Technology. She brings nearly 30 years of experience in Information Communications and Technology, Operations, and Change Management, with over 20 years dedicated to the banking sector.

Known for her expertise in using technology to create cost-effective business solutions, Kereteletswe has a proven track record in leading successful transformations. She holds a Master of Business Administration from De Montfort University in the United Kingdom and a Bachelor of Computer Science from Technical University (TUNS), Canada. Carol Phirie has been appointed as the



Carol Phirie

Head of Strategy. She is an experienced management consultant with nearly a decade of expertise in strategy, human capital, and technology consulting.

Her career spans various industries, including banking, where she has provided advisory services both locally and regionally. She has worked extensively on designing and implementing strategic initiatives, driving organisational transformation, and leveraging technology to enhance business operations. Carol holds a Master of Science in Strategic Management from the University of Derby in the United Kingdom, a Bachelor of Science Honours in Informatics from the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, and a Bachelor of Computer and Information Science from Monash University in South Africa. She is also a certified Project Management Organisational Change and Systems Implementation (PROSCI) Change Management Practitioner and a graduate of the Palladium Institute's Balanced Scorecard programme.

## Pabalinga joins FIA Mobility Service Commission



**A**T THE RECENT FIA GENERAL Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda the Executive Director of Emergency Assist 991, Tumelo Pabalinga was appointed into the FIA Mobility Service Commission. The Commission is made up of 14 members from various FIA member organisations across the globe with Tumelo representing Africa. The commission's primary mandate is to support and facilitate the development of initiatives that will grow the FIA member's customer base and bring value to those customers for the benefit of the global FIA network.

Formed in 1904, FIA has 245 member organisations representing over 80 million road users from 149 countries worldwide. FIA strives to ensure safe, sustainable, affordable, and accessible mobility for all global road users including global advocacy on road safety. The Federation is the governing body for world motor sport and the federations of the world's leading Mobility Organisations like Emergency Assist 991. "My selection into the commission will further position EA991 to offer enhanced assistance products that will add more value to our customer offerings," said Tumelo Pabalinga

# Revolutionising education in Botswana: The power of Artificial Intelligence to overcome learning barriers



**DR DIMAKATSO POLOKELO\***

**B**OTSWANA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM faces critical challenges, particularly at the secondary level, where learners often struggle with comprehension and academic performance. Undetected learning difficulties, including dyslexia, ADHD and language processing issues, further compound these struggles. These challenges limit students' ability to engage with the curriculum effectively, leaving many without the support they need to succeed.

In 2023, only 22.15% of learners in Botswana achieved 36 points or above (equivalent to six C's or better) in the BGCSE examinations. While this marks a modest improvement of 0.78% compared to 2022, the results remain deeply

concerning and highlight the urgent need for transformative action to address the state of education in Botswana. By contrast, South Africa recorded an impressive 82.9% Matric pass rate for the same period and further improved to 87.3% in 2024, as we await Botswana's 2024 results. This stark disparity cannot be dismissed as a routine challenge for policymakers and educators, it demands extraordinary measures and bold reforms in the education sector. To address this crisis, I propose leveraging the transformative potential of AI as a cornerstone of these reforms, aiming to improve educational outcomes and secure a brighter future for Botswana's youth. AI offers transformative solutions by enabling the early detection of such learning challenges through advanced data analysis, paving the way for timely interventions that can significantly improve educational outcomes. Undiagnosed learning disabilities remain one of the key barriers to student success. Many learners struggle silently with conditions that affect their ability to process information, read, or solve mathematical problems. AI tools designed for cognitive analysis can address this by analysing student responses to assignments, quizzes, or tests to detect patterns that may indicate challenges like dyslexia or dyscalculia. For example, AI algorithms can identify recurring errors in spelling, reading



comprehension or numerical calculations that suggest specific learning disabilities. By leveraging this insight, teachers can design targeted interventions to address these areas early, preventing larger barriers to academic success later on.

Another challenge is the lack of individualized attention in overcrowded classrooms. Teachers, often stretched thin, may miss subtle signs that a student is falling behind or disengaging. AI systems integrated with classroom management software can bridge this gap by monitoring student engagement levels during lessons

and activities. These systems can analyse participation data, flagging learners who appear disengaged or inattentive. For instance, if a student consistently fails to complete assignments or shows declining activity in group tasks, the system can alert educators to potential attention or engagement issues. Real-time monitoring of these trends also enables early identification of conditions such as ADHD, which can manifest as difficulty focusing or frequent disruptions in learning. Natural Language Processing (NLP) offers another powerful AI capability, particularly for identifying

language-related learning challenges. AI-powered NLP tools analyse written or spoken language, identifying grammatical errors, limited vocabulary use, or prolonged hesitation in responses - signs that could indicate delayed language development. These tools are invaluable in multilingual environments where learners may face barriers to learning in a second language, especially that the mode of instruction in Botswana schools is English which proves difficult for some of the students. For example, an NLP tool can detect patterns in mispronunciations or comprehension struggles in non-native speakers and recommend language support tailored to the learner's specific needs. This ensures that learners from diverse linguistic backgrounds receive the assistance required to excel academically. The impact of early detection through AI extends beyond individual learners. By identifying learning challenges early, learners can receive tailored interventions that help them overcome foundational gaps before they escalate into larger issues. Teachers also benefit from the actionable insights AI provides, enabling them to focus on personalized teaching rather than being burdened by data collection and analysis. Furthermore, early identification of learning challenges promotes inclusivity, ensuring that all students, regardless of disabilities or

developmental delays, can access and benefit from quality education.

The integration of AI into Botswana's education system would offer a pathway to addressing these deep-rooted challenges. While implementing AI requires investments in infrastructure, training and policy support, the long-term benefits outweigh the costs, ibile Motswana a re "Sedibeng se iwa ka tsela", so we should start already and make small wins every day.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Dr. Dimakatso Michelle Polokele is the Head of Centre for Technology and Innovation for Africa at Woxsen University in Hyderabad, India. She also serves the university as an Associate Professor in the School of Business. She has studied across multiple universities around the world, and holds a Doctor of Business Administration from Selinus University in Ragusa, Italy. Dr. Polokele is a digital transformation expert with specialisation in Artificial Intelligence for Business, Blockchain for Business and Future of Work and Automation. She is also a Micro Finance expert with over 15 years of executive leadership experience in various African countries. Dr. Polokele is also an accomplished author, having recently published books titled "Mindset Revolution", "Breaking Glass Ceilings - The Myth of Women Empowerment" and "AI in Microfinance for Growth and Returns".

# Boko aims to clinch De Beers deal, diversify economy

**T**OP DIAMOND PRODUCER Botswana's new President Duma Boko said on Thursday he hoped to clinch a long-delayed sales pact with industry giant De Beers as early as Friday, but underlined the need to diversify the nation's economy.

Boko, a 55-year-old lawyer, took the reins of Botswana in November after a landslide election upset that ended nearly six decades of rule by the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP).

He has made the task of finalising the deal with Anglo American's De Beers unit an early priority.

Speaking at a Reuters Next Newsmaker at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, Boko said his government was in agreement with De Beers on most issues. All that remained was "tidying up", he said.

Asked by Reuters editor-in-chief Alessandra Galloni when the deal would be signed, Boko said: "I'm hoping tomorrow. I mean it literally."

Botswana and De Beers agreed on a new pact in 2023 which would see the government's share of diamonds from the Debswana joint venture gradually increase to 50% over the next decade. However, it



**Boko**

was never signed under Boko's predecessor Mokgweetsi Masisi.

Debswana sells 75% of its output to De Beers.

In addition, Boko said talks aimed at increasing Botswana's 15% ownership stake in De Beers were "going well".

Anglo American is looking to divest De Beers as part of a broader restructuring of its sprawling business.

Like many African countries, Botswana's economy is largely dependent on the export of a single commodity, in its case diamonds, of which it is the world's leading producer

by value.

Unlike many of its continental neighbours, its leaders have invested their commodity windfall in health, education and social welfare.

The strategy has largely paid off. Botswana's GDP per capita was \$7,250 in 2023, compared with an average for sub-Saharan Africa of \$4,800, World Bank data shows.

Analysts, however, blamed mounting economic grievances, particularly among young people, for the downfall of the BDP, which had governed the nation of around 2.5-million people since independence from Britain in 1966.

"The liberation parties did the best they could," Boko said.

"It seems to me many of them have outlived their welcome and usefulness."

On the campaign trail, Boko's coalition pledged to more than double the minimum wage, improve social services and create a more independent judiciary, among other measures.

However, the new president faces headwinds.

The economy likely contracted last year on a downturn in the global diamond market and unemployment has been on the rise.

The finance ministry is forecasting a diamond rebound and GDP growth of 3% to 4% this year. However, Boko told the Reuters event Botswana could not rely

solely on diamonds.

"We are looking to power the economy of Botswana. We're looking to diversify it," he said, adding his government would focus on the green economy, climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy and diversifying the mining sector.

While many world leaders are viewing the return to power of US President Donald Trump with concern, Boko said the new Washington administration's vow to bring its foreign policy in line with American self-interest was not necessarily a threat.

"(The) West has every reason to play its part in Africa, because if it doesn't, there are others who will want to play some part. We have China in the wings, and it is seeking to exert influence on Africa," he said. [Reuters, timeslive.co.za]

# Sprinting Forward: A Local Success Story in Botswana's Economy

**B**OTSWANA'S ENTREPRENEURIAL landscape reflects a growing commitment to resilience, innovation, and economic diversification. Among the notable contributors to this dynamic environment is Sprint Couriers, a company that has emerged as a significant player in the courier and logistics industry. Established in 2006 by two Botswana women, Sprint Couriers exemplifies the determination and resourcefulness that fuel local business growth.

Founded by Michelle Gebrial and Pinkie Setlalekosi, Sprint Couriers has expanded from a modest startup into one of Botswana's leading logistics providers, currently a market leader and veritable case study of excellence for local entrepreneurs. Inspired by the cheetah leaping in the brand's logo, Sprint has always made its proposition clear: efficiency and excellence. What we can add to this, however, is a sense of passion to always do the right thing, and this is a proposition at the very heart of the business.

Operating in a sector traditionally dominated by men, the company has gained recognition for its leadership and service excellence - this at a time when such a vision was itself rare. Today, Sprint Couriers employs over 330 people and handles over 70 000 deliveries each month for businesses and individuals, domestic and international. The company's modern fleet and range of services, including air, road, and sea freight, customs clearance, and e-commerce logistics, position it as a vital partner for businesses seeking efficient delivery solutions. Its tailored logistics services not only support Botswana's domestic businesses but also enhance the country's competitiveness in global trade.

Their achievements have been recognised through various accolades, including awards at the Women in Business Awards Botswana, the Diamond Prize for Excellence by PMR Africa, and the Grant Thornton Private Business Growth Awards. These milestones highlight the broader role of women in advancing Botswana's economic and social development. Sprint



**Michelle Gebrial**

Couriers' operations span more than 42 towns and cities across Botswana, reaching even remote areas. The company's acquisition of Aramex Botswana in 2018 further expanded its reach, enabling it to provide services to over 240 countries under the Sprint Global Express brand.

So why do we not tell stories of businesses like these as often as we should? These achievements, impact and growth align with Botswana's Vision 2036, which seeks to establish a diversified and export-led economy as well as UN SDGs looking to drive inclusion and empowerment more sustainably. By supporting key industries such as mining, pharmaceuticals, and financial services, Sprint Couriers demonstrates how local businesses can contribute sustainably to national economic goals. They reinforce Botswana's adaptability and agility in a competitive global landscape.

As a citizen-owned enterprise, such businesses play a role in fostering socio-economic development. This is something

we can all surely get behind. The continued success of Sprint Couriers reflects the importance of local enterprises to contribute to Botswana's economic resilience. As non-mining sectors increasingly drive economic growth—accounting for nearly 50% of GDP, according to the World Bank—companies like Sprint Couriers are integral to this diversification. By facilitating trade, supporting small businesses, and driving innovation.

This success story underscores the importance of continuous improvement and innovation in maintaining industry leadership. Sprint Couriers illustrates the transformative power of local entrepreneurship, demonstrating how Botswana enterprises can achieve global competitiveness while promoting national development. As Botswana advances towards inclusive economic growth, companies like Sprint Couriers serve as examples of how homegrown businesses can shape a sustainable and prosperous future.

**OKAVANGO DIAMOND COMPANY**

## INVITATION TO TENDER

CHAUFFEUR SERVICES  
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LAPTOPS, DESKTOPS AND ICT ACCESSORIES

The Okavango Diamond Company (Pty) Ltd (ODC) hereby invites tender offers from 100% citizen owned companies for the below listed tenders.

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| TENDER NO.         | ITT/ODC/008/2024-25   |
| DESCRIPTION        | PROVISION OF CHAUFFEUR SERVICES FOR OKAVANGO DIAMOND COMPANY (PTY) LTD (ODC) FOR A 2 YEAR PERIOD                                |
| PPRA CODE          | Code 131: Rental Services<br>Sub codes: 02 Motor Vehicles<br>OR<br>Code 129: Passenger Transport services<br>Sub codes: 02 Land |
| PROCUREMENT METHOD | Open Domestic Bidding   |
| FEE                | P250.00   |
| CLOSING DATE       | 05 February 2025 at 1630 hours  |
| TENDER SUBMISSION  | ODC offices located at Diamond Technology Park, Plot 67782, Block 8 Industrial, Gaborone, Botswana                              |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| TENDER NO.         | ITT/ODC/009/2024-25  |
| DESCRIPTION        | A ONE (1) YEAR FRAMEWORK CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LAPTOPS, DESKTOPS AND ICT ACCESSORIES FOR OKAVANGO DIAMOND COMPANY (PTY) LTD  |
| PPRA CODE          | Code 203: Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical and ICT supplies.<br>Sub-Code 01: Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Spares and Accessories (includes ICT, photographic equipment and others) |
| PROCUREMENT METHOD | Open Domestic Bidding  |
| FEE                | P250.00  |
| CLOSING DATE       | 04 February 2025 at 1630 hours   |
| TENDER SUBMISSION  | ODC offices located at Diamond Technology Park, Plot 67782, Block 8 Industrial, Gaborone, Botswana   |

Tender documents will be available at a non-refundable fee stated above payable to ODC through EFT and submitting proof of payment to [tender@odc.co.bw](mailto:tender@odc.co.bw). Youth companies will be sold the tender documents at 50% of the selling price as per Presidential Directive CAB 14(B) 2015. For proof of eligibility, Youth owned companies shall provide national identity (Omang) copies for shareholders and a copy of CIPA Extract issued by Company Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA). On receipt of the proof of payment, a copy of the ITT document will be issued. ODC shall not receive cash.

| Account Name                       | Bank                             | Account       | Branch           | Branch Code |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| Okavango Diamond Company (Pty) Ltd | Standard Chartered Bank Botswana | 0100173289600 | Airport Junction | 662567      |

Tender documents (ITT) will be emailed during weekdays on working hours between 0800hours - 1300hours and 1400hours - 1700hours with effect from 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Tenders submitted late will not be accepted. Telegraphic, facsimile, telephone, telefaxed submissions will not be accepted.

For further information, enquiries or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed in writing to procurement office, Tel No. +267 399 2300 / 340 / 320, Email address: [tender@odc.co.bw](mailto:tender@odc.co.bw).

Bidders are informed that an internal bid opening procedure shall be followed. A copy of the record of tender opening shall be sent to all bidders who have submitted their bids.

# Choppies appoints new director

**C**HOPPIES' BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF the Company has appointed Ms. Natalie Graaff as a non-executive director of Choppies with effect from 20 January 2025. Natalie's appointment is subject to confirmation by the shareholders of the Company at its next annual general meeting. Natalie holds both a BCom (Law) and LLB degrees from the University of Pretoria. She was admitted as an Attorney of the High Court of South Africa in February 2009.

Natalie has more than 15 years of experience as an attorney as an in-house legal counsel and has practiced as a litigation attorney and managed legal compliance work for various high profile South African companies and clients.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Natalie. We believe her appointment will strengthen the Board.

The Company has a primary listing on the BSE and a secondary listing on the JSE. [bse.co.bw]



Natalie Graaff

# Bradley joins BDC board

**B**DC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE appointment of Ms. Lesley Bradley to the Board of Directors as a Non-Executive Director with effect from 15 September 2024. Ms. Bradley is an accomplished corporate banker with over 30 years of experience. She began her banking career in 1991 through an Accelerated Development Programme, gaining extensive exposure to diverse areas of banking, including branch operations and support functions. She later transitioned to corporate banking, steadily advancing through the ranks to the role of Corporate Director, where she led the Corporate and Investment Banking unit. She currently holds the position of Business Development and Stakeholder Engagement within the executive office of ABSA Bank Botswana. Her key role mandate covers acquisition of new businesses across the various business segments and value chain development to drive citizen empowerment and build partnerships with various stakeholders across the Region. Ms. Bradley



Bradley

holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Botswana (UB) and has also undertaken leadership programmes through the University of Stellenbosch (RSA) and Duke University (USA). The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Ms. Bradley to BDC and is confident that her extensive experience and proven leadership in corporate and investment banking will significantly contribute to

the continued growth and success of the company. This notice has been issued later than anticipated on account of robust internal processes required by the Shareholder to ensure compliance with best governance practices on inter alia managing conflicts of interest, in the appointment of Directors. Nonetheless, we confirm that BDC has followed all the necessary steps in line with governance protocols. [bse.co.bw]

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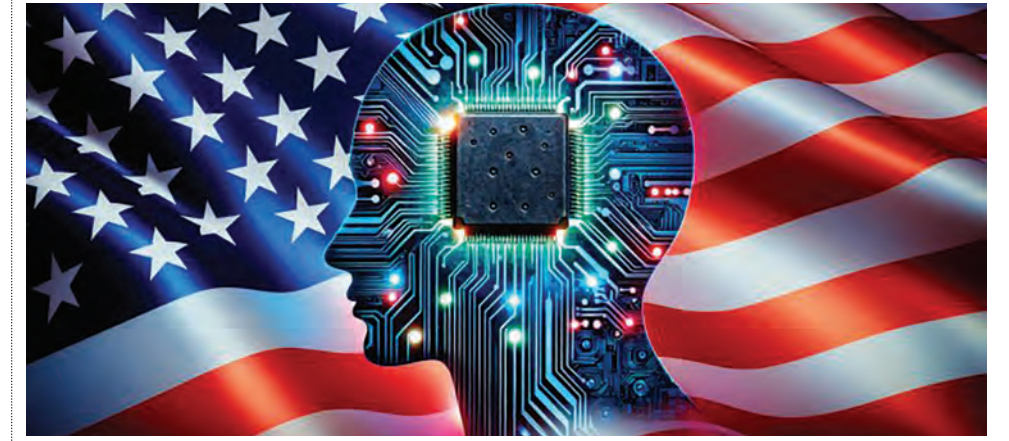
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## Tech giants are putting \$500bn into 'Stargate' to build up AI in US



**T**HE CREATOR OF CHATGPT, OPENAI, is teaming up with another US tech giant, a Japanese investment firm and an Emirati sovereign wealth fund to build \$500bn (£405bn) of artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in the United States.

The new company, called The Stargate Project, was announced at the White House by President Donald Trump who billed it "the largest AI infrastructure project by far in history" and said it would help keep "the future of technology" in the US.

But Elon Musk - both a top adviser to Trump and rival to OpenAI CEO Sam Altman - on Wednesday said the venture does not "actually have the money" it has pledged to invest.

Investment in AI is currently exploding, driving demand for new data centres while also raising concerns about the huge amounts of water and power the facilities require.

The venture is a partnership between OpenAI, Oracle, Japan's Softbank - led by Masayoshi Son - and MGX, a tech investment arm of the United Arab Emirates government.

The companies said the new venture, which was in the works before Trump took office, had \$100bn in funding available immediately, with the rest to come over four years, creating an estimated 100,000 jobs.

Commenting on a post on X where OpenAI detailed the plans, Musk, who owns the platform, wrote "They don't actually have the money."

"SoftBank has well under \$10B secured. I have that on good authority," he added.

Musk, however, did not provide any details or substantiation for how he had arrived at the much smaller amount.

Altman then replied: "Wrong, as you surely know."

"Want to come visit the first site already under way?" Altman added. "This is great for the country. I realize what is great for your companies, but in your new role I hope you'll mostly put US first."

Musk is spearheading Trump's government efficiency efforts and will closely advise Trump on spending. He, though, has also been feuding with Altman since leaving OpenAI's board in 2018 and launching his own AI start-up.

A source close to Stargate said it was not clear where Musk had gotten his information and that the company was well-positioned to deploy \$100 bn.

Stargate's first data centre is under construction in Texas, according to Oracle's chief technology officer, Larry Ellison, and more will be built in other US locations.

"I think this will be the most important project of this era," said Altman at Trump's Tuesday announcement, standing alongside the President at the White House.

"We wouldn't be able to do this without you, Mr President," he added, even though the project was underway before Trump won November's election.

'Most important project of this era' The US is already the world leader in AI investment, vastly outspending any other country, and its big tech companies have been making major investments into data centres in the last year.

Microsoft, one of the OpenAI's major backers, said earlier this month it was on track to invest \$80bn to build out AI-focused data centres this year.

It is also involved in a \$100bn venture that includes BlackRock and MGX and is focused on making AI data centre investments.

Amazon has been pouring money into the centres at a similar scale, announcing two projects worth about \$10bn each in just the last two months.

In a report last year, McKinsey said that global demand for data centre capacity would more than triple by 2030, growing between 19% and 27% annually by 2030.

For developers to meet that demand, the consultancy estimated that at least twice the capacity would have to be built by 2030 as has been constructed since 2000.

But analysts have warned that the process is likely to be bogged down by issues such as power and land constraints and permitting.

Trump, who has claimed credit for fostering business investment, promised he would intervene to help the industry.

"I'm going to help a lot through emergency declarations because we have an emergency," he said, stressing the importance of keeping AI in the US.

Trump said his government would "make it possible for them to get that production done very easily."

Mushrooming demand OpenAI has long called for more investment into data centres for AI.

The Information, a technology news website, first reported on the Stargate project in March last year.

Other technology partners include British chipmaker Arm, US chipmaker Nvidia and Microsoft, which already has a partnership with OpenAI.

Along with Musk's scepticism about funding for the specific project, there are growing concerns generally about the data centres taxing energy supplies and questions about the role of foreign investors.

In one of his final acts in the White House, former President Joe Biden put forward rules that would restrict exports of AI-related chips to dozens of countries around the world, saying the move would help the US control the industry.

He also issued orders related to the development of data centres on government land, which spotlighted a role for clean energy in powering the centres. [BBC]



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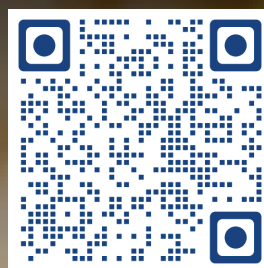


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# Lifestyle

## Miss Botswana Top 10 Finalists

AGODIRWE KOKORO  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

LOCAL PAGEANT MISS BOTSWANA launched the Top 10 finalists last Friday in a heartwarming event, sashed alongside Miss Botswana 2024 Anicia Gaothusi. The Miss Botswana Finals will be held on the 22nd of March 2025. The top 10 contestants are preparing to potentially become ambassadors for Botswana at the 73rd Miss World Finals. Joyce Moseki the Miss Botswana sales and sponsorship officer encouraged the contestants to celebrate their journey and honour their purpose in the pageant. "You have an opportunity to promote the nation on a global stage" she said.

The hard-work and resilience of each of the contestants puts them closer to the crown. Miss Moseki further added that as the journey continues, they will be visiting each of the contestant's villages to see/experience the finalists' beauty with a purpose project.

The reigning queen Anicia Gaothusi alluded that the contestants should tolerate each other "I represent each girl next to me" she said. She went on to encourage the finalists as they embark on a journey that has only one winner every one of them is worthy of the crown.

The Miss Botswana organization shared their new judging criteria which mainly highlighted transparency and an aim to maintain public trust. Miss Botswana is to engage independent auditing firms.

The queens will be judged according to social media presence; beauty with a purpose project; cultural awareness and commitment to National development.

The pageant director for Miss Botswana, Peggy Grynberg said they are embarking on a journey for the reigning queen Anicia Gaothusi to go on the Miss World



stage. Anicia is currently undergoing rigorous training in sports, improving communication and talent.

The winner of the Miss Botswana 2025 will walk away with a brand-new Polo Vivo, a road to Miss World package worth P150

000 which covers flights, accommodation etc. P100 000 production package, P150 000 clothing voucher P120 000 upkeep

allowance and other third-party prizes.

The 10 finalists are Future Gaethuse; Girly Kookilwe •Kimberly Kotewa •Felang

Kwapa •Magdeline Modipane •Selwana Motseneng •Lame Segaise •Stephanie Sebina •Keitumetse Sola •Ruth Thomas

## Nelson John Ramakakaba Leepile: A Legend of our Time

ASHFORD MAMELODI\*

LEGEND OF OUR TIME NELSON John Leepile gave his last breath on Tuesday 7 January 2025. He was buried at his home village of Digawana on Saturday 11 January 2025 at a well-attended funeral dominated by former colleagues at the Department of Information & Broadcasting and a huge contingent of football people past and present. Also present was former Member of Parliament and cabinet minister Mr. Michael Tshipinare. Apart from the sad occasion it was, it readily availed all an opportunity to rekindle acquaintances, some, long forgotten. Nelly, as he was fondly called by most colleagues and friends alike, lost his battle against pancreatic cancer although he had also suffered from diabetes and hypertension.

Born on 11 June 1941, Nelson, who would have celebrated his 84 birthday this year, was a loving husband to Mme Nametso Jean Leepile, to whom he was married for some 53 years. He was also father to Mmabotswana, his only son Oteng and Onnalena and seven grandchildren. All speakers at both the funeral and the memorial held two days earlier also at Digawana, hailed Nelson as a very loving man whose unique character made him easily accessible to many he came across. Most importantly he was as a God fearing, humble and hardworking man. He was an anchor at Radio Botswana for a program of Setswana traditional and Choral music, most of which songs he travelled the length and breadth of Botswana to record. He will be famously remembered for 'Tsa Metshameko', a weekly sport programme that he also presented. Apart from being a staunch supporter of Township Rollers FC, he was a passionate football fan.

Nelson and I met in the early 1990s when I joined the Botswana Football Association, initially as Secretary General and later the Associations first CEO. This was a time when Media in Botswana was still in its infancy. Nelson and I immediately struck a warm relationship that went beyond a business acquaintance as we became even very close family friends. For a long time, I did not know that Nelson was a staunch supporter of Township Rollers FC neither did he disclose this, as I believe he did not



The late Nelson John Leepile

want this to compromise our relationship. He interviewed me many times on radio, partly because I did not have a dedicated communications person full time, amongst

the staff of five people that I had in my office at this time. He would ask very pointed, deep and sometimes provocative questions. This was of course very useful for

his listeners but also to himself especially when his favorite club was the subject matter, which was often the case. The fact that he did not want to identify to me his club allegiance shows the professionalism of the man. Owing to our close relationship Nelson would just rock-up at our offices carrying a recorder over his shoulder, unannounced, and tell my secretary that he wanted a brief chat. He knew that he would be guaranteed the audience he sought. He was ever-present at all our events. Truth be told we enjoyed more publicity than any other sport on Radio Botswana by a good mile, a development that he was often questioned on by his principals. He was appointed to serve as a member of the BFA Local Organising Committee of the 2nd African U17 Championship that Botswana hosted in 1997.

Ramakakaba, a recipient of the Presidential Certificate of Honour on the 25th of September 2012, was also a staunch member of the UCCSA church both in Gaborone and even when he moved to his home village Digawana. He was an active member of his local VDC and in PTA committees of both Lorwana Primary and

Nthwalang Secondary schools. He was, it can be safely said an active village elder. I recall getting a message from my wife in December last year, that Mma Leepile had called that her husband's ailment was getting worse and that I must make time to come and see him whilst he could still converse. Sadly, and most regrettably his demise came sooner than I could make the trip to his home at Digawana.

Ramakakaba's work and other voluntary activities did not completely keep him away from his beloved family. Talking to Oteng, his son, after the funeral he recalls how loving his father was, and that he enjoyed a very close relationship with all his children. He loved his grandchildren deeply and immensely enjoyed having them around. Oteng told me that in his boyhood days he would listen to his father on radio and he would go to one of the speakers and ask him to bring him some sweets and biscuits. He was only to learn later that when the sweets and biscuits did come, it was a mere coincidence and not a response to his requests via radio speakers. Oteng told me how much he enjoyed accompanying his father to Township rollers FC training and

official matches.

Oteng also explained how traumatic his father's final days had become to his mother and the children, including close members of the family. Although some could feel that the end was nigh, they all kept the faith that he could recover. They were all proud of their father and marveled at how much he was loved and respected both near and far. They were comforted by all the condolence messages expressed by all after his passing.

To mme mma Leepile and the children, we pray for Gods mercy as you go through a difficult healing process. You did your level best to take care of Nelson. We must all continue to celebrate his life and learn from his legacy of hard work, humility and love. Our beloved friend is home now and resting peacefully, away from any pain. May the good Lord give you all, the fortitude to confront the devastating blow occasioned by his passing. A true legend of our time has indeed fallen.

\*Ashford Mamelodi is the former Secretary General of the Botswana Football Association (BFA) and the Confederation of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) and FIFA Development Officer.

## Poso Gospel Icon final auditions

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL launch on December 2nd 2024, auditions have been held in Maun and Palapye, where successful participants were awarded a Stamped Post Card to signify their progression to the next stage. Presented by BotswanaPost, Brave Heart and Joyous Celebration, the Poso Gospel Icon seeks to discover local talent.

Auditions continue in Gaborone on Saturday 25th January 2024 between 9am to 4pm. Members of the public are invited for a sneak peak of our unique set, interact with our esteemed judges, and hear insights from our team and participants.

Judges includes Sibongiseni Buhle Thela, a seasoned musician, pastor, and vocal coach from Joyous Celebration; Khumo Kgwaadira (MissGeekays), a sought-after radio presenter, host, and entrepreneur.



## Celebrating Chinese New Year

CHINA WELCOMES FOREIGN TOURISTS to join China's celebration of the Spring Festival and experience the joy of the Chinese New Year, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on January 14. Guo made the remarks at a regular press briefing when asked to comment on the trend of "China Travel."

According to reports, the General Office of China's State Council released a list of measures to foster new growth drivers to boost spending in the culture and tourism sectors. One of the measures is to improve inbound travel policies, including gradually rolling out unilateral visa-free policies to more countries.

China's visa exemption policies have given a boost to inbound travel. Since the start of the year, "China Travel" has kept trending, and a good number of foreign tourists spent their New Year's Eve in China.

Some travel agencies estimate that the number of travel bookings by foreign tourists for the Spring Festival period this year will increase by 203 percent year on

year compared with 2024.

Guo said that as China includes more countries in its visa waiver program and improves facilitation measures, the number of foreign tourist arrivals has continued to rise. In 2024, the number of inbound and outbound journeys by foreign nationals stood at 64.88 million, up by 82.9 percent year on year. Among them, 20.12 million entered China visa-free, up by 112.3 percent year on year. During the just concluded New Year holiday, arrivals of foreign nationals grew by 34 percent year on year, according to the spokesperson.

Guo said the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Snake is half a month away. It is the first Spring Festival since the inscription of the festival on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

"We welcome foreign tourists to join China's celebration of the Spring Festival, experience the joy of the Chinese New Year, feel the warmth of Chinese hospitality, and usher in an auspicious Year of the Snake," said Guo.

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# Sport

## Ramoreboli is Zebras gaffer



Ramoreboli

**S**OUTH AFRICAN, MORENA Ramoreboli was on Thursday announced as the new Zebras head coach on a two-year contract. His major deliverables as outlined by Botswana Football Association (BFA) as follows;

Progress the team to group stages of the 2025 AFCON in Morocco in December

Collect at least 12 points in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers

Qualify for the CHAN 2026 and move the Zebras into the top 30 in the FIFA Africa rankings

Win at least one COSAFA Challenge Cup before his term elapses

## Nigeria hosts 2026 Commonwealth Fencing Championships

**N**IGERIA MADE HISTORY BY BEING awarded the hosting rights for the 2026 Commonwealth Senior and Veterans Fencing Championships. It will be the first African country to host this prestigious event.

The Commonwealth Fencing Federation (CFF) conditionally approved Nigeria's bid, with certain conditions to be met for the 2026 tournament.

This achievement follows Nigeria's successful hosting of the Fencing World Cup last year, the first time a Sub-Saharan African country hosted such an event. Over 10 countries participated in the World Cup, which Charter House Lagos hosted, with Egypt and Saudi Arabia dominating.

Adeyinka Samuel, President of the Nigeria Fencing Federation, expressed his delight, stating, "We competed against Australia, a nation that has hosted the Commonwealth Championships three times and is among the most experienced globally. This achievement reflects the strength of our bid and Nigeria's growing respect on the international stage."

He added, "Over 10 months, every aspect of our bid underwent thorough review, culminating in December's final technical visit during our successful hosting of a Fencing World Cup. This event will likely be the largest in Nigeria's sporting history, with an estimated 600+ athletes from over 30 countries."

Samuel continued, "This is the biggest news for the Nigerian fencing community. Hosting such a prestigious tournament allows us to compete with some of the best fencing nations in the Commonwealth. We are thrilled and motivated to continue growing and popularising the sport.

Our efforts during the last World Cup showed we could host this tournament. The management of Charter House has pledged their full support, and we will seek more private-sector backing to ensure a successful event. Hosting this tournament will also help our fencers compete with the best in the world as they aim to secure tickets to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games."

# Letsile is De Beers Global Ambassador

**D**E BEERS GROUP ON FRIDAY announced Letsile Tebogo, Botswana's 200 metres Olympic gold medalist and World Athletics Male Athlete of the Year 2024, as its Global Ambassador, marking the start of a unique collaboration that celebrates both his athletic achievements and the transformative power of natural diamonds.

The collaboration builds on Botswana's remarkable journey over more than five decades to become a world-leading diamond producer, which has in turn transformed the prospects for its people. The longstanding diamond partnership between the Government of Botswana and De Beers has seen the country use its resource wealth for economic development, and the creation of new opportunities in education and sports has helped cultivate talents such as Letsile Tebogo. Like the diamonds that shaped his nation's future, Letsile's rise to excellence highlights Botswana's latent potential that, when nurtured, creates something brilliant. This partnership weaves together the story of his sporting achievements with that of Botswana's development through diamonds, crafting a powerful narrative of possibility, passion and progress.

Reflecting on the collaboration, Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo said: "My success story is connected with our nation's diamond heritage. The very resources that built our

schools and sports facilities have paved the way for young athletes like me. I'm humbled that an organisation like De Beers that has played such a pivotal role in the development of my country sees it fit to play a role in my future too, and I'm excited to work with De Beers to highlight the power of natural diamonds for our country and its people. Our partnership goes beyond sport – it's about showcasing the natural resources driving positive change in our communities and creating pathways for the next generation of Botswana champions."



Letsile Tebogo

[PIC.PRESSPHOTO]

"Letsile's journey from Botswana to Olympic glory mirrors the transformation of natural diamonds. Just as diamonds are shaped by pressure and time, Letsile's story embodies the spirit of Botswana's progress," said Sandrine Conseiller, CEO of De Beers Brands. "We are incredibly proud to work with Letsile as we celebrate not only his achievements, but also the remarkable parallel between the realisation of human potential and the journey of a natural diamond."

The collaboration will involve a series of engagements and media activities focused on celebrating the good that De Beers' natural diamonds do. As one of the first products of the collaboration, Letsile Tebogo will feature as the lead ambassador and central figure in a short film series, Talent Unearthed. Spotting athletic talents whose success is deeply connected to Botswana, the series will demonstrate how natural diamonds have uplifted communities and seeks to inspire the next generation of talent with Letsile Tebogo's story of perseverance and dedication. Another key element of the collaboration will see Letsile and his team identify opportunities for investment in sports development in Botswana. Projects stemming from the collaboration will be launched throughout the year.

The collaboration builds on De Beers Group's efforts to showcase the transformative potential of its natural diamonds through engaging and shareable content.

**'I am coming'**

Meanwhile Tebogo's season will kick off at the World Athletics Continental Tour Gold Maurie Plant Meet. The competition will be held on March 29th 2025 in Melbourne, Australia.

The 21-year-old sensation 400m exploration shall be a quest to expand his territory and athletic dominance beyond the 200m. In a surprising twist, the 200m Olympic Gold medalist, will open his 2025 season with a 400m race. He announced plans to compete in the 400m, stepping up to the challenge of the longer distance. "Starting the season with this challenge will set the stage for what's ahead. I'm ready to push my limits," Tebogo added. Fans eagerly await his debut performance down under.

The world champion is very much aware that 100m is too technical and is alive to the brutality of 400m while he currently enjoys the 200m sprint. Though there is less money in the 400m compared to 100m dash, 400m is more fantastic and entertaining.

Expressing his excitement, Tebogo said, "I'm thrilled to compete in Australia for the first time and feel the electric support of the crowd. Let's make it a race to remember!"

## Germiquet is World's Toughest



Marc Germiquet of Botswana has made history by becoming the first person from the country to row across an ocean. He completed the World's Toughest Row, a transatlantic race covering approximately 3,000 miles from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to English Harbour in Antigua, in 43 days, 7 hours, and 21 minutes, securing first place among solo rowers.



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