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STRIDES OF SUCCESS launch brown tissue paper

SEE PAGE 6

Boko in SADC vs Kenya dilemma



■ AUC chairmanship vote due in February

STAFF WRITERS
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PRESIDENT DUMA BOKO FACES a diplomatic dilemma as Botswana is torn between backing Kenya's Raila Odinga or SADC's candidate, Richard J. Randriamandrato, for the African Union Commission (AUC) chairmanship in the upcoming February elections.

This predicament follows reports that Kenyan President William Ruto publicly announced Botswana's endorsement of Odinga's bid, sparking controversy within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In response, SADC Executive Secretary Elias Magosi has written to Botswana's Vice President and Finance Minister, Ndaba Gaolathe, and other regional ministers, urging them to support

Randriamandrato, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs from Madagascar, as the bloc's unified candidate. The situation has put Boko in a challenging position, as aligning with Kenya could strain relations within SADC, while supporting Randriamandrato might jeopardize diplomatic ties with Kenya. Political analysts suggest that the decision could have far-reaching

TO PAGE 5

US aid cut cripples Botswana NGOs

- All Tebelopele Wellness Centre's 17 sites across the country closed
- All BOCHAIP 7 sites are currently closed

STAFF WRITERS
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AN ASSESSMENT REPORT BY the Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO) shows that Botswana is grappling with the

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Batswana 'love' death penalty

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NEW
STREETWISE FEAST
109⁹⁰

2 FREE SMALL DRINKS

KFC

Ts & Cs apply. Images for illustrative purposes. Delivery prices may vary.

ADvLEARN improves learning at GIS



GIS Executive Head, Hannelie Raubenheimer

GABORONE International School (GIS) has pinned hopes on the newly launched personalised artificial intelligence (AI) learning platform, ADvLEARN to continue attaining excellent academic results. ADvLEARN is a unique personalized digital learning platform developed for ADvTECH schools.

GIS implemented it early last year for standard 6 to Form 4 students. It is currently implemented in only two subjects, Mathematics and Science, with a view of expanding it to the English subject in future.

The programme uses adaptive technology to deliver data-driven insights and learning analytics. GIS Executive Head, Hannelie Raubenheimer says it is accessible to students through 7 ICT laboratories in the school and an app at home. "The platform is accessed through the MathU Infinity app which parents, teachers and students can download from Google Play store. It allows teachers to identify and address learning gaps in all students," she said.

She further noted that this adaptive technology helps

students with easier ways to solve a problem. When a student struggles with a certain concept, the programme simplifies the problem given to the students and they can then be able to do calculations to get an answer to a problem.

"Students might find different aspects of the concept challenging or difficult, and this technology enables us to give tailor-made support for that student," Raubenheimer explained.

GIS ensures that all teachers have access to laptops and the back-aid, which displays to them what concept they have to re-teach. Should the students have any questions to ask, they are exposed to ample support from teachers, heads of departments and the Head of Academics.

The success of the platform is also attributed to the key role played by teachers and their unwavering dedication to ensure that GIS continues to attain excellent academic results year-in year-out. The school gives them the necessary support to achieve the desired deliverables, which is to place it among high performing schools in the country.

Absa sponsors BALA Elective Assembly

ABSA BANK BOTSWANA proudly sponsored the Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) Executive National Elective Assembly, which took place from the 11 February to, 13 February 2025. This strategic partnership reaffirms Absa's commitment to empowering local government authorities and fostering sustainable economic development across Botswana.

The BALA Executive National Elective Assembly serves as a key platform for stakeholders in local government to engage, collaborate, and shape the future of local authorities in Botswana. This year's assembly was particularly significant as it ushered a new leadership and set the agenda for BALA for the years ahead.

Absa recognises the critical role that BALA plays in



promoting unity, cooperation, and democratic governance

at the local level, ultimately contributing to Botswana's

broader developmental goals. "Absa Bank Botswana is

deeply invested in the success of local authorities and the communities they serve," said Latelang Ralebala, Absa Head of Public Sector. "This sponsorship reflects our belief in the power of collaboration and the importance of empowering local authorities to drive inclusive and progressive economic growth. Initiatives like this are essential for building a strong and sustainable future for Botswana." This sponsorship builds upon Absa's long-standing partnership with BALA, which has enabled the bank to serve over 90% of local council business. The assembly provides an invaluable platform for Absa to further strengthen these relationships, deepen its understanding of local government needs, and align its strategies for maximum impact. "We are committed to working hand-in-hand with

local authorities to develop and implement tailored financial solutions that address their specific needs and unlock their full potential," Ralebala added. "We believe that by empowering local governments, we are Empowering Africa's Tomorrow, Together, One Story at a Time."

The bank leveraged this opportunity to deepen relationships with all local authorities, not just existing clients, and explored new avenues for collaboration. Absa recognizes that strong local authorities are essential for driving economic growth, creating jobs, and improving the quality of life for all Batswana.

For media queries please contact: Spencer Moreri Absa Bank Botswana Head of Communications (Ag) spencer.moreri@absa.africa

Sunbet unveils Online Platform, opens Gaborone and Palapye



SUNBET, A PROUD MEMBER of Sun International family, is delighted to announce the official launch of its online betting platform, Sunbet.co.bw, alongside the grand openings of its first two retail stores in Gaborone and Palapye. This marks a major milestone in the company's expansion, bringing a world-class betting experience to Botswana both online and in person.

Sunbet's retail expansion includes a store in Gaborone's Block 8 and another in Palapye, located on the site of the former Letsatsi Casino. These venues

will serve as entertainment and gaming hubs, providing customers with a seamless and engaging sports betting experience.

As part of the celebration, Sunbet is offering Batswana an opportunity to place their very first bet on the races. For the first time ever, local bettors will be able to participate and stand a chance to win, reinforcing Sunbet's commitment to providing a safe, secure, and user-friendly betting environment to its customers.

These developments mark a new era of sports betting in Botswana, following the success

of Sunbet's historic partnership with TT Horse Racing at the Motokwe Champions Cup, which introduced legal sports betting to Botswana's horse racing industry. The online platform and physical stores will allow Batswana to place bets on a variety of sports and gaming options, reinforcing Sunbet's mission to provide a safe, secure, and user-friendly betting environment.

Tshiamo Motsumi, Director at Sunbet, expressed his excitement: "We are proud to be bringing Sunbet's world-class betting experience to Botswana. Our successful online launch

and our expansion into retail locations are just the beginning. We are committed to delivering cutting-edge technology, a secure betting environment, and an exciting range of gaming options. 'Tlanya Re Tshameke' - Let's Play Together!"

Sunbet is licensed and regulated by the Botswana Gambling Authority, ensuring responsible gaming practices while offering an innovative and entertaining betting experience. Customers can enjoy everything from sports betting, crash games, and lucky numbers to virtual games and traditional casino offerings.

TENDER NOTICE



1. Botswana Development Corporation Limited invites proposals from capable **100% Citizen Owned** Companies to provide proposals for the below tender. Bidders must be duly registered with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA).

Tender Number	Reference	Tender Name	Registration Codes	Tender Date	Closing Date
ITT/BDC016-2024/25CH		Procurement Of Consultant to Conduct Investment Valuation Services on A Two-Year Contract.	PPRA Code 314 (Finance related Services), Sub Code 01 (Finance Management) or Code 317 (Other Consultancy Services) Sub Code 01 (Management Consultancy Services)	11 th March 2025 11:00hrs	

2. Tender documents will be sent to Bidders after paying a non-refundable fee of **P560.00** from 08:00hrs to 15:30hrs on weekdays with effect from **17th February 2025**. The tender will be closing for selling on **04th March 2025**.
3. Youth registered companies are entitled to pay **50% (P280.00)** of the purchase price subject to the provision of proof of 100% youth ownership. Payments can be deposited on the below account referencing the tender Name.
4. Proof of payment should be emailed to: tenders@bdc.bw.

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Account Name	Bank	Account Number	Account Type	Branch Code	Branch Name	Swift Code
Botswana Development Corporation	Standard Chartered Bank Botswana	0100110107601	Current	662367	Industrial	SCHBBWGXXXX

5. Queries and/ or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed to: Procurement Unit
Email: tenders@bdc.bw
Tel: +267 365 1300
6. Bidders should submit the documents per the submission format prescribed in the Tender Document.
7. Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, BDC is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer, nor incur expenses in the preparation thereof.



ICONIC BUCKET FOR ONE MEETS DUNKED WINGS

KFC turned up the flavour in Botswana this year, bringing its legendary Dunked Sauce to their fan-favourite Streetwise Bucket for One - because nothing beats the Original. For years, KFC has been at the heart of Africa's love affair with Dunked, serving up wings coated in the rich, sticky, sweet-and-spicy sauce that customers can't get enough of. And now, Botswana is giving their fans even more of what they crave by adding the Dunked twist to their iconic Streetwise Bucket for One.

A mini version of the legendary 21-piece bucket, the Streetwise Bucket for One has always been about delivering big enjoyment in a perfectly portioned package. With one juicy piece of KFC chicken, two crispy wings, and a side of golden chips - all packed in the signature bucket. This offering has been a massive hit with customers looking for a great deal without compromising on flavour or experience. And now, KFC is taking it up a notch by bringing their Signature Dunked Sauce into the mix.

Why Dunked? Why Now?

Across Africa, Dunked Wings have been a runaway success, outselling many other menu items and proving that when it comes to bold, irresistible flavour, KFC is in a league of its own. The Dunked Sauce - KFC's own original recipe - has become a staple for wing lovers, and now, KFC is making it even easier to enjoy by including it in one of their consumers most beloved offerings.

The Originals Do It Best

As the pioneers of bold, crave-worthy chicken, KFC is doubling down on what makes them the go-to brand for unbeatable taste. The Bucket for One with Dunked Wings is more than just a meal - it's a statement. It's about authenticity, flavour, and the unmistakable KFC experience that no imitation can match.

So, if you love Dunked, if you love wings, and if you love the unmistakable taste of KFC, you know where to find it - at the home of the Originals.

For media inquiries, please contact Stacey Nsinamwa: stacey@kfcbaobab.com.
For KFC's Online Ordering and Menu: www.kfcbotswana.com

Batswana 'love' death penalty

BAKWADI LEKOPANE
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NOTWITHSTANDING GROWING international criticism, an overwhelming majority of Batswana support the continued use of the death penalty for the most heinous crimes, a new Afrobarometer survey has revealed. The findings from the Afrobarometer survey will spark renewed dialogue on the future of capital punishment in Botswana, with policymakers facing increased pressure from both local constituents and international human rights advocates.

According to the survey outcomes, public sentiment remains firmly in favour of capital punishment, with a significant portion of respondents expressing strong approval for its retention. This comes as human rights organizations and international bodies increasingly call for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide.

More than eight in 10 Batswana (82%) believe that the death penalty is an appropriate form of punishment for the most serious crimes, such as

- Eight in 10 (82%) believe it is an appropriate punishment for serious crimes, such as murder
- Women (86%) and Elderly (85%) more likely to support it than men (77%) and young adults 75%.
- Will Hunam Rights advocate President Duma Boko abolish it



murder. While support for the death penalty is strong across the board, women are more likely to support it than men (86% vs. 77%), as are older citizens compared to the youngest adults (85% vs. 75%).

Almost four in 10 Batswana (38%)

say people "often" or "always" receive unequal treatment by the legal system, while 56% say this "rarely" or "never" happens. Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: The death penalty is a

fair punishment for people who have committed the most serious crimes, such as murder.

Statement 2: There is no crime for which the death penalty can be justified

Respondents were also asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: The death penalty is a fair punishment for people who have committed the most serious crimes, such as murder.

Statement 2: There is no crime for which the death penalty can be justified. According to the Afrobarometer findings, the prevailing view among Batswana is that the death penalty serves as a necessary deterrent for severe crimes, particularly murder. Many respondents argued that abolishing capital punishment would compromise justice for victims and their families.

The protection of human rights has

become a topical issue in Botswana politics, including questions about the legitimacy of the death penalty. On the other hand, neighboring Zimbabwe abolished the death penalty last month (December), leaving Botswana as the only country in the Southern Africa region that still uses the death penalty. Botswana has averaged one execution a year since 2019 and currently has 16 inmates on Death Row.

Critics of the death penalty argue that the law is often applied unequally to different groups in society. In Botswana, a sizeable minority of respondents say that the legal system in general treats people unequally, while a majority say such inequality is rare or non-existent.

While international advocacy groups argue that the death penalty violates human rights and call for its global abolition, Botswana remains among the few African nations maintaining the practice.

US aid cut cripples Botswana NGOs



FROM PAGE 1

far-reaching consequences of the United States government's abrupt decision to suspend aid.

The report shows that the aid suspension has severely impacted funding, contracts, programs, and activities, hitting civil society organizations (CSOs) the hardest, including members of the Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO).

According to the assessment report the aid cut has led to the halting of numerous community outreach initiatives, health programs, and educational projects previously funded by the US. This has left many vulnerable communities without essential services, intensifying socio-economic challenges across the country. Following the US government funding freeze, BOCONGO Secretariat conducted an assessment to evaluate the extent of the impact on CSOs in Botswana including BOCONGO members.

"This funding suspension has had a ripple effect, severely impacting critical services provided by CSOs in various sectors, including healthcare, education, social protection, and democratic governance. Given the important role that CSOs play in the broader national development landscape in Botswana, there is an urgent need for coordinated national response and way forward," says BOCONGO. The result is that many organisations have not only been forced to halt service provision but have also had to lay off staff.

The organisation says it is crucial to engage the Government of Botswana and development partners in a collective effort to address the disruption of critical services and prevent further job losses. The assessment shows that services and programs provided by various CSOs across various sectors have been disrupted, including: key services such as HIV testing, HIV prevention and treatment, viral load suppression, Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), Tuberculosis (TB) screening, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) identification and referral, and gender-based violence clinical response services, youth friendly services interventions, Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS free, Mentored, and Safe (DREAMS) programs, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) care and treatment programs, key population program which focused on addressing the health needs of key populations such as transgender or men who have sex with other men have been severely impacted.

BOCONGO says programs addressing prevention and treatment of gender-based violence, HIV treatment and education, HIV psycho-social support and OVC care and treatment, programs through which OVC are provided with clothing and other emergency support among others have been affected, limiting critical support for vulnerable populations. Affected organisations received funding from the following: PEPFAR, USAID, Centre for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC), Y+Global, Global Fund, and the Embassy of the United States of America in Gaborone, Botswana.

Centres affected and their locations are Sentebele Charity's 19 Ministry of Health sites in Mahalapye, Serowe, Palapye, Boteti, Tutume, Tonota, Lobatse, Selebi Phikwe, Francistown.

Tebelolepele Wellness Centre's 17 sites which are spread across the country have all closed. Stepping Stones International's closed centres in Ngamiling, Bobirwa, Tutume, Serowe, Mahalapye, Southeast, Gaborone, Palapye most of Goodhope, and part of Gantsi, part of Kgatleng.

Others include Botswana Gender Based Violence Prevention and Support Centre (BGBVC)

Gaborone Centre. Nothing Without Us Society's Francistown and Maun Centre; Humana People to People's 13 centres all closed; Success Capital Organisation's 2 centres in Gumare and Gaborone; Bakgatla Bolokang Matshelo centres in Mochudi and it's satellite offices in

Oliphant's drift, Malolwane, Mmathubudukwane, Malotwane and Dikgonyne; Letloa Trust's SHAA health Post and centres in Morama Clinic, Gantsi Clinic, Nxabaie Jankie Clinic, Kuke Health Post, Dkar Health Post, New Xade Clinic closed.

Botswana Christian Health & AIDS Intervention Program's (BOCHAIP) 7 sites in Lobatse, Goodhope, Kanye, Moshupa, Kweneng East (Molepolole), Francistown and Bobonong are all currently closed. Minister's Fraternal's centres in Palapye and surrounding areas have been closed.

BOCONGO recommends that government consider an immediate transfer of clients and their relevant data to the government to ensure continuity; Thus, a system that can facilitate this process needs to be urgently put in place. Further, a consideration should also be made for programs and services that were offered by CSOs and are affected to be transferred to government. Also, for continuity of non-clinical programs and services, explore capacitation of existing structures within the community to implement the programs.

BOCONGO also propose that government consider ways to leverage the skillset and expertise from CSO laid off staff to continue provision of services. In the long term, a consideration should be made to establish an NGO Development Fund to enable NGOs to continue complementing government in implementing national development programs and projects. This could be made possible through the 1% of the national budget that the UDC committed to in their manifesto.

Ultimately, BOCONGO want government to establish portfolio-specific funding, where various ministries allocate funds to NGOs operating within their respective mandates. This will facilitate continuity of services and strengthen collaboration between the government and civil society.

Human-wildlife conflict victims' reprieve

STAFF WRITER
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BOTSWANA IS SET TO REVIEW ITS compensation policies for victims of human-wildlife conflict to better address their needs, a senior official has said. Minister of Environment and Tourism, Wyster Mmolotsi said recently during a meeting in the town of Kasane in northeastern Botswana that while the current compensation framework has provided some relief, it falls short of adequately addressing the challenges faced by those directly affected by wildlife interactions.

He called for a more comprehensive approach to developing effective legal mechanisms that ensure compensation policies would accurately reflect the impact of human-wildlife incidents on affected communities.

Currently, compensation is governed by government-approved guidelines. However, it only covers 35 percent of the market value for damages caused by leopards, cheetahs, wild dogs, rhinoceros, buffalos, crocodiles, and hippopotamuses. In contrast, damages involving elephants and lions are compensated at 100 percent of their value, according to the minister.

Mmolotsi said government is working on strategies to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.

Botswana, home to about 131,000 elephants, allocated around 148 million pula (about 10.7 million U.S. dollars) to a compensation scheme between 2018 and 2023. During this period, 46,132 conflicts were reported across all districts, with elephants accounting for most incidents, including injuries and fatalities, according to data from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

<https://english.news.cn/20250123/10025c5f1bb14c39aab5236c6199a6fa/c.html>

Remove Wareus, Dr Chimbombi told

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THE RULING UMBRELLA FOR Democratic Change (UDC) cadres have called on the Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Micus Chimbombi to remove Kweneng Landboard (KwLB) acting board chairperson, Tshepo Wareus, arguing that she is not suitable to lead the troubled land authority.

Dr Chimbombi recently suspended Kgang Kgang from office and appointed Wareus as the acting chairperson.

Wareus, a well-known Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) staunch supporter and activist, was recently appointed by Dr Chimbombi to act in the position following the suspension of Kgang Kgang, a fellow democrat, decision which has incensed the community.

In an interview last week, a representative of the concerned residents and former 2019 Umbrella



Chimbombi

for Democratic Change (UDC) parliamentary candidate for Gabane-Mmankodi, Moreetsi Gomang said Wareus lacks institutional memory on recent Kweneng Landboard issues. Gomang said the ministry should have instead appointed the incumbent deputy board chairperson, Daphney Champane.

"Also, our biggest concern is that Kgang is still chairperson on suspension with full payment. This means a duplicate role attracting double spending on two people holding the same office while government decries lack of funds," complained Gomang.

Gomang said the UDC cadres in Kweneng district are against the appointment of Wareus, a former ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) activist who is being recycled in the landboard. UDC structures in Kweneng are unhappy over Wareus' appointment and have appealed to Dr Chimbombi to reverse it because the ruling party has capable cadres who can lead the troubled landboard.

Contacted for a comment on Friday last week, Dr Chimbombi briefly said he was still on leave and was not aware of plans to petition him over the KwLB leadership disputes. He promised to follow up when he reports back to work. UDC followers and some

members of the public have made repeated calls for the removal of BDP appointed landboard officials, arguing that those were partisan rewards for their activism. Therefore, those holding office cannot serve the interests of the new government, they argue.

However, president Advocate Duma Boko reiterated that his administration would not fire any civil servant because of their alleged political affiliation, highlighting that the UDC government represents the interests of all Batswana.

Boko recently during cabinet orientation workshop in Gaborone cautioned his cabinet ministers not to frustrate civil servants, particularly those occupying senior positions, by accusing them of being BDP cadres out to sabotage the UDC government. It is alleged that cabinet ministers do not see eye to eye with some of senior civil servants, with the latter accused of sabotaging government initiatives.

Overhaul WUC F/town supply pipes

AMANDA DAVID
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FOR MANY YEARS THE CITY OF Francistown has been experiencing pipe bursts and leaks all around the city due to ancient pipes still being used from decades ago. The city's leadership expressed their concerns over the issue recently in Francistown in a meeting with the Minister of Water and Human Settlements, Onneetse Ramogapi and Water Utilities Corporation (WUC).

City of Francistown Mayor, Gaone Majere told the minister that the development and prosperity of Francistown is heavily dependent on his ministry's quality service delivery, emphasising that the availability of water is the livelihood of the community and a fundamental aspect of the city's economic growth.

Majere called upon the minister and his ministry to prioritize investment in water infrastructure as it is now public knowledge that the water pipes in and around the city are leaking on a daily basis. The mayor went on to acknowledge that though he understands that there are financial challenges in



Ramogapi

speeding up the replacement and maintenance of pipes in the city, he however emphasized the urgency of the matter to ensure that agricultural productivity, improved quality of life are attained, adding that industries and households within the city rely heavily on the ministry's consistent and reliable water supply by WUC.

Simisani Ramaotwana, the chairperson of the Umbrella Ward Development Committee (WDC) shared the same sentiments with the mayor, Ramaotwana pointed out that the drainage system in Francistown is below par, and that drains are leaking everywhere around the city daily. Additionally Ramaotwana observed that with the recent heavy rainfall that swept through the country, the drainage situation has worsened in Francistown, adding

that children are more at risk because they are exposed to sewage waste water that is flowing on the streets as they wander around.

"We have to come to terms with the fact that the current water and sewage infrastructure in the city are outdated and can no longer handle the growing capacity of the city," he added.

He further pleaded with the minister to ensure prompt response by the WUC team in Francistown, highlighting that it is now norm for the corporation to take time to respond to reports of leaks around the city which results in water going to waste. Ramaotwana further emphasised the need for change in how things are done adding that batswana are expecting better service delivery with the new government.

In response to the concerns raised, Ramogapi acknowledged that he was made aware of the pipe bursting situation in Francistown when he got into the ministerial office. He also added that he is aware that the corporation receives reports of burst pipes on a daily basis, Ramogapi attributed the leaks to pipes that were installed around the 70s which are now outdated. He however

noted that in efforts to rectify the issue; WUC is still seeking funds to maintain and replace the water supply pipes in the city. The minister further attributed the lack of funds to replace infrastructure around the city to WUC clients owing the corporation millions. Ramogapi revealed that currently WUC is owed P177 million in Francistown alone.

"If you would pay us, we would be able to fix all the leaking pipes in Francistown. There are some people and entities who just refuse to pay us deliberately, even government departments. We understand that government has no money, but they need to find a way to pay us so that we can achieve our mandate as a ministry," he added.

Of the 177-water bill in the city, the government alone is owing a total of P103 million, the business community owes WUC P22 million whereas Francistown City Council owes P3 million and the residential bill for Francistown stands at P50 million. Ramogapi further noted that he would not shy away from telling Batswana the painful truth like many politicians do, and further encouraged batswana to pay their water bill or face being disconnected.

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Funding the Future: Allocating Budget for Curriculum Reform and Nutrition in Schools



LAGAGO TAMOCHA*
**EDUCATING
THE 21ST CENTURY
LEARNER**

IN THE 2025/2026 BUDGET, THE Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education has been allocated P11.86 billion, with a significant portion dedicated to procuring food supplies for health facilities and primary schools from local farmers. This initiative aligns with the Home-Grown School Feeding Framework, aiming to bolster local economic development while ensuring students receive adequate nutrition. The importance of such nutrition and feeding programs in schools, especially in rural areas, cannot be overstated, as they play a crucial role in student retention and bridging the urban-rural achievement gap. However, while nutrition is vital, an equally pressing issue is the need for curriculum reform to fully implement Outcome-Based Education (OBE). If Botswana is to truly invest in its students' futures, a portion of this budget must be dedicated to ensuring OBE is effectively rolled out.

The Promise and Challenges of Outcome-Based Education

OBE focuses on equipping students

with specific skills and competencies, moving away from rote memorisation. It encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and adaptability—qualities necessary for today's job market. However, despite its introduction, OBE has yet to be fully realised due to challenges such as inadequate teacher training, unclear assessment methods, and resource constraints.

Many educators lack sufficient training to implement OBE effectively. While workshops have been conducted, practical application remains a challenge, with some teachers defaulting to traditional teaching methods. Additionally, there is no standardised system for measuring competency-based learning, creating confusion among both teachers and students. Further, the lack of proper infrastructure—such as interactive teaching aids and digital resources—has left many rural schools struggling to implement OBE in a meaningful way.

To address these challenges, a portion of the education budget should be allocated specifically for curriculum reform. This would ensure structured teacher training, the development of clear assessment frameworks, and investment in educational resources, particularly for underfunded rural schools.

The Critical Role of Nutrition in Education

Adequate nutrition is fundamental to a child's cognitive development and academic performance. Research shows that proper nutrition enhances students' ability to learn, reduces absenteeism, and

improves behaviour, leading to fewer classroom disruptions. A review by the Wilder Foundation found that access to nutrition improves students' cognition, concentration, and energy levels.

Conversely, nutritional deficiencies—particularly in essential nutrients like zinc, B vitamins, Omega-3 fatty acids, and protein—can negatively impact learning and memory. Studies have found that diets high in trans and saturated fats may impair cognitive function, further highlighting the need for well-balanced school meals.

School Feeding Programs and Educational Outcomes

School feeding programs have been proven to improve attendance and retention, particularly in rural and impoverished areas with an increase in attendance rates among primary school students in low-income countries.

Beyond providing nutrition, school feeding programs incentivise education for families facing economic hardship. By ensuring that children receive at least one nutritious meal per day at school, these programs reduce short-term hunger and encourage consistent school attendance—critical for academic success.

Bridging the Urban-Rural Achievement Gap

Educational disparities between urban and rural students remain a concern, with rural learners often experiencing food insecurity, which directly affects academic performance and increases dropout rates. Strengthening school feeding programs in rural areas can help mitigate these issues by ensuring that students have the cognitive

support necessary for learning.

Additionally, sourcing food supplies from local farmers, as outlined in the Home-Grown School Feeding Framework, not only ensures fresh and culturally appropriate meals but also stimulates the local economy. This community-driven approach fosters greater involvement in education and creates a sustainable model that benefits both students and their communities.

Investing in a Balanced Approach

The government's commitment to nutrition through the Home-Grown School Feeding Framework is commendable, but education reform must be given equal priority. A balanced approach—where funding is allocated both to school feeding programs and curriculum reform—would provide students with the cognitive and academic tools they need to thrive.

To fully implement OBE, dedicated funding should be used for comprehensive teacher training, infrastructure development, and clear assessment strategies. Meanwhile, the continued investment in school nutrition will ensure that students are physically and mentally prepared to absorb and apply the knowledge they receive. Botswana has taken a step in the right direction by prioritising student well-being through nutrition and provision of free sanitary pads to girls to fight period poverty. Now, a similar commitment is needed for curriculum reform to ensure that education is not just about keeping students in school but equipping them with the skills they need to succeed in life.

Democratization of Technology crucial for Development



DEBNATH SHAW*

TECHNOLOGY IS AN IMPORTANT factor for global development.

Development is a core issue for the Global South, many of whose members are being left behind in achieving their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The key factors behind this unequal state of affairs are technology, finance and information. Thomas Friedman has argued, that the era of globalisation has been characterized by democratization of technology, finance and information (*The World is Flat*, 2004). However, with the pace of globalization slowing down, particularly since the Covid pandemic, democratization of technology too has taken a hit.

Democratization of technology refers to the process by which access to technology progressively become more easily available to more people at reasonable cost. Historically, the printing press is the earliest recorded instance of technology opening new frontiers of knowledge dissemination, leading to empowerment of a greater number of people. Since the mid-1990s, the internet has been the prime vehicle of universal democratization of knowledge and information.

The effects of democratization of technology have been dramatic, more so with digitization. New technologies and improved user experiences have empowered those outside of the technology industry to access and use technological products and services. In India, think - UPI, mobile banking WhatsApp, X, etc. - tools being used regularly by the country's 900 million mobile phones users, mostly connected to the internet, including a vast user base in rural areas. The 'open source' model allows users to participate directly in development of software. Upgrades in communication technology have made the globe more interconnected than ever.

Democratization of technology has helped 'the last person in the queue' to access public services with ease and reduced corruption, get timely access to relief when hit by natural disasters, and useful and reliable information allowing meaningful participation in the democratic process. It has made markets more broad-based and diversified and consumers are able to use complex technological products without the guidance of qualified professionals. Such job categories have taken a hit, a situation whose downward spiral is being perpetuated by developments in artificial intelligence and machine learning technology.

However, we should not lose sight of the challenges faced by democratization of technology, which is hampered by the slow pace of digitization and infrastructure gaps, particularly in developing countries. Gender and social inequities restricting access to and use of technology, and the data divide, too needs to be addressed. Cyber security and data privacy concerns are felt at all levels. What is comforting is that both governments and technology-driven companies are addressing these concerns, while moving ahead with their programmes to harness technology for the benefit of the masses.

In India, the democratization of

technology is manifested in some remarkable programmes which have changed the lives of millions. The prime example is the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), part of the 'India Stack', which operates digital identification, payments and data management. The Common Service Centres (CSC) are the access points for delivery of government to citizen (G2C) e-services, within reach of citizens by creating nation-wide physical service delivery ICT infrastructure. The Namo Drone Didi initiative has many goals, including addressing gender inequality issues, empowerment and pride among women, modernization of agricultural practices, and substantial income to the rural women folk. The two hundred thousand Aayushman Aarogya Mandirs in India's villages directly connect health centres with the best hospitals and modern technology, bringing professional medical expertise and services, largely concentrated in urban areas, to rural India. The India AI Mission or 'AI for All' is aimed at the democratization of the benefits of AI across all strata of society.

A key issue, particularly for the Global South, which has been pursued vigorously by India, is the growing gap between developed and developing countries in the access and endogenous production and development of climate technologies. This has been a key constraint on collective progress in global efforts to achieve sustainable development and effective climate action under UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Developing countries view technology transfer and capacity building as the key to reducing the technology and wealth gap. Both climate mitigation and adaption require huge funding transfers from developed countries as per past commitments. Unfortunately, even at COP29 in Baku last year, the level of funding pledged was nowhere near the level required to achieve set goals. There have been repeated calls for enhanced international cooperation arrangements, through reform of existing WTO mandated trade rules, to permit developing countries to protect emerging green industries through tariffs, subsidies and public procurement.

The ray of hope in the horizon is that industries driven by frontier technologies like blockchain, drones, gene editing, nano technology, electric vehicles, solar and wind energy and green hydrogen could create a market of over \$ 9.5 billion by 2030 (UNCTAD estimate). Some developing and emerging economies like India have made important policy changes to seize some of the opportunities in these sectors. It is hoped that with increasing democratization of technology and effective partnership between developed and developing countries, mankind's development goals will be reached sooner than later.

*Debnath Shaw, (IFS 1984, Retd.), former High Commissioner to Tanzania and Ambassador to Azerbaijan. Served in Indian Missions in Hong Kong, Beijing (twice), Bonn and Dhaka and at Headquarters in various positions. Seconded to Ministry of Defence as JS (PIC) 2005-07. Visiting Fellow at CSIS, Washington DC 2004-05.



APPOINTMENT: DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF BANK OF BOTSWANA

6 February 2025

The President of the Republic of Botswana, President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, has appointed Mr Lesego Caster Moseki to the position of Deputy Governor of the Bank of Botswana, for a term of five years with effect from 1 February 2025.



Mr Lesego Caster Moseki

The appointment of Mr Moseki is in accordance with the requirements of Section 13 of the Bank of Botswana Act, Cap 55:01 as read with Bank of Botswana (Amendment) Act, 2022, that empowers the President, in consultation with the Minister of Finance, to appoint a Deputy Governor of the Bank, who shall be a person of recognised experience in economics

and financial matters. The Deputy Governor's appointment is for a term not exceeding five years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further term not exceeding five years.

Mr. Moseki joined the Bank in September 1994 as an Assistant Supervisor working in the Foreign Exchange Reserves Management Unit of the Bank. He rose through the ranks to Director of the Financial Markets Department effective September 2020.

Mr Moseki holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Botswana, an Associate Diploma in Banking 1 and 2 from the then Institute of Bankers (now Botswana Institute of Banking and Finance) and a Master of Science in Money, Banking, and Finance from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, obtained in 1994, 1996, and 1998, respectively. He has attended several professional courses and seminars in central banking, leadership (Oxford Said Business School), foreign exchange reserves management, and financial markets.

The Bank of Botswana Board, Management, and Staff congratulate Mr Lesego Caster Moseki on his appointment and look forward to his valuable contributions towards organisational leadership of the Bank and attainment of its mandate (including price stability and safeguarding integrity of the financial and payments systems).

For further information, please contact, Dr. Seamogano Mosanako. Head of Communications and Information Services, at mosanakos@bob.bw, +267 360 6083, 360 6382 and 360 6315 or visit the Bank website at www.bankofbotswana.bw

Development Manager Series

THE DM MODEL – A Misfit for Botswana? Article 3

THE DEVELOPMENT Manager Model (DMM) has been introduced in Botswana as a new approach to implementing “large-scale” infrastructure projects. However, in the context of Botswana, there really were no many of these big projects, so smaller projects were lumped up together so that the project values were increased so they could qualify as big projects. That being said, the adoption of the DMM has sparked significant debate within the industry. While some argue that the model enhances project oversight and efficiency, others question whether it was necessary, especially given concerns that it has excluded several most of the local consultants and contractors. Furthermore, concerns linger about the contract used in the DM framework, which was not a standard international Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contract but rather a bespoke agreement with limited legal precedent. There remain many unanswered questions about the suitability of this model for procuring services and whether it aligns with Botswana’s

development priorities and legislative framework. Understanding the Development Manager Model The DM model is generally beneficial in certain project contexts, mostly private, particularly where a single entity oversees an entire development from planning to post-construction. Some of the ideal scenarios for its use include: Large-Scale or Mixed-Use Developments – When projects incorporate diverse elements such as retail, industrial, and commercial spaces, the DM’s ability to coordinate multiple stakeholders and disciplines is advantageous. Clients with Limited Built-Environment Experience – Private investors, institutions, or organizations unfamiliar with construction benefit from a DM’s expertise in project execution and risk management. This is not the case in Botswana public works, government has full compliance of professionals from Facilities Managers, Architects, Engineers and Planners. Multi-Phase Projects – Long-term projects, such as master-planned communities

or complex infrastructure developments, require phased execution strategies, where the DM model offers structured coordination. Also this does not apply because these are mostly standard buildings like primary schools, clinics, small office blocks and hospitals. High-Risk Projects – Projects involving significant financial exposure and market risks gain from the DM’s capabilities in financial planning, market analysis, and mitigation strategies. While these benefits are clear from a conceptual standpoint, Botswana’s application of the DM model raises several concerns that suggest it may not have been the most suitable approach. Challenges and Risks in Implementing the Development Manager Model in Botswana Despite its potential advantages particularly in the private sector, the DM model has introduced several challenges in Botswana’s construction industry, raising concerns about financial risks, lack of transparency, and the exclusion of local professionals. 1. Prototype/Bespoke Contract

The contract between the Government of Botswana (GoB) and the DM is a “Bespoke” New Contract, meaning it has never been used before and does not necessarily align with international best practices. The risks associated with this include: Unproven Legal Framework – The contract lacks a track record, making it difficult to predict legal or financial outcomes. Lack of PPRA Approval – The agreement has not been sanctioned by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), raising questions about its compliance with procurement regulations. High Financial Stakes – With billions of pula at stake, an untested contract should have been piloted on a smaller scale before full implementation. 2. Higher Upfront Costs The narrative when introducing DM model was that it will save costs, clearly this is not the case. Instead it has resulted on inflated project costs on the pretext that the DMs were transferring risk from the government to the themselves, DM, and its subcontractors. This “risk” was

never spelt out considering none of these projects are themselves complete in nature. The narrative, however, is that price escalation stems from the following: The DM factoring in risk-related costs in project pricing. Projects potentially exceeding conventional implementation costs. Limited guarantees of timely delivery, particularly within the Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP). 3. Inequitable Distribution of Projects Only nine DM firms were appointed to implement projects worth P27 billion, leading to concerns over: Limited Participation from Local Contractors – Many private sector players were effectively sidelined. Unclear Procurement Processes – The DM model does not promote competitive bidding, potentially favoring direct appointments. Inadequate Insurance Considerations – High Professional Indemnity (PI) insurance requirements may limit smaller firms from participating. 4. Potential for Conflicts of

Interest The contracts between GoB and the DMs do not mandate the inclusion of local consultants outside the DM’s consortium. This raise concerns such as: Self-Dealing – The DM can prioritize subcontractors within its network, limiting broader industry participation. Reduced Oversight – The DM’s dual role as both consultant and contractor could compromise independent decision-making. 5. Disregard for Professional Registration Requirements A significant concern is that the DM model has largely been implemented by foreign companies, sidelining Botswana’s local professional regulatory requirements. This has led to: Exclusion of Local Talent – Many registered professionals in Botswana have been overlooked in favor of international firms. Non-Compliance with Local Accreditation Standards – Regulatory bodies have not been given a clear role in ensuring professional compliance. Weighing the Pros and Cons of the Development Manager

Model The DM model, when applied correctly especially on private works, can deliver structured oversight and risk mitigation. However, in Botswana, its implementation raises more questions than answers. Pros: Streamlined project management for complex developments. Comprehensive oversight reduces the burden on inexperienced clients. Market-driven approach aligns projects with financial realities. Risk transfer to the DM can reduce client exposure. Cons: High upfront costs increase the financial burden on government. Lack of transparent procurement may disadvantage local firms. Legal uncertainties surrounding the bespoke contract. Potential exclusion of local professionals from key projects. Limited guarantees of project efficiency and timely delivery. Final Thoughts: Was the DM Model the Right Choice for Botswana?

While the DM model has theoretical advantages, its implementation in Botswana has been met with justified scepticism. As the debate continues, industry professionals and policymakers must carefully assess whether this model serves the best interests of Botswana’s infrastructure development goals or whether alternative approaches should be considered. The bespoke contract used remains untested and the procurement process has been questioned. The lack of inclusion of local industry players and the high-cost implications, raise concerns about whether the model was necessary or if it was prematurely adopted without a thorough feasibility study. The fundamental question remains: Was this model necessary for Botswana’s infrastructure projects? A more inclusive, transparent, and phased approach might have been a better strategy to ensure that the country’s construction industry benefits as a whole. Without addressing these concerns, the DM model will remain a liability than a solution.

Boko in SADC vs Kenya dilemma

FROM PAGE 1

implications for Botswana’s foreign policy and regional alliances. As the February vote approaches, all eyes are on President Boko to see which way Botswana will lean. The AUC chairmanship is a crucial role influencing policy direction and political unity within the African Union, making this a high-stakes decision for the continent’s future. Reports indicate that the February 2025 elections will see Odinga competing against Djibouti’s Foreign Affairs Minister, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, and Madagascar’s former Foreign Affairs Minister, Richard James Randriamandrato. Odinga recently paid Boko a courtesy call at the Office of the President in Gaborone. The visit was for the two leaders to discuss Odinga’s candidature for the position of African Union (AU) commission chair. AU will hold elections summit scheduled for 15 to 16 February. In a letter addressed to SADC member states titled “CANDIDATE FROM THE SADC REGION FOR THE POSITION OF



Madagascar’s former Foreign Affairs Minister, Richard James Randriamandrato



Kenya’s Raila Odinga

African Union Commission and provide further guidance on the way forward and on the best strategy to be adopted once the Panel of Eminent Africans finalises its shortlisting; and encouraged all Member States to offer support to the shortlisted candidates from the SADC region for the different posts of the Senior Leadership of the African Union Commission.” He said Madagascar and Mauritius had, in the August 2024 Council, submitted a candidate each for the position of Chairperson of the African Union Commission, namely Richard J. Randriamandrato and Anil Kumarsingh Gayan, respectively. “We have since learnt that Mauritius has withdrawn her candidature, leaving Madagascar as the only Member State from the SADC region to compete for the position,” said Magosi. He added that “I write to notify you, Honourable Minister, that Honourable Richard J. RANDRIAMANDRATO, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar, has been

shortlisted as the only candidate from the SADC region for the position of Chairperson of the African Union Commission. In this regard, the Republic of Madagascar has written to the Secretariat formally seeking support of SADC Member States for its candidate,” said Magosi. He said in consultation with the Chairperson of Council and given the short time before the election of the Chairperson, there is no need to convene an Extraordinary Council of Ministers to consider the request from Madagascar. “A letter from the Secretariat seeking SADC Member States’ support for Madagascar’s candidature should suffice. This letter, therefore, serves to encourage SADC Member States to support Mr. Richard J. RANDRIAMANDRATO, a candidate from our region, for the position of the AUC Chairperson during the upcoming elections of Senior Leadership of the African Union Commission, in line with the August 2024 Council decision stated above,” said Magosi.

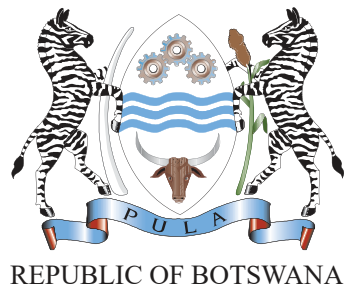
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION,” Magosi

states that “ You may wish to recall that, at its meeting held in August 2024 in Harare,

Zimbabwe, Council directed the SADC Committee of Ambassadors in Addis

Ababa, in collaboration with the Office of the Permanent Representative to the African

Union, to closely monitor the process of the Election of Senior Leadership of the



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA ETHICS AND INTEGRITY DIRECTORATE

IS IT NECESSARY TO DECLARE VEHICLES THAT ARE CURRENTLY NOT IN USE, DAMAGED OR BOARDED?

Yes. It is necessary to declare vehicles that are not in use, damaged or boarded as they are still considered assets, thus carry minimum degree of value.



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India's Growth Story: Democracy, Development, Demand & Decisiveness

ASHOK SAJJANHAR*

INDIA'S MULTI-FACETED PROGRESS AND growth, particularly over the last decade, has been truly remarkable setting it in a highly promising position to achieve its aspirational goal of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047 when it celebrates the centenary of its independence.

In 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spearheaded the victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to win an absolute majority in the Parliamentary elections, the first time that a single party had won outright majority on its own since the last 30 years. He repeated the feat with an even larger majority in the elections in 2019. In 2024, when the whole world witnessed a wave of anti-incumbency, PM Modi again rode back to victory convincingly for the third consecutive term with the support of BJP's alliance partners. Following the Parliamentary elections, BJP and its partners decisively won elections to state legislatures in major states like Maharashtra and Haryana thereby emphatically

demonstrating its irrefutable support amongst the common people. Democracy has been India's undeniable strength and leitmotif since independence which has stood it in great stead to achieve a peaceful, stable, secure and better life for its people.

The last decade has also witnessed impressive growth in India's economic expansion and rise. In 2014, India was the tenth largest economy in the world. Today it has climbed five places to become the fifth largest economy in the world. In another two years it is expected to move up to the third place by displacing Germany and Japan from their positions. India is today the fastest growing major economy in the world its GDP having risen by 8.2% and 6.4% in Financial Years 2022 and 2023 respectively. The projected figure for FY 2024 is 6.6%. It is expected to grow at impressive rates in the coming years and become a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2030. Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund has stated that India is the ray of hope in an otherwise gloomy global economic environment.

Nearly 70% of India's GDP is driven

by domestic demand and private consumption. Its GDP is additionally fueled by government spending, investments and exports. This has been achieved through various structural reforms like the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. The GST streamlined the indirect tax system, fostering business ease and tax compliance. Additionally, emphasis on digitalization (including the Digital Public Infrastructure) and innovation led to the rise of startups and expanded the digital economy, with initiatives like Digital India enhancing technology access. Initiatives such as Make in India and Product Linked Incentive Scheme have been pivotal in driving growth. Furthermore, the focus on renewable energy underscores India's commitment to sustainable development.

India enjoys a huge demographic dividend supporting its economic rise. About 65% of its population is below the age of 35 years with just about 5% being above 65 years. The median age is around 28 years which is much lower than the median age of other major economies like the United States and China. While the whole world

is ageing and graying, India looks forward to its young population adding to its consumption and production and spurring its economic growth to new heights. India is home to more than 600 million people aged between 18 and 35 years. India's demographic dividend is expected to persist at least until 2055-56 and will peak around 2041, when the share of the working-age population — 20-59 years — is expected to hit 59%. It is an opportunity which India is fully determined to harness.

India's ambitions to become a global manufacturing hub and a technology leader are closely linked to the upskilling of its workers. Progress is already underway, as nearly 10 million youth are benefitting from the Skill India program annually. Getting more women to enter the workforce is pivotal for India's future growth. India is working assiduously to achieve this objective.

In the arena of foreign relations, India has pursued a bold, pro-active and confident policy.

In its ties with the United States, it has "overcome the hesitations of history" and

is fostering a "Partnership of Trust." US is India's largest trading partner in goods and services, and the second largest supplier of sophisticated defence equipment. India and the US engage in around 60 substantive Dialogue Mechanisms spanning all conceivable areas of human endeavor including technology, cyber-security, energy, health, education, security etc.

India has maintained its time-tested and substantial ties with Russia by importing significant quantities of Russian oil, and not directly criticizing or condemning it for its attack against Ukraine.

India has stood steadfast against the aggressive and expansionist policies of China. It has followed a policy of "Neighborhood First" and strategic patience, and extended non-reciprocal, generous support to its neighboring countries in times of need and for their

economic development. Its Outreach to the Global South, particularly by supplying more than 300 million Covid-19 vaccines, most of them gratis, to above 100 countries, has exemplified its role as a "VishwaBandhu" (Friend to the World).

India's robust economic growth and assertive pursuit of its interests and foreign policy over the last decade has enhanced its global prestige and imbued its people with hope and confidence in attaining its goal of becoming a peaceful, prosperous and developed country by the time it marks hundred years of its independence in 1947.

**Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar has worked for the Indian Foreign Service for over three decades. He was the Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden and Latvia, and has worked in diplomatic positions in Washington DC, Brussels Dhaka and Bangkok, among other nations.*

A Green Planet – India leading the way



MANJEEV SINGH PURI AND SHAILLY KEDIA*

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A DEFINING challenge of our times but as the world hurtles toward an escalating climate crisis, India is stepping into a global leadership role to tackle climate change. Armed with a combination of ambition, innovation, and soft power diplomacy, the country has not only set bold climate commitments but has also delivered on them, emerging as a credible leader on the global stage. India's efforts, grounded in both action and equity, stand as a compelling narrative of how developing countries can balance climate responsibility with economic growth.

Climate Commitments and Credibility At 2 tonnes, India's per-capita carbon footprint is the lowest among G20 countries, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has recognised India as the only G20 economy aligned with the 2°C target. India is the world's largest country in terms of population, comprising around 18% of the global population. It is also the fifth largest economy in the world, on its way to becoming the third largest economy by 2030. Yet, India accounts for only 3.4% of cumulative emissions.

India's climate commitments are ambitious and measurable, providing a benchmark for others to follow. In 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a five-point action plan, or Panchamrit, at the UNFCCC meeting in Glasgow. This included a pledge to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, install 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, and ensure that 50% of India's energy needs come from renewable sources by the same year.

India is well on its way to meeting these goals. Between 2005 and 2020, India reduced its emission intensity of GDP by 36%, demonstrating a rare ability to decouple economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions. More than 46% of India's installed electricity generation capacity comes from non-fossil fuel sources, with renewable energy capacity—including large hydropower—reaching 203.22 GW. Forest and tree cover now span 25.17% of India's land, with an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent created between 2005 and 2021.

Soft Power Diplomacy: Building Global Alliances

India's climate leadership is not confined to domestic achievements. The country has harnessed its soft power to create and lead global coalitions addressing critical aspects of climate resilience, energy transition, and sustainability. These initiatives, often operating outside formal UNFCCC negotiations, amplify India's efforts to foster collaborative solutions.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA), launched by India in 2015, exemplifies this leadership. By uniting 104 member countries and 16 signatory countries, primarily in the Global South, the ISA seeks to make solar energy a central solution for sustainable development. Its focus on reducing dependence on fossil fuels and promoting technology transfer has cemented India's role as a champion of

equitable energy transitions. Similarly, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), initiated in 2019, addresses the growing vulnerability of infrastructure to climate risks. With 41 member countries and seven organisations, it promotes resilience through practical solutions—a crucial agenda in an era of frequent and devastating climate-induced disasters.

In 2023, during its G20 presidency, India launched the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) to accelerate the global adoption of biofuels. With 24 member countries and 12 international organisations, the GBA champions sustainable energy alternatives that reduce emissions while bolstering energy security.

The Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT), co-founded in 2019, is yet another initiative aimed at decarbonising hard-to-abate industrial sectors. Its 37 members, including countries and corporations, work collaboratively to achieve net-zero emissions in industries like steel and cement by 2050.

India's Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) further underscores its commitment to behavioural change at both individual and community levels. By encouraging sustainable consumption and production practices, India is not only addressing emissions but also promoting a shift in global attitudes toward environmental stewardship. India's presidency of the G20 also saw the launch of the Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC), an initiative with 39 founding member companies aimed at reducing resource extraction and waste. This focus on circular economies is complemented by domestic efforts such as a green credits programme, right-to-repair initiatives, and updated eco-mark regulations.

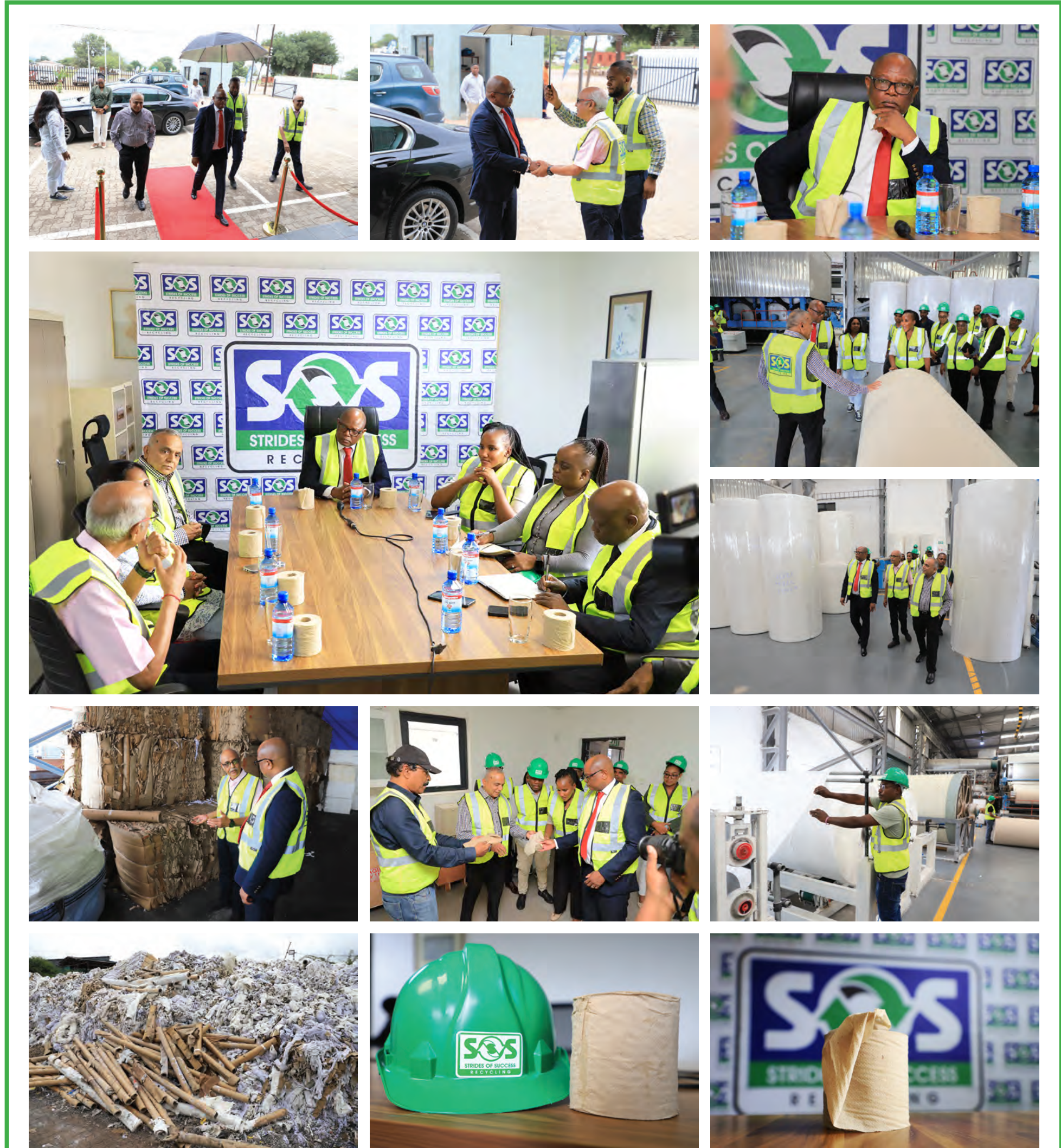
A Blueprint for Global South Leadership India unites countries around shared goals to deliver actionable frameworks addressing real-world challenges. By championing inclusive alliances, India empowers developing countries to participate as equal partners in the global climate dialogue.

With countries in the Global South disproportionately bearing the brunt of climate impacts despite contributing minimally to global emissions, India's efforts also demonstrate that leadership in climate action is not determined by wealth but by vision and resolve.

In a world where trust in multilateralism is eroding, India's ability to bring diverse stakeholders together offers a model for a cooperative, equitable, and sustainable future. As the sun rises on a new chapter in global climate action, India is lighting the way. It is not merely a participant in the global climate dialogue—it is shaping its trajectory. This is leadership by inspiration.

**Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Former Ambassador of India to EU & Lead Negotiator at UNFCCC; Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi*

**Shailly Kedia (Senior Fellow and Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi)*



STRIDES OF SUCCESS LAUNCH BROWN TISSUE PAPER

• Intensify investment in green energy, environmental conservation

The Minister of Environment and Tourism, Honourable Wynter Mmolotsi has applauded Strides of Success - a wastepaper recycling company based in Nkoyaphiri (Mogoditshane Industrial), for playing an active role in environmental conservation.

Strides of Success is a paper and pulp manufacturing plant that converts white paper in to tissue paper products and Kraft Paper into packaging paper products. The pulp and paper manufacturing plant recycles wastepaper, which they buy from locals, into usable material in the form of tissue paper and tissue rolls. The company recently launched brown toilet paper manufactured from waste cardboard boxes and paper they collect from members of the public.

According to the promoters of the business, Choppies

Group Chief Executive Officer, Ramchandran Ottaphathu the company will soon increase their product range by manufacturing kraft paper and egg trays. This process will result in massive reduction of the impact of paper carbon prints, thereby, conserving the environment, he said.

Ottaphathu also announced that although the Nkoyaphiri Strides of Success waste paper recycling plant currently uses a lot of electricity supplied by Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) national grid, they will in future venture into solar energy.

To demonstrate commitment to transitioning to green energy, Ottaphathu revealed that Choppies Group has already installed solar panels producing one (1) megawatts of electricity for some of their operations in Gaborone

International Commerce Park and is looking into producing an additional 3.6 megawatts for other operations.

Speaking during a tour of the Strides of Success manufacturing plant on Thursday, Honourable Mmolotsi said their operations are a welcome approach as they align with the aspirations of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government. He emphasized the use of solar energy, pointing out that Botswana has a lot of sun and should utilize it because solar energy is cheaper and environmentally friendly. "We are very happy, that is the direction we want to take because that is where the world is going," he said.

Established in March 2022, the Nkoyaphiri Strides of Success recycling plant was officially opened by former President of Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi in September 2023.

Opinions, Reviews & Analysis

From opposition to government, UDC feels the heat



ADAM PHETLHE
ON SUNDAY!

AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, THE Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) finds itself in unfamiliar territory of having to defend positions it passionately and vigorously held while in opposition. The UDC behaves like a political party that was caught off-guard by winning the 2024 general election.

Only horse-trading inside the coalition can convincingly explain the staggered appointment of cabinet ministers given that the bulk of appointees (save for six Specially Elected Members of Parliament) were directly elected Members of Parliament on 30th October 2024. The heat is aptly captured by the African National Congress (ANC) 2nd Deputy Secretary General Nomvula Mokonyane when she addressed the Botswana National Front (BNF) Women's League gala dinner recently where she said "criticising is easy, governing is hard. Running a successful election



UDC members in parliament

campaign and winning elections is also very different from governing successfully. Whilst criticising government is easier from the outside, once in power, the responsibility becomes significantly heavier, especially in a society facing serious socio-economic challenges."

The heat, once in government, is generated by the overpromising strategy political parties make during election campaigns. This strategy falls short down the road as reality sinks in with overambitious promises failing to materialise. It is becoming increasingly

difficult for the UDC to demonstrate the ability to deliver on the ambitious promises owing largely to lack of financial resources. While promises were good to the voters' ear, the reality is that our economy is, and has been in bad shape for a while. It was no secret at least in the last year of the 12th

Parliament that government coffers were in bad shape to sustain the economy. It will be disingenuous for any political party to claim ignorance to this fact.

The UDC and Botswana Congress Party (BCP) criticised the unfair way judges are appointed in the administration of justice. An opportunity for the appointment of Chief Justice presented itself, which the UDC president – Advocate Duma Boko should have used to walk the talk but failed. He could have introduced a transparent and competitive process but didn't. Other senior appointments have been made through processes reminiscent of the old order. It is not clear when and for which positions competitive and transparent processes will be adopted. The UDC, while in opposition, was vocal against corruption. It still does so as the party in government. The expectation was that corruption, particularly involving those holding high office, would be dealt with decisively as and when such emerged. Corruption allegations have been levelled against Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe regarding the P 1.3 m payment from Capital Management Botswana (CMB). The BCP has reported Gaolathe to the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) and Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA). It does not augur well for the new Botswana government who preach strict accountability and integrity to be saddled with an allegation of corruption against the Vice President. Neither the office of the Vice President or the UDC have commented on

this issue suggesting that they do not treat the matter with the urgency it deserves.

As the focus firmly shifts to the UDC in terms of transitioning from an opposition party to a party in government, such somewhat, puts a burden of sorts on it to adhere to the principles it eloquently espoused while still on the other side of the aisle. But the sad reality is that given the fact that it would be new in government with no attendant experience and expertise, it would be impossible to fire all the top senior public officers it inherited from the BDP. Otherwise, government would in large measure collapse.

The heat on the UDC is generated not only by the reality that what it promised to change while on opposition benches is completely different from that which obtains in the operations of government. To lessen the heat, the UDC will do well to make use of the low hanging fruits like being seen to appoint senior public officers through a competitive and transparent process which will demonstrate to all and sundry that government is not promoting a jobs-for-pals scheme or cadre deployment; keeping the nation fully informed about the various promised financial benefits and so on; playing open cards about the Vice President's CMB matter. The UDC will do well to capitalise on the current goodwill of citizens after ousting the BDP.

I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!
adamphetlhe08@gmail.com

Reflection: marriage is a mystery, untold truth!

DEAR EDITOR

THE LATEST REPORTS ABOUT THE DECLINE of new marriages in Botswana by 15.1 percent from 2022 to 2023 according to Statistics Botswana Marriages Report is something that needs to be scrutinized from a spiritual point of view. Can we claim that divorce is a contributing factor to this decline of new marriages because according to the Ministry of Immigration, and Gender Affairs divorce rate hovers around 43-46 percent for first time marriages. There is a great deal that is beautiful in the world which we overlook and take it for granted. We are deeply moved by the beauty of art and music and enchanted by beautiful nature. However there is still greater beauty which is right now in front of us. It is the love of a man and a woman soon to be given in marriage. Love is not only beautiful but also joyful because it satisfies a person's irresistible desire to be desired irresistibly which is seen in marital love. Love is not only joyful, it also powerful for it rules without rules and that is why when marital love oils the machinery everything in the household runs smoothly. Why is it the marital love is beautiful, joyful and powerful? Because it is the reflection of God's own love for us. The springs of love are in God. God is love (Deus caritas est). God's love is unselfish, unconditional and enduring. "God so love the world that he gave his only Son for us" (Jh 3:16). He loves us not because he needs to receive but because he delights to give. He loves us not because we



are lovable but because he is love and he is not because he wears by our sins or our indifference towards him. The success of marriage depends on how firmly it is founded on love and how closely that love resembles God's own love. St Paul spells out the qualities of such love (1 Cor 13:4-8). "Love is never rude", for it respects each one's individuality. When people marry, they don't possess their partner as they possess a car or a fridge. Each one must be allowed to keep their identity. "Love is not selfish": love seeks to make happy rather than to be happy. Those who marry only with self-centered goals soon find their marriage to be a cage which they were once desperate to get into, but now are equally desperate to get out of it. "Love never broods over injuries". For it forgives. A

happy marriage is a union of two forgivers. "Love is forbearance", for human love of any sort is often but the encounter of two weaknesses. "Love is trust": nothing makes marriage rust like distrust. Of course, to be one goes beyond sexual union. To be one is not looking into one another's eyes but looking together in the same direction. It is sharing not only of bodies but of mind and soul.

It is obvious to everyone that marriage founded on a love as described by St Paul will not be easy. Where there is love, there is pain and it is more true of marital love. The course of this love never did run smooth for any couple. We are told that marriages are made in heaven. I suppose that is why there are thunder and lightning in marital love. But couples should not be afraid of these thunders and lightning. It's unfortunate that divorce rate in Botswana is high because of these thunders and lightning. As such couples have a source of strength to bear life's trials and tribulations together. The source is not far away, it is their marriage itself. Marriage is not only a sign of Christ's love for the couple but also a means by

which he transforms married couple's human love into the love of God himself so that each partner is able to make Christ present to the other. It is also important to trust in the divine power which is available in one's marriage and another thing to make use of it on a daily basis. The way to avail oneself of his divine power is for the couple to strive to live in close union with God in such a way that God is always included into whatever they do and enjoy or suffer. Husband and wife need God like a zip, to keep themselves together. But it is one thing to trust that the divine power is available in one's own marriage and another thing to make use of it on a daily basis. The way to avail oneself of this divine power is for the couple to strive to live closer to God in such a way that whatever you do God is central to your life as a couple in your joys and sufferings. Marriage is just like a zip. There two rows of teeth of a zipper. These teeth fit each other nicely. But also you need another zip to draw the teeth together and lock them. Husband and wife need God just like a little zip to draw the teeth together in order to fit each

other. That means that they need family religion at home, not as a formality but as a practical everyday response God. Unless a priority is given to spiritual things, "what God has joined" "man will easily put asunder". It is pity that because of frenzied concern for success in life, some spouses crowd out God altogether from their lives and because of the quickened speedy of travel and pace of life, some spouses find hardly any time not only for being together but also for being together before God. Couples need to imprint into their hearts and minds at the very start of their marriage the truth that their union with God on a daily basis is a must to nurture their marriage, to sustain their love and to make it grow. Love does not grow on the trees like apples in Eden. It is something you have to make, just like anything else. It is all work on your part, yes, but it is also all grace on God's part.

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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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(Before RADJENG J)
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE
CASE NO. CVHGB-001576-16

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED
and
BILTHA ENGINEERING (PTY) LTD
BILLY THABISO KGOSIEMANG

Plaintiff
1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the 1st Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE: 8th March 2025
TIME OF SALE: 10:30hours
PLACE OF SALE: Plot 55227, Gaborone

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 55227, Gaborone, measuring 674m², which property is held under Deed of transfer No. 2442/2013 dated 3rd day of December, 2013 together with development thereof being kitchen, sitting room, dining room, three (3) bedrooms, two toilet with bathing room, toilet, screen wall.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 15th DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

URGENT J. CHILISA c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence Avenue
Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/7274)71594008/74770666

(Before MOTUMISE J)
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE
CASE NO. CVHGB-000327-22

BBS LIMITED
and
CARLSON NLEBESI

Plaintiff
Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the 2nd Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE: 14th March, 2025
TIME OF SALE: 1200hours
PLACE OF SALE: Lot 28523, Gaborone

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, title and interest in a piece of land being Lot 28523, Gaborone, extension 32, measuring 988m², with development thereon being a veranda, lounge with a fire place, family room, dining area, fitted kitchen with melamine cabinets, granite countertops, scullery, pantry, passage with shelves, guest wc with urinary & wash basin, bathroom with bath-tab, WC and vanity wash hand basin, two bedrooms with built in closets & air conditioning, main bedroom with built-in closet, air conditioning and ensuite bathroom with corner bath-tab, shower and wash hand basin, double garage, screen wall and motorised gate, servant's quarters comprising of one bedroom, bathroom with shower, WC wash hand basin. Held under deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. 2739/2010 dated 15th day of November, 2010 made in favour of CARLSON NLEBESI.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 27th DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

N. OOKAME c/o
RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence Avenue, Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567 Gaborone
(VR/mm/15744)
72879169/7435503

(Before TAU J)
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE
CASE NO: CVHGB-001055-19

In the matter between:-

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED
and
BOITUMELO TSHWENYEGO
PHEMELO AMOGELANG TSHWENYEGO

Plaintiff
1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the 1st Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE: 28th February, 2025
TIME OF SALE: 1000hours
PLACE OF SALE: Lot 70619, Gaborone

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 70619, Gaborone situated in Gaborone Administrative District measuring 740m² held under Deed of Transfer No. 161/2014 dated 10th day of February 2014, made in favour of BOITUMELO TSHWENYEGO with developments thereon being a 4 bedroom house sitting room, kitchen open plan, toilet, servant quarter attached to main house, screen wall with electric fence and motorised gate.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 15th DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

D. P. GABOBAKWE c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853,
Independence avenue
Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/11072) 72901534

(RADJENG J)
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE
CASE NO. CVHGB-0003121-20

In the matter between:-

THREE PARTNERS RESORTS LIMITED

Plaintiff

and

GRAND PROVIDENCE (PTY) LTD
MILTON CHANDINOFIRA

1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the 1st Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE: 31st March, 2025
TIME OF SALE: 1100hours
PLACE OF SALE: Tribal Lot 9289, Mogoditshane

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: 1st Defendant's right, title and interest in a piece of land being Tribal Lot 9289, Mogoditshane measuring 941m² held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. TL 1065/2021 dated 8th September 2014, in favour of Grand Providence, with developments thereon being an incomplete multi residential, with two structures, both of which have a sitting room, kitchen, bathroom and three bedrooms with a boundary wall.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 05th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

MAIKANO CHILISA c/o
RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence Avenue
Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/d/14013) 71263198

Private schools crucial for our education system

PART 1

RECENTLY, THE JUNIOR CERTIFICATE of Education exam results were released. Although they showed a small improvement on the previous year's results, they still make for dismal reading. And still barely 1% of candidates obtained an overall A grade; in contrast to the too many candidates who only achieved lower grades – D, E and U. And results in rural schools are even worse. Our public education system is in freefall, in the doldrums, and in shambles – it has dismally failed parents, teachers and pupils. This is despite the fact that in recent years the former Ministry of Education and Skills Development has taken a lion's share of the annual budget. However, taxpayers' money has not yielded the expected results. Clearly, we have to get our public education system back on track.

As in most countries, parents here have the choice of where to send their children to school – public or private schools. In

marked contrast to public schools, private schools are not administered or financed by government, and so they do not drain the public purse. Instead, they charge parents for tuition. Such fees may be beyond the reach of most Batswana and can easily exceed P20 000 per child per term, and even P50 000 at some schools in Gaborone. For this reason, many pupils come from the upper privileged echelons of society – the children of diplomats, cabinet ministers, presidents, wealthy business people...

However, the middle class in Botswana is now rapidly expanding, and many Batswana in urban areas are becoming more affluent and so can now afford such fees. Such parents may now decide that private education for their children is worth the sacrifice when they see that the alternative public education system is on its knees.

During his recent budget speech in the National Assembly, the Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe, told the nation that the new government is determined to cultivate a culture of excellence, diligence, innovation,

service, and collective effort. And from my teaching experience here in both public and private secondary schools, I can testify that private schools perform better in these areas than do public schools. In contrast to pupils in public schools where rote learning is still very much the norm, private school pupils here are taught skills suitable for the 21st century workplace: critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, plus the need to be more innovative. In fact, many employers today may consider such skills as important as academic qualifications – they look at the whole man!

Private schools are much better resourced than our public schools. How many times I have visited junior secondary school classrooms which are dilapidated, and the torn notice board at the back only has the class timetable and cleaning rota, but is bare of any teaching aids. Teaching aids assist learning! But a private school classroom may be full of informative and colourful teaching aids – posters, manilla charts, models,

smartboards... Plus a projector can make teaching come alive for learners. And these schools have better access to the internet and are well equipped with computer labs where pupils can learn basic computer skills; in fact, even pupils in the lower standards of private primary schools have access to such facilities! This is a step in the right direction, and again resonates well with Gaolathe's budget speech in which he told Batswana that government has allocated P1.47 billion to digital transformation.

And in private schools, one will rarely see pupils sharing three-legged chairs or writing on their knees simple because the lids on their desks have come apart. Neither will you see half a dozen pupils struggling to share one textbook, and in many classes there may be no textbooks at all! Private schools are moving fast to a knowledge-based economy which was all the hype during Masisi's presidency.

Teachers at private schools are often more motivated than their counterparts in the public sector. And many parents



say that they prefer expatriate teachers, since they believe that their standard of English is much better than that of local teachers. Expatriate teachers working at these schools come from countries across the globe – Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, UK, USA, Australia, India... And foreign teachers are also more likely to 'go the extra mile' to ensure that their pupils achieve excellence. Interacting with expatriate teachers also exposes our children to the outside world; different ways of life, language, culture... Some schools also arrange overseas trips for their students – Malaysia, Dubai, Paris... Private schools are usually multiracial with their students coming from countries worldwide (unlike most public schools where almost all students are Batswana). Indeed, Maru a Pula school in Gaborone was founded as a truly multiracial school in 1972 during the apartheid era by the first Head, Dean Yates. It set an example to southern Africa at the time where many countries were ruled by white minority regimes.

Compared to many other African countries, many Batswana who are educated in public schools have an 'isolationist' mindset and do not readily interact with other ethnic groups, or people of other nationalities. I live near Francistown, which is located in a Kalanga speaking area. And sometimes there I may greet in Kalanga a Motswana from the south. And even if they have been in Francistown for some years, they rarely understand what I am saying; in fact, on one occasion, one lady thought that I was speaking Afrikaans! No wonder, then, that most Batswana only know Setswana and English, whereas in many other African counties people may speak up to four different languages. For example, a Zambian may speak English, Bemba, Tonga and Seloz!

Secondary school pupils in Form 5 usually follow the IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) curriculum, offered by Cambridge International Education (CIE), or the IB (International Baccalaureate) curriculum both of which are more internationally recognised than our BGCSE (Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education). Whereas secondary school education in public schools ends in Form 5, in most private schools, pupils have the option of pursuing AS-Level (Advanced Subsidiary Level) and A-Level (Advanced Level) studies, again offered by CIE, over a period of two years in Form 6. Such qualifications permit students to have better access to top universities worldwide than if they had obtained only a BGCSE qualification.

Students from Maru a Pula school often receive the Cambridge "Top in the country" and even "Top in the World" awards for their outstanding performance in both IGCSE and A-Level exams. For example, in 2021, Kalidas Rayirath was "Top in the World" in IGCSE Additional Mathematics. And 64 graduates are currently studying at some of the world's top 100 ranked universities: Harvard, Yale, Stanford and Princeton in the USA, Oxford and Cambridge in the UK...

Such students have succeeded in their personal careers and have gone on to become highly successful lawyers, professors, consultants, doctors, diplomats, managing directors and leaders in the corporate world, and many run their own businesses... Plus, presidents!

I once taught Mmetla and Mpho, sons of the later former president, Quett Masire. Mmetla Masire is now managing director of Okavango Diamond Company. Alice Mogwe, daughter of former government minister, Archibald Mogwe, was also a student here, and went on to become Director of Ditshwanelo. And ex-pupil, Batsho Dambe-Groth, now runs Botswanaair in Gaborone. But the icing on the cake must be former president Mokgweetsi Masisi who was once a student here from 1975-1979. I taught him during my time as teacher at Maru a Pula in the late 1970s.

Many Batswana may consider such prestigious private schools as elitist, and only for the elite and 'well connected.' However, during its history Maru a Pula has awarded scholarships to underprivileged Batswana children, especially from poorer

less developed rural areas of the country. And practical community service is one of the school's core principles and is absolutely required of all students and full-time teachers each week. There are no exceptions, not even for future company directors, MPs, and even presidents (Mokgweetsi Masisi)! In this way, the school aims to nurture students who are deeply committed to helping their communities, both locally and internationally. No wonder, then, that one of the values of the school is compassion (along with integrity, responsibility, self-discipline and personal growth).

Every Wednesday afternoon, Maru a Pula students taught primary school pupils at schools in Old Naledi. And we also used to visit the then Holiday Inn (now Avani Gaborone Hotel) to collect large buckets of surplus food which we would then take out to Gabane to feed destitutes (students also taught in primary schools here). At school I myself used to teach students how to make concrete blocks which we then used to build homes for destitutes in Gabane. At present, the school is engaging the students' hearts, heads and hands in over 40 community projects which, amongst others, include caring for children at Cheshire Homes, Childline, Camphill and the Princess Marina's children's ward.

And even back at school, students were taught the dignity of hard work. I used to run the swimming pool and I supervised some students who added chemicals to the pool each week. And once a year we would empty the pool and paint it before filling it up again. And this was no backyard pool – it contained 800 000 litres of water and resembled more an Olympic size pool!

Legae Academy in Gaborone is also an epitome of academic excellence where teachers dedicate all their energy towards the educational success of their learners. In the 2023 A-Level examinations, Ayanda Kungo Boko won the "Top of the World" award for A-Level Economics, plus "Second Place in the World" award for A-Level Accounting. A future Minister of Finance? And in the 2024 examinations, Legae students also produced outstanding results – Ashwin Shine obtained 4A* and 1A grades in five A-Level subjects. And some 59% of grades at A-Level were either A* or A. Legae students also excelled at IGCSE level where one boy, Vishal Ready, obtained A* in eleven subjects! Also, like Maru a Pula, the school reaches out to local communities.

From the above discussion, one wonders why the new government wants to stop issuing work and residence permits to expatriate teachers who wish to teach in private schools. If they do so, then many of these schools will simply close down.

I once taught at Crescent School in Lobatse on a temporary contact in the first term of 2022 (75% of the teaching staff were expatriates at the time). This was because the school was not able to recruit a permanent local teacher of Geography; but is Geography so difficult to teach as compared to science subjects? Surely, many of our unemployed local teachers include many who are quite able to teach this subject? But alas, no local teacher applied for the post. Later the school decided to extend my contract to the end of the year, and in August they advertised the position of Geography teacher again. But there were only three applicants, all of them Zimbabweans. They then appointed one of these candidates to teach Geography from the beginning of 2023. Crescent has also produced many people who have contributed to Botswana's development. One ex-pupil, Rehana Khan, discovered a new species of mosquito in northern Botswana, Anopheles seretsei.

Many local teachers may not wish to teach in private schools. They may cite many reasons for this; two of them being that working in public schools means more job security and a pension when they retire. So, the message is clear – we can learn much from private schools about upgrading and improving our public schools so that they become more conducive to teaching and learning. And it's a no-win situation for everyone if we do not! Foreign expertise should be allowed to contribute to our education system!

For the above reasons, private school pupils usually excel in examinations.

Grahame McLeod



The University is seeking to recruit a highly qualified and accomplished Vice Chancellor, to provide strategic leadership and direction. This is a key executive role responsible for guiding the University towards its vision and goals, ensuring excellence in academic, research, and administrative functions.

The position is offered on a five (5) year Fixed Term Contract

VICE CHANCELLOR

ABOUT BIUST

The Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) is a research-intensive institution established by the Government of Botswana, with a commitment to research. BIUST plays a pivotal role in diversifying Botswana's economy. The University is poised to make significant strides in shaping the future of science and technology in Botswana and beyond.

VISION

Entrepreneurial research-based university of science, engineering & technology, internationally recognized for its quality and excellence.

MISSION

Drive cutting edge research and innovation in science, engineering and technology, propelling industry growth, development and advancement of a diversified knowledge-based economy and society.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) is located on an expansive and ecologically diverse 2,500-hectare site of gently sloping land in the Tswapong Hills, in the Central District of Botswana. BIUST is centrally located between the Capital City Gaborone and the City of Francistown. It is in close proximity of the famous Goo Moremi Gorge.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB

Dynamic and visionary, the Vice Chancellor serves as the chief academic and administrative leader of the institution. The Vice Chancellor will provide strategic leadership to drive BIUST forward, positioning it as a globally recognized centre of excellence in teaching, research, and innovation. Reporting directly to the University Council, the Vice Chancellor will be responsible for executing the University's strategic goals and fostering high-level relationships with government ministries, policymakers, and industry leaders to advance both the University's and the higher education sector's interests.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate a proven track record of exceptional leadership in academic and research environments, strategic management of research activities, and the development of policies and procedures. Strong capabilities in inspiring, leading, and motivating multidisciplinary teams, as well as collaborating with academics, senior management, and colleges, are essential for success in this role.

QUALIFICATIONS

- A minimum of a Doctorate degree and a full Professor in Science, Technology or Engineering related field.

EXPERIENCE

- Outstanding academic or professional employment record with a minimum of ten (10) years' experience in teaching and research.
- Significant traceable experience in research administration and fund raising.
- Must have a minimum of (five) year's tertiary environment experience in an executive leadership role.
- Must have substantive and successful experience in creating collaborative opportunities.
- Must have exceptional problem-solving skills combined with proven track record for the execution of plans and strategies; strong interpersonal, communication and organisational skills; and impeccable integrity.
- Must have extensive experience within an academic institution or a relevant business or research activity at a leadership level and traceable strong academic and outstanding leadership at executive management level.

KEY COMPETENCIES

- Strong commitment to academic values.
- High level of financial astuteness and commercial competence demonstrated through successful management of substantial budgeted responsibilities.
- Strong understanding of public policy processes experience in working with a governing body.
- Successful management of complex organization including strategic planning, people, finances and other resource representing an organization externally and articulating its goals and objectives to key stakeholders.
- Ability to develop and communicate a clear, inspiring and relevant vision and direction for the university, commitment to seek and accept challenges and opportunities.
- Commitment to inspire and motivate students and staff to realize their potential and embrace the university goals and objectives and ability to demonstrate a consultative and inclusive management style in situations involving complex group dynamics.
- High level of conceptual and analytical ability. Commitment to values and apply intellectual processes within a well-defined coherent framework.
- Demonstrable understanding of implications of decisions (social, economic, financial, political), and think creatively and innovatively.
- Demonstrable personal commitment excellence.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensures that the University standards in teaching, learning and research are established to meet the requirements of students, staff and the Botswana society as a whole
- Fosters the values of academic freedom, excellence, equity and accountability
- Refines the University's vision for developing, communicating and implementing a strategic plan (in collaboration with the Council and in consultation with other appropriate parties) which will position the University internationally.
- Promotes and maintains a collegial culture within the University.
- Supports and motivates staff and contributes in their development.
- Provides strategic leadership to ensure prudent and effective management of the University's resources and legal and regulatory compliance.
- Ensures proper financial management through best practice budgeting, monitoring, control and reporting systems.
- Ensures existence of "good employer" practices and equal employment opportunities thereby attracting, developing and retaining high caliber staff.
- Ensures that the University is at the forefront of the development and application of new and appropriate technologies.
- Initiates and supports fund raising efforts to increase the University's financial resources for projects that enhance the University's achievement of its objectives.

SUBMISSION METHOD

- Candidates shall be required to submit, together with their applications, a statement detailing their achievements and their vision for the University.
- Interested candidates should send a cover letter, certified copies of educational certificates together with detailed Curriculum Vitae and names and contacts of five (5) professional referees to:

Director; Human Capital at the email address below.

vreruitment@biust.ac.bw

Closing date for the advertisement is **28 MARCH 2025**

For any further enquiries, you may contact Mr. P. Makwati/ Ms. K Taolo 4931061/4931305



www.biust.ac.bw

BIUST | Driving Change



Business

We need to cut spending - Jefferis

As total public debt including sovereign guarantees hit P71 billion

LAGAGO TAMOCHA

BOTSWANA'S GOVERNMENT DEBT HAS surged in recent years, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic, raising concerns over its sustainability. During a presentation at an India Botswana Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) business dinner, Dr Keith Jefferis projected government debt to rise from P30 billion to P91 billion by the end of 2025/26 financial year.

While there is no immediate debt crisis, as debt servicing remains a small proportion of GDP and government spending, the rate at which debt is increasing is alarming. Current estimates suggest that by the end of the 2025/26 financial year, government debt will reach 31% of GDP, a significant jump from 20% in March 2024.

The statutory debt limit is set at 40% of GDP, but this includes government guarantees amounting to approximately 3-4% of GDP. The main challenge lies in the sustainability of this trend. Previously, Botswana relied on savings to finance budget deficits, but with reserves now depleted, deficits are being covered through borrowing.

With the headroom for additional debt shrinking rapidly, projections indicate that Botswana could hit its debt ceiling by the 2027/28 financial year. This raises pressing questions about the country's fiscal strategy and potential measures to curb excessive borrowing.

"In terms of diversification, exports haven't been diversified, and that's where competitiveness becomes critical. The reason we haven't diversified exports is that the government's unwilling to make tough decisions focused on competitiveness. You can't export successfully without competing. Policies don't focus enough on the need to compete, and things like the high cost of doing business and dealing with the government make it tough for businesses to succeed. Productivity is also low, and labour costs are somewhat high. All of these things need to be addressed with some tough decisions. Botswana's always been able to put off those tough decisions because of the profits from diamonds.

For diversification to be competitive, he said, it has to be capacitated.

"There are very few agricultural products that can compete in Botswana and that's



Indian High Commissioner Bharath Kumar Kuthathi [L] with Dr Keith Jefferis at the India Botswana Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) business dinner on Thursday

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

for obvious reasons; the weather is wrong, the soil is wrong, the rainfall is wrong, and I think the policy is wrong in the sense that the thinking is around very small-scale backyard gardening type of farming. Our agricultural production has really got to be efficient and large scale, it has got to be big! That's why tomatoes come in from South Africa at whatever price they come in. And we have seen with citrus that it can be done. But I still think there is a limited number of agricultural products that can be exported competitively in Botswana. Look at potatoes,

they are twice the price of imports. We just can't do potatoes in this country," Dr Jefferis said.

Dr Jefferis was answering a question on the role of agricultural products in diversifying Botswana's economy at an IBCCI business dinner.

When presenting the 2025/26 budget on Monday, Vice President and Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe said as at December 2024 total public debt including sovereign guarantees amounted to P71.01 billion.

"This consisted of P44.53 billion in domestic debt (P40.85 billion in securities and P3.67 billion in guarantees), and P26.47 billion in external debt (P21.24 billion in loans and P5.23 billion in guarantees). Total public debt as a proportion of GDP is estimated at 25.75 percent which is within the statutory threshold of 40 percent. However, this could worsen if the fiscal deficit persists into the medium term increasing the risk of sovereign debt distress," the minister said.

His ministry, he said, introduced a

three-year Medium-Term Debt Strategy in the 2024/2025 financial year.

"This strategy gives prominence to domestic resource mobilisation away from external borrowing, through the issuance of Government securities under the P55 billion Bond Issuance Programme. The strategy was motivated by the need to develop the local currency bond market and to provide investment options for repatriated funds following the amendment of the Retirement Funds Act," he said.

Botswana Oil upbeat



Meshack Tshekedi - Chief Executive Officer Botswana Oil

[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

STAFF WRITERS

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

BOTSWANA OIL LIMITED EXECUTIVES engaged the media on Thursday to provide an update on their 90% fuel import mandate, security of fuel and their Citizen Economic Empowerment Projects (CEEP).

Leading Botswana Oil leadership, Meshack Tshekedi - the Chief Executive Officer announced that Botswana's petroleum usage has recently enjoyed a significant rise, reflecting a general increase

in economic activity. He said Botswana imports all its petroleum requirements, with annual consumption reaching approximately 1.3 billion litres (21,000 barrels). Fuel consumption is split between 45 percent petrol and 55 percent diesel, with diesel being the primary driver of industries such as mining, manufacturing, and power production.

Tshekedi said Botswana currently uses three supply routes through predominantly South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique through four seaports (two in South Africa). He warned about emerging

challenges in the petroleum industry like the closure of several South African refineries which supplied SADC countries, and restrictions imposed on imported fuels by the SA government. For example, fuel imported into South Africa can no longer be re-exported to a third party.

He, however said the country is at an advanced stage to develop the Namibia storage facilities to augment those that the country already has inland in strategic places like Gaborone, Tsele, and Francistown. The facility will go a long way in improving security of supply for Botswana. Further, the development of new rail routes in the SADC region, for example via Beira in Mozambique, could also facilitate smooth movement of products and ease logistical challenges, thus reducing costs.

Citizen empowerment For his part Onkutele Masima, Botswana Oil Limited (BOL) General Manager for Supply said citizen-owned Transporters enjoyed significant increase in allocation in the 2024/25 financial year.

"In year-to-date 2024/25, spending on citizen-owned transporters has reached P46.7 million, representing 80.8% of total fuel transport expenditure for the period—significantly higher than in previous years," he said.

Masima revealed that for the full 2024/25 financial year, spending on citizen-owned transporters is projected to grow to P62.1 million, accounting for 81.0% of total fuel transport expenditure, attributed to rising demand from Debswana Diamond Company.

Access Bank hosts Insightful Budget Review

STAFF WRITER

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ACESS BANK BOTSWANA, in collaboration with AccPro and Kgori Capital, hosted the 2025/2026 Botswana Budget Speech Review at Cresta Marang on February 12, 2025. Held under the theme "Driving Economic Growth through Private/Banking Sector Support," the event brought together business leaders, financial experts, and policymakers to discuss the key highlights of the budget and its implications for Botswana's economic landscape.

Boiki Tema, Access Bank Botswana Board Chair, emphasised the role of financial institutions in supporting national development. "The banking sector plays an important role in translating fiscal policies into real economic opportunities for Botswana," he noted, stressing the importance of collaboration between banks and the government to ensure that economic policies lead to tangible benefits.

The discussions continued with Craig Granville, Managing Director at AccPro, who unpacked the tax implications of the budget. He highlighted the significance of understanding tax adjustments, especially for businesses and individuals looking to navigate the changing financial landscape. "Understanding tax changes helps businesses make informed decisions that allow them to grow," he said, encouraging business owners to take a proactive approach in planning their financial strategies.

Providing a broader perspective on the budget's priorities, Kitso Mokhurutsi, Economist at Kgori Capital, broke down key allocations and government strategies aimed at strengthening economic resilience. "This budget sets the groundwork for inclusive growth by focusing on critical sectors such as healthcare and education," he explained, highlighting the government's focus on long-term economic stability.



Boiki Tema, Access Bank Botswana Board Chair

Kefentse Kebaetse, Head of Global Markets at Access Bank Botswana, provided insight into how the Bank plans to align its financial services with the budget's key areas of focus. He outlined initiatives designed to help businesses and individuals make the most of emerging opportunities. "Access Bank continues to support local businesses through financial solutions designed to meet changing needs," he stated, reaffirming the bank's role in driving economic activity.

The event also welcomed Kgosi Motlatsi G. Kediseng, who spoke about the budget's impact on the city and the importance of local government in ensuring economic policies benefit communities. He expressed appreciation to Access Bank Botswana for choosing Francistown as the host city for this critical discussion. "Local governance is strengthened when national policies take community development into account, and I am grateful to Access Bank for bringing this important dialogue to Francistown. Such engagements help us align our city's development goals with national economic priorities," he said.

2025/26 BUDGET BRIEF CASE



BVI scaling up production

WE ARE PROCEEDING TO HOIST THE Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) to new global heights. The concept of the BVI, a facility and operation that over the years has, in partnership with Meryl of France, mastered the art of research, and development of vaccines, has over the years developed capacity and capabilities in manufacturing and exports of medicines. The time has now come to fundamentally put to bear these capabilities, by significantly scaling up production and possibly augmenting product diversity for export. The work is already ongoing to facilitate this ambition. Our actions entail a pursuit of a judicious blend of funding, management and market partnerships as well as collaborations.

Khoemacau to double employment

THE KHOEMACAU COPPER MINE IN the North West District is embarking on an expansion exercise that will ramp up production from the current 60 000 tonnes of copper to at least 130 000 tonnes. The expansion is anticipated to increase the labour force from the current 2 000 to 4 000 employees. Another noticeable progress is Menzi Battery Metals which has been granted a mining license to exploit battery grade Manganese at Kgwakgwe Hills near Kanye and they are currently finalising the establishment of the processing plant. At construction, the project will employ 300 people and during operation the numbers will reduce to 200 due to plant automation.

Chobe-Zambezi Water Transfer Scheme

THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS intensifying efforts to bridge Botswana's critical infrastructure gaps by ramping up capacity to mechanise and execute mega projects such as rail, road networks, power and water and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure. I am pleased to inform you that in the coming financial year, we will commence execution of meticulously structured mega infrastructure projects, crafted in collaboration with reputable global investors including strategic and game changing projects such as the Chobe-Zambezi Water Transfer Scheme. This project has the potential to enhance water security, job creation, agricultural expansion and food security and drive industrial growth, amongst others.

BSB to launch inclusive housing scheme

BOTSWANA SAVINGS BANK (BSB) IS preparing to launch a proof-of-concept designed to give opportunity to an ordinary Motswana who owns land but lacks the means to develop it. This initiative forms part of our broader commitment to construct 100,000 housing units within the New Government's five-year term, ensuring that more citizens have access to quality housing. From the security guard to the roadside vendor, the bus conductor, the herder, and the overburdened breadwinner, it opens doors to homeownership that once seemed out of reach. Through this initiative, they can secure a loan, attract a reliable tenant, access professional construction services, and eventually own a valuable asset. At its heart, this programme reflects a deeper philosophy: that every individual, no matter their situation in life, deserves the dignity of a home and the opportunity to build a future. By removing barriers to housing, this Government seeks to turn dreams into reality, creating a society where hope is not a privilege but a shared promise.

Payzana - the All-in-One Mobile Wallet solution

- Zero transaction Fees an Industry Game Changer
- Easy Top-Up with Multiple Top-Up Channels such as Visa Credit Card, Master Card, Wallet or Choppies Store

IN AN ERA WHERE DIGITAL INNOVATION drives financial inclusivity and convenience, Payzana emerges as Botswana's next-gen mobile wallet, delivering seamless, secure, and fast payment experiences for individuals and businesses. Developed by Monyglob, a leader in global exchange solutions, Payzana aims to revolutionize financial transactions with cutting-edge mobile technology tailored for the African market.

Payzana's value proposition is anchored on convenience, security, and no Hidden fees designed to be the ultimate digital financial companion, Payzana is more than just a payment app-it's a holistic solution for effortless financial management. Users can say goodbye to the complexities of traditional banking and embrace features that meet their everyday needs. With no hidden fees on transactions, wallet top-ups, or utility payments, Payzana is built to empower users with financial control and accessibility.

Key Features That Set Payzana Apart: "Zero Transaction Fees ensure that customers enjoy cost-free transactions for withdrawals, deposits, and transfers between Payzana wallets. Seamless Utility Payments drive easy purchase of electricity,



Mpho Gaamangwe, the Head of Operations at Monyglob

airtime, and payment of bills such as DStv from the comfort of your home. We ensure that domestic money transfers send funds instantly to other Payzana users or even to non-users via QR code scanning or OTP authentication," says Mpho Gaamangwe, the Head of Operations at Monyglob.

The platform ensures multiple top-up options such as funding your wallet using Visa or MasterCard debit and credit cards or through any Choppies store. "Point-of-Sale Integration Pay at local merchants using QR codes, offering convenience for both users and businesses. Reward Programs ensure that users receive P20 for each successful referral, incentivizing organic growth and user engagement.

Built for Financial Freedom Commenting on Payzana's simple onboarding process, Gaamangwe emphasises that everyone, regardless of financial background, can get started easily. "All one has to do is download the app from the Play Store or Apple Store. Register through a straightforward sign-up process. KYC Verification ensures secure transactions and compliance. Start Using the app for payments, transfers, and utility purchases instantly."

For businesses, Payzana enables lower effort scores in payment integration with minimal setup. Merchants benefit from increased transaction speed and reliability, while customers enjoy enhanced convenience. By supporting both registered and non-registered users, Payzana makes digital payments accessible to the entire community.

Payzana's identity draws from its core values- transparency, growth, and

security- reflected in its vibrant design and commitment to customer-centric solutions.

Fairground Holdings Launches its 2025 - 2030 Strategy

FAIRGROUND HOLDINGS IS EXCITED to announce the implementation of its 2025-2030 Strategy and strategic priorities, aimed at driving business growth and sustainability over the next five years. The strategy was unveiled at a company-wide event held over the weekend and it provides a clear roadmap for the organisation, focusing on four key pillars: Financial, Stakeholder, Internal Processes, and People.

During the strategy rollout session, Fairground Holdings' Chief Executive Officer, Gorata Gabaraane, highlighted the importance of alignment across all business units. "This strategy is a roadmap for our future. It reflects our commitment to financial sustainability, operational excellence, and exceptional stakeholder engagement. Our starting point to achieve our goals will be leveraging technology, forming strategic partnerships, and prioritising customer experience, thereby positioning Fairground Holdings as a market leader in Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions."

The strategy is structured around four key pillars, each serving as a foundation for the business's long-term success and ensuring resilience in a changing business landscape:

Financial Priorities: Our primary goal is to ensure the organization's long-term financial health. We will accomplish this through consistent growth strategies, prudent financial management, and investments aimed at achieving sustainability.

Stakeholder: We recognise that our customers are at the heart of everything we do. We believe that our efforts in providing exceptional customer experiences and strengthening our brand will be essential in reinforcing our position as a market leader. We are continuously expanding our network through strategic partnerships and alliances that will enable Fairground Holdings to tap into new markets and enhance our service offerings.

Internal Processes: The continuous improvement of internal processes is essential to maintaining operational efficiency and effectiveness. Streamlining operations will enable us to respond faster to market demands, customer needs and embrace new technologies which will be a key driver in transforming operations and improving efficiency. Technology will enable us to optimise performance and stay



Fairground Holdings CEO Gorata Gabaraane

ahead of market trends.

People: Our people are our most valuable asset. We are committed to investing in their growth, providing development opportunities, and fostering an inclusive, supportive workplace that attracts and retains top talent.

Fairground Holdings' Human Resources Manager, Tshapo Kgari, emphasised the organization's commitment to its people, stating, "Our employees are the heart of our business. This strategy strongly emphasises employee development, ensuring we equip our teams with the right skills, tools, and environment to succeed. By investing in talent and fostering a culture of inclusivity and innovation, we are securing the future of Fairground Holdings."

"The rollout session provided an opportunity for employees to engage with the leadership team, understand the company's vision, and align their efforts with our strategic priorities. We are confident that this strategic direction will drive sustainable growth, strengthen our market position, and create long-term value for all stakeholders," said Kgari.

The launch of this strategy marks the beginning of a new chapter for Fairground Holdings. As the business embarks on this ambitious journey, the leadership team believes that these strategic priorities will pave the way for continued success, positioning the company to meet and exceed expectations for years to come.

"Fairground Holdings remains dedicated to its mission of delivering high-quality services to its clients while fostering a supportive, innovative, and sustainable workplace for its employees," said Gabaraane.

Lucara pulls in \$54m from sale of two massive diamonds



Lucara CEO William Lamb

LEAH MEIROVICH

LUCARA DIAMOND CORP. HAS garnered \$54 million from the sale of a 549-carat rough diamond, as well as another weighing 1,080.1 carats.

The miner recovered the 549-carat stone, named Sethunya, from its Karowe mine in Botswana in early 2020 before Louis Vuitton bought it later that year through Lucara's offtake partnership with HB Antwerp. That agreement allows Lucara to benefit not only from the purchase price of the rough stone, but also from the polished proceeds after the diamond is sold. Lucara dug up the 1,080.1 diamond, named the Eva Star, in 2023.

"The sale of these two extraordinary diamonds further validates our investment in the Karowe underground project," Lucara CEO William Lamb said Tuesday. "The unique characteristics of Karowe's kimberlite, particularly in the south lobe, continue to amaze us with its ability to produce diamonds of exceptional size and quality. The mineralogy we're seeing is truly unprecedented in the industry, consistently delivering type IIa diamonds of remarkable clarity and size."

Although Lucara sold the stones a number of years ago and received its fee for the rough, it is only now realizing its full portion of the polished profits, it noted. It had already received \$20 million in previous years, while the remainder came in two parts between the fourth quarter of 2024 and the first quarter of this year.

It's possible the delay in the second portion of the payment also stemmed from trouble between Lucara and HB in recent years. In September 2023, Lucara announced it was parting ways with the Belgian manufacturer and terminated the parties' supply agreement, citing a "material breach of financial commitments."

In November of that year, it reiterated it was looking to form new supply deals. However toward the end of 2023, the media speculated that the Botswana government was pressuring Lucara to reconnect with HB, most likely in preparation for its January 2024 announcement that it would invest \$65 million for a 24% stake in HB. In February of last year, Lucara announced it had signed a new 10-year contract with the manufacturer. [rapaport.com]

2025/26 BUDGET BRIEFCASE

National fund of funds

IN THE NEW BOTSWANA, WE WILL explore and reimagine the role of the CEDA and Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) with the possibility of creating a National Fund of Funds. This Fund will enable us to design modernized and high-impact investment models to allocate resources strategically, targeting priority sectors in line with our national development objectives and also allowing disruptors and innovators including the creative industry to access funding. This initiative will mark a significant shift in our approach to economic development, fostering an environment where entrepreneurship thrives and where our investments yield maximum returns in terms of job creation, growth, and innovation.

TVET students to get improved allowances

THERE IS NEED TO INCREASE excellence of Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions by leveraging on tried and tested TVET models in countries such as South Korea, Germany and Finland. Statistics show that our TVET institutions are operating below optimal. In 2023 enrolments in public TVET institutions was 8,313 (56 percent) against capacity of 14,750. Statistics also show that female participation in TVET is lower compared to their male counterparts. Out of 8,313 total TVET enrolments, females constituted 3,091 (37.2 percent) in 2023. TVET share of total tertiary enrolment was 14.4 percent in 2021, 12.9 percent in 2022 and 13.8 percent in 2023. We will be intentional in changing this current picture to build an economy with TVET at its heart. This requires us to change our people's perception of TVET institutions, improve access and equity, quality and relevance of the programmes to market needs. Promoting TVET from basic education will therefore, amplify opportunities for young people who are not able or willing to follow the University education pathways. In this regard, to demonstrate our commitment on the TVET model, we are gradually going to narrow the gap between allowances of students in TVET Institutions and those of other tertiary institutions, while also fully resourcing these institutions in terms of infrastructure and qualified lecturers.

Foreign reserves in nosedive

THE COUNTRY HAS EXPERIENCED A significant decline in foreign exchange reserves from a peak of P84.9 billion in December 2015 (17.7 months of import cover) to P53.6 billion (7.2 months of import cover) as at the end of November 2024. The decline was mainly a reflection of the developments in the current account, largely driven by the diamond market. The current account balance recorded a deficit of P13.2 billion in the nine months to September 2024, a significant deterioration from a surplus of P6.3 billion during the same period in 2015. While the current level of foreign exchange reserves is above the international benchmark of about 3 months, it remains a major concern for this Administration. To contextualise this, it means that with a sudden stop in capital inflow, Botswana will be able to import all its non-diamond goods and services for only 7 months - this is low by our historical standards. However, it is worth noting, that out of the P53.6 billion worth of foreign exchange reserves, Government portion amounts to a disappointing low of P2 billion. This is worrisome and calls for significant belt tightening across all ministries and SOEs.

Total revenue and grants stand at P75.49 billion

TOTAL REVENUES AND GRANTS FOR the financial year 2025/2026 are projected at seventy-five billion, four hundred and ninety million Pula (P75.49 billion). The largest contributor continues to be Southern African Customs Union revenue which is estimated at twenty-four billion, three hundred and sixty million Pula (P24.36 billion). The second largest contributor is non-mineral income tax which is projected to attain nineteen billion, and ten million Pula (P19.01). Mineral Revenue is estimated at fifteen billion, seven hundred and fifty million Pula (P15.75 billion). VAT collections are projected to register twelve billion and one hundred million Pula (P12.10 billion). Meanwhile, revenue income from Bank of Botswana is projected at seven hundred million Pula (P700 million) in the financial year 2025/2026. The remaining three billion, five hundred and eighty million Pula (P3.58 billion) is anticipated to be accounted for by other revenues and grants.

Know Your Corporate Leader

Full Name: Wamorena Lawrence Kenaope
Position: Head – Credit Origination
Institution: Stanbic Bank Botswana
Date Started: February 2025
Nature of business: Banking



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Blockchain: Botswana's secret weapon against corruption



DR DIMAKATSO POLOKELE

IN THE 2025 BUDGET SPEECH, FINANCE Minister Ndaba Gaolathe didn't mince words when he addressed the elephant in the room: CORRUPTION. It's a problem that has plagued Botswana, siphoning off millions of Pulas that could have been used to build schools, hospitals and roads et cetera. One of the solutions to this age-old problem isn't just more audits or stricter laws, it's BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY. Yes, blockchain! The same technology behind cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin is now being hailed as a game-changer in the fight against corruption. And Botswana has the perfect opportunity to lead the charge in Africa by becoming the first nation to implement a national blockchain system for public finance. Let's first look at what this technology is and how it works, for appreciation.

Blockchain is a decentralised, tamper-proof digital ledger. Think of it as a digital notebook that records transactions in a way that's transparent, secure and impossible to alter without everyone noticing. Once something is recorded on a blockchain, it's there forever, no erasing, no editing, no funny business and no Hee wee! Hee wee! Here's how it works in simple terms:

Decentralisation: Unlike traditional systems where data is stored on a central server, blockchain distributes data across a network of computers (called nodes). No single entity controls the data, making it resistant to tampering.

Blocks and Chains: Transactions are grouped into "blocks." Each block contains: A list of transactions (e.g., a payment, contract award or payroll entry).

A unique code called a hash (a digital

fingerprint of the block).

The hash of the previous block, linking them together in a "chain."

Immutability: Once a block is added to the chain, it cannot be altered. Changing one block would require changing all subsequent blocks, which is computationally impossible without the consensus of the majority of the network.

Consensus Mechanisms: To add a block to the chain, the network must agree on its validity. This is done through mechanisms like Proof of Work (PoW) or Proof of Stake (PoS), ensuring that only legitimate transactions are recorded.

Transparency: Every transaction is visible to all participants in the network. While identities can be pseudonymous, the details of the transaction (amount, time and parties involved) are open for verification.

Why Should Botswana Care?

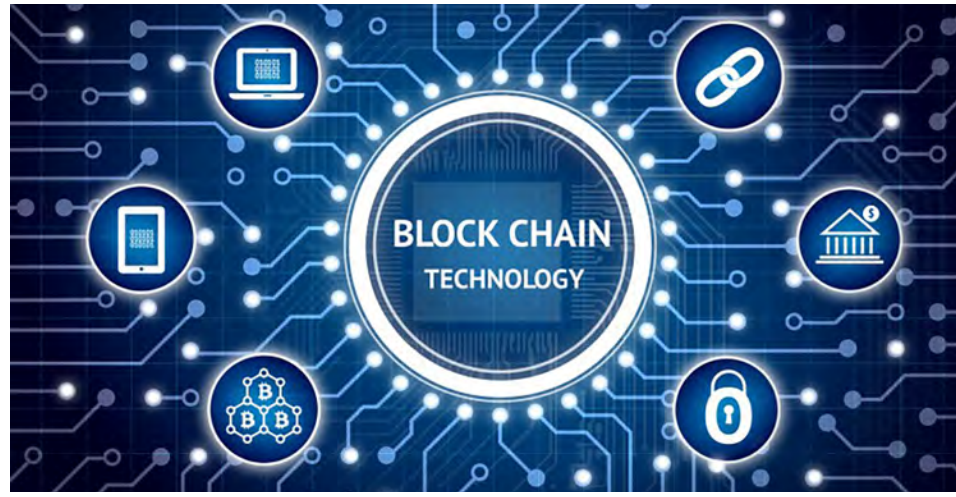
This means that every government transaction, from procurement contracts to payroll payments, could be recorded on a blockchain. No more backroom deals tsa bo "Nneele ke tla go tshwarisa sengwenyana", no more inflated invoices, no more ghost workers. Every Pula spent would be traceable, transparent and accountable. It's like putting every government transaction under a microscope, but one that can't be tampered with.

How Blockchain can curb corruption in Botswana

1. Transparent Procurement Processes

One of the biggest sources of corruption in Botswana is public procurement. Contracts are often awarded to friends, family or politically connected individuals, with little transparency or accountability. But with blockchain, every step of the procurement process from bidding to payment would be recorded on a public ledger.

Imagine this: a company submits a bid for a government contract. The bid is recorded on the blockchain, along with all the details who submitted it, when and for how much. Once the contract is awarded, every payment made to the company is also recorded. If someone tries to inflate the price or divert funds, the blockchain will flag it immediately. No more shady deals, no more wasted taxpayer money.



2. Eliminating Ghost Workers

Ghost workers, fake employees who exist only on paper, have been cited as a major drain on Botswana's public finances. But with blockchain, every government employee would have a digital identity linked to their payroll. Payments would be recorded on the blockchain, making it impossible to pay someone who doesn't exist.

This isn't just theoretical. Countries like Georgia have already used blockchain to eliminate fraud in their public sector, saving millions in the process. Botswana should do the same and set an example for the rest of Africa.

3. Tracking Public Funds in Real-Time

Ever wonder where your tax money is going? We have heard stories (whether they are true or not is not the issue) about

what happens with tendering and those that have been tendering for the longest time and never even got a single one have many stories to tell. One ends up wondering where their tax money is going. With blockchain, you wouldn't have to. Every Pula spent by the government would be tracked in real-time, from the moment it leaves the treasury to the moment it reaches its destination.

For example, if the government allocates funds for a new hospital, you would follow the money on the blockchain. Did it go to construction? Equipment? Salaries? You'd be able to see it all and so would everyone else. This level of transparency would make it nearly impossible for corrupt officials to siphon off funds.

A Corruption-Free Botswana is within reach

Implementing a national blockchain system won't happen overnight, but the good news is that the technology is already here. Botswana can start by piloting blockchain in a few key areas, like public procurement or payroll, then scale up from

there.

The government could also partner with global tech companies and organizations that specialize in blockchain for public finance. Countries like Estonia and Georgia have already blazed the trail and Botswana could learn from their successes and their mistakes.

When delivering the 2025 Budget Speech, the Minister made it clear that corruption is a major obstacle to Botswana's progress. But with blockchain, we have a powerful tool to fight back. By embracing this cutting-edge technology, Botswana will curb corruption and build a more transparent, accountable and prosperous nation.

When citizens can see where their tax dollars are going, they're more likely to trust the government. This could lead to greater civic engagement and a stronger democracy. As Hon. Gaolathe said, "Something new is taking root, something special." Let's make that something special a blockchain-powered Botswana, where every Pula is accounted for and corruption has nowhere to hide.

Revolutionary laundry product developed in RSA

DEVELOPED AND PRODUCED IN SOUTH Africa, Personal Touch washing powder sheets represent a revolution in laundry aids. Intended to replace conventional washing machine powders and liquid detergents, it's no exaggeration to state that this is an industry game changer.

The product, packaged in compact envelopes containing 18 sheets, are light to carry, easy to store and contain the equivalent cleaning action of a 2kg packet of auto powder. Used whole for a full wash and half for a small load, the sheets leave no residue on skin when handled, are gentle on fibres, contain a unique, deep-cleansing formula and have a fresh, clean scent.

The product is a world-first, comprising an innovative washing powder formula compressed into thin, solid sheets. The 90g box of washing powder sheets offers up to 36 washes or more and is equivalent to a 2kg packet of washing powder, but much more convenient to handle. One full sheet is sufficient for a load of laundry between four to six kilograms, and at 150mm x 110mm, the sheets are even smaller than dryer sheets. This means carrying, transporting and storing this unique, light product is a breeze, and the regular-shaped packaging means easy storage and far less space. In usage, they also produce

less foam, which helps to keep the washing machine in better working condition, and makes rinsing clothes easier, all while giving them a thorough cleaning.

For environmentalists, they have the added attraction of using 64% less plastic packaging than their bulkier, old-fashioned alternatives. The RRP is also very competitive, compared to powders and liquids. Further, the formula contains no sulphates; no phosphates, and all packaging is 100% recyclable.

"With innovative research and development at the heart of this South African first, this refreshing look at washing powder tips the scales in Personal Touch's favour, and delivers on what they promise - Smart Sheets, Easy Laundry," says Bronwyn Ragavan, brand manager for Personal Touch. "Personal Touch Washing Powder Sheets are the future of laundry powder. To be a truly innovative product, innovation needed to come from all angles, and Personal Touch Washing Powder Sheets definitely delivers."

Personal Touch washing powder sheets are only available in southern Africa. Local consumers will have access to this revolutionary laundry aid through the SPAR supermarket chain at the time of going to press.

P100 only to build your fortune with Maungo Saver Account

ONCE UPON A TIME, SAVING WAS A WAY OF life in Botswana. People tucked away their ledinyana, patiently watching their hard-earned Pula grow over time. Fast forward to today, and it seems like saving has taken a backseat while instant gratification speeds ahead in the fast lane. Why wait when you can swipe now? Why plan for later when later feels like a distant dream? The pressure to keep up with trends, the latest gadgets, and that "soft life" lifestyle has turned saving into something that many see as old-fashioned.

The problem with living life at full speed is that it eventually catches up with you. That brand-new phone? It'll be outdated in six months. That designer outfit? It'll be last season by next season. Meanwhile, the bank balance—well, that one keeps dropping. Before you know it, the excitement of spending fades, and the stress of unpaid bills and unexpected expenses kicks in.

Here's the twist: saving is actually the new cool. Think about it—what's cooler than having financial freedom? Being able to take that spontaneous holiday without scrambling for funds, paying school fees without panic, or treating yourself without guilt? Now that's a flex. The real trendsetters are the ones who don't live on the edge of their budget but set their own pace, ensuring they can enjoy life today while securing tomorrow.

This is where Access Bank comes in, not as a strict financial guardian wagging a finger

at reckless spending, but as a supportive and friendly partner helping Botswana get back to the basics of smart saving. With our deep knowledge of banking across Africa, we understand the challenges people face and have designed solutions that make saving both practical and rewarding.

Enter the Maungo Saver Account, the savings account for those who know that financial security never goes out of style. With daily compound interest and a special bonus for consistent saving over six or twelve months, it rewards commitment. The best part? It only takes P100 to get started, proving that you don't need a fortune to build one. And because life can be unpredictable, it allows up to 20% free withdrawal in case of emergencies.

Imagine saving up for that dream trip without breaking a sweat, covering school fees with ease, or simply having a growing stash of cash that works for you while you sleep. That's what financial peace of mind looks like.

Boammaruri ke gore, modern life will always be fast, but you don't have to run yourself into the ground trying to keep up. Set your own pace, embrace the power of saving, and watch how it changes everything. With Access Bank's Maungo Saver Account, saving isn't just something your grandparents did—it's a smart, strategic, and stylish way to take control of your future. The real trend? Living life on your terms, with a bank that's got your back.

PUBLIC NOTICE



SUBMISSION OF KYC DOCUMENTS BY BOCRA LICENSEES

The Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) or the Authority is a statutory body established under the Communications Regulatory Authority Act [CRA Act No. 19 of 2012] to regulate the communications sector in Botswana, comprising Telecommunications, Internet and Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), Radio Communications, Broadcasting, Postal services, and related matters.

BOCRA hereby notifies all ICTs Licensees who have not submitted their updated Know Your Customer (KYC) documents for the 2024/2025 to ensure compliance with the regulatory requirement. This initiative is aimed at maintaining up-to-date records, facilitating seamless communication, timely updates and efficient handling of industry related matters.

Failure to provide the required documentation may result in regulatory action including, non-renewal, suspension or revocation of licences.

We urge all affected licensees to prioritise this requirement and submit their documents by **March 31st 2025.**

Your cooperation is highly appreciated. Together we can build a more robust ICT sector.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

licensing@bocra.org.bw

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Imagine Botswana without BOCRA

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info@bocra.org.bw | www.bocra.org.bw



Vacancy Announcement

EXTERNAL JOB ADVERT – RISK & COMPLIANCE MANAGER

Applicants are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the position of **Risk & Compliance Manager** tenable at Babereki Insurance Brokers (Pty)Ltd Headquarters in Gaborone.

Job Summary

To plan, coordinate and manage the risk, compliance, legal advice functions of BIB ensuring that the company effectively manages all risks and complies with legal and regulatory requirements, internal policies, and industry standards

Duties & Responsibilities

Policies and Strategies

- Direct and manage the development of the departmental strategy and plans which are aligned with the Corporate Strategy and organisational priorities.
- Ensure the delivery of established performance targets defined in the strategic plan.
- Develop best practice departmental policies and procedures and ensure adherence throughout the organisation.
- Provide leadership to business development and strategic stakeholder relation areas of the organization.
- Provide useful legal, risk, compliance and governance insights to help make better decisions about formulating and executing strategy and provide guidance and analysis to executive and operational management to improve results.
- Recommend and report upon benchmarks against which to measure organizational performance.
- Suggest improvements in processes to increase organizational effectiveness.

Management Risk

- Establish and manage the enterprise risk management framework, including policies, procedures, and risk assessment methodologies.
- Facilitate the identification and assessment of risks across BIB, including operational, financial, strategic, and compliance risks.
- Collaborate with all departments to ensure risk mitigation strategies, controls, and action plans are implemented

Regulatory Compliance

- Monitor regulatory requirements and changes to ensure ongoing compliance with laws, regulations, and industry standards.
- Develop and maintain compliance policies, procedures, and controls.
- Conduct periodic compliance assessments and audits to evaluate adherence to internal and external requirements.
- Interpret and communicate regulatory requirements to relevant stakeholders.
- Develop and implement processes to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Reporting & Regulatory Liaison

- Ensure that all statutory reports are filed in accordance with legal and regulatory instruments including but not limited to NBFIRA and the Financial Intelligence Agency
- Responsible for being the central point of contact for communicating with the regulatory and/ or investigation agencies regarding issues including to the Non-Bank Financial Institution Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) AML/ CFT program
- Monitor, review and coordinate applications and enforcement of the Babereki Insurance Brokers (Pty)Ltd AML/ CFT policies. This includes an AML/ CFT risk assessment, practices, procedures and controls for account opening.
- Prepare reports for the Board of Directors, senior management and external regulatory bodies as appropriate.
- Represent the company as needed on legal and regulatory matters.
- Prepare regulatory submissions and reports as may be required from time to time
- Keep abreast of regulatory developments within or outside the company as well as evolving best practices in compliance control
- Keep the management and Board informed on changes to legal and regulatory requirements as well as the company's compliance status.
- Make recommendations to mitigate risk and ensure compliance.

Financial Management

- Oversee the department's budget, ensuring that expenses are tracked and managed effectively. Ensure that the department stays within its financial limits and aligns spending with strategic priorities.
- Identify opportunities for cost savings and efficiency improvements within the department. Implement strategies to optimize resource use without compromising the quality of service or output.
- Prepare regular financial reports, such as departmental budgets, forecasts, and actuals, for senior management. Provide insights on financial performance and make recommendations for adjustments as needed.
- Make informed decisions about resource allocation (human, technological, financial) to ensure that the department has what it needs to meet its objectives.

Training and Awareness

- Develop and deliver training programs to educate employees on risk management, compliance obligations, and ethical conduct.
- Raise awareness about potential risks and the importance of compliance throughout BIB.
- Provide guidance and support to employees on compliance-related inquiries or concerns.

Internal Control Evaluation

- Assess the effectiveness of internal controls and identify control gaps or weaknesses.
- Recommend improvements to enhance BIB's control environment and mitigate risks.
- Monitor the implementation of control enhancements and evaluate their effectiveness.

Incident Management & Reporting

- Establish processes for reporting and investigating compliance breaches, incidents, or unethical behaviour.
- Coordinate incident response efforts and remediation actions to address identified issues.
- Prepare and distribute incident reports, including recommendations for preventing future occurrences

Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

- Collaborate with internal departments and stakeholders to promote risk awareness and compliance culture.
- Engage with external stakeholders, such as regulatory authorities or industry associations, to stay updated on emerging requirements and best practices.
- Foster effective communication and relationships with internal and external auditors, legal counsel, and regulatory bodies.

Continuous Improvement and Monitoring

- Conduct periodic reviews and assessments of the risk and compliance programs to identify areas for improvement.
- Monitor and report on key risk indicators and compliance metrics to senior management and the board.

Legal Advice

- Provide expert legal advice and guidance to BIB on various legal matters.
- Support BIB in ensuring compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and contractual obligations.
- Assist in managing legal risks and protecting BIB's interests.
- Review, draft, and negotiate a wide range of contracts, agreements, and legal documents.
- Identify and assess legal risks, terms, and conditions in contracts.
- Ensure contracts align with BIB's legal requirements, policies, and objectives.

Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

- Collaborate with internal departments and stakeholders to promote risk awareness and compliance culture.
- Represent the company as needed on legal and regulatory matters.
- Prepare regulatory submissions and reports as may be required from time to time
- Keep the management and Board informed on changes to legal and regulatory requirements as well as the company's compliance status.
- Make recommendations to mitigate risk and ensure compliance

Team Leadership

- Manage and mentor departmental staff, providing guidance and support to ensure that their work is aligned with departmental goals.
- Delegate tasks and responsibilities to team members and monitor their progress.
- Ensure that the Business Development teams meet their deadlines and performance targets.

Conduct regular team meetings to update staff on company policies, objectives, and project timelines.

Customer Experience

- Embed a customer-first mentality within the department by ensuring that all actions and decisions prioritize customer satisfaction. Ensure that services or products delivered by the department meet or exceed customer expectations.
- Implement systems to regularly gather customer feedback on departmental performance, service quality, and product delivery. Use this feedback to drive continuous improvement.
- Recognize that other departments may be internal customers. Ensure that inter-departmental collaboration is smooth and supportive to maintain the overall efficiency of the business

Qualification Requirements

- A Degree in Law, Risk Management, Business Administration Management, or equivalent
- Certificate of Proficiency in long Term and short-Term Insurance
- Certificate in Risk Management, Compliance, Governance would be an added advantage

Experience

A minimum of eight (8) years of experience in risk and/or compliance, three (3) of which should have been at Supervisor or Management level

Experience in the financial services sector would be preferable

Competencies

- Organizational (Planning, organizing & coordinating)
- Results Oriented
- Communication, influence and impact
- Assertiveness
- Decision-making

Technical

- Risk Management
- Compliance Management
- Auditing and Internal Controls
- Governance
- Data Analysis and Reporting

The Babereki Insurance Brokers offers an attractive remuneration package that includes: -

- Competitive Salary
- Contributory Pension Scheme (employer pays 12%; employee 5%)
- Leave of 30 days per annum
- Group Life Cover
- Optional Funeral Scheme cover
- Medical Aid (employer pays 50%, employee 50%)
- Staff Loan Scheme

Interested candidates should submit a detailed cover letter, certified copies of academic certificates, transcripts and ID and at least two (2) recent references to bib.recruitment@babereki.co.bw or hand delivery at Plot 54366, Peelo Place, Unit 2A, CBD, Gaborone.

NB: cover letters should be addressed to.

The Principal Officer
P O Box 1708 AAD Poso-House
Gaborone, Botswana

CLOSING DATE:28/02/2025

Only shortlisted Candidates will be responded to.

The economics of the Gaolathe's – Botswana's past and future



BAKANG PHUTHOGO
BUSINESS WITH BK

ON FEBRUARY 10TH, 2025, BOTSWANA'S Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe, delivered a highly anticipated budget speech that captured the hopes and aspirations of a nation at a pivotal crossroads. Standing poised and confident, and drawing comparisons to his father, the late Baledzi Gaolathe, Ndaba stepped into the spotlight with a determination to highlight the economic blueprint for a country seeking revitalization amidst formidable challenges.

Understanding the evolution of Botswana's fiscal policies requires examining the budget allocations for key ministries during different eras of leadership. Below is a comparison of the ministry allocations under Baledzi Gaolathe in the 2007/2008 fiscal year against those proposed by Ndaba Gaolathe for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

BALANCING HISTORICAL CONTEXT: FATHER VS. SON

Baledzi Gaolathe navigated Botswana's finances with a steady hand from 1994 to 2008, overseeing a period marked by economic growth bolstered by diamond revenues and strategic investments in social services. His tenure was characterized by budget surpluses that allowed for significant public expenditure.

In stark contrast, Ndaba Gaolathe must contend with a more complex set of challenges. He is at the forefront of a new narrative—one that necessitates changing the economic playbook to address the realities of a post-pandemic world, depressed mineral prices, and complex global economic dynamics. Under Ndaba's stewardship, Botswana aims to shift from a heavy reliance on the diamond sector to a diversified economy that promotes sustainable growth.

BALEDZI GAOLATHE (1994 - 2008)

Baledzi Gaolathe presided over an era marked by significant economic prosperity and strategic innovations. Under his stewardship: Total Government Revenue: Approximately P55 billion by the fiscal year 2007/2008, driven by the diamond sector.

Budget Surpluses: Consistent surpluses allowed for substantial investment in social services and infrastructure.

Expenditure Focus: Total expenditure around P53 billion in 2007/2008. Investments were prioritized in health (including the establishment of NACA), education, and infrastructure, leading to improved public welfare.

Economic Context: The economy experienced sustainable growth with GDP growth rates often exceeding 5% during this period.

NDABA GAOLATHE'S 2025/2026 PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

In comparison, the proposed allocations for Ndaba Gaolathe's budget highlight a different fiscal landscape:

Ministry for the President: P12.55 billion (19% of recurrent budget)

A significant increase relative to Baledzi's tenure, primarily focused on governance and administrative efficiency.

Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education:

P11.68 billion (17.7%)

Reflects a shift towards social services, but the allocation primarily serves administrative costs rather than immediate improvements in quality.

Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs:

P11.27 billion (17.1%)

Increased funding aimed at local governance, yet questions remain about the effectiveness of this spending in addressing community needs.

Ministry of Health:

P8.98 billion (12.5%)

Intended for healthcare improvements, this allocation appears less focused compared to Baledzi's strategic investments that directly confronted public health crises.

Ministry of Higher Education:

P4.66 billion (7.1%)

This allocation aims to elevate tertiary education, but concerns persist regarding responsiveness to job market demands and employability.

In his earlier statements, Ndaba Gaolathe remarked that "the condition of our public finances, by any measure, is far from satisfactory." He emphasized the economy's significant fiscal challenges, dwindling government revenues, and the persistence of slow, jobless growth. It is important to note that the government inherited a bureaucratic system burdened by deep-rooted inefficiencies that have hindered progress and development. However, it appears that in his inaugural budget, the Minister is navigating this situation with caution, seeking to strike a delicate balance between prudent financial management and the complexities

of political considerations. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has consistently recommended reforms to improve Botswana's fiscal sustainability, including measures to reduce the size of the civil service. In their consultations with the Botswana government, the IMF has pointed out that a bloated civil service can strain public finances and reduce the effectiveness of government spending. Specifically, the IMF has suggested that Botswana should consider streamlining its public sector to enhance efficiency and align the wage bill with economic realities.

As of recent assessments, Botswana's civil service is considered bloated relative to the size of its population and the demands of its public sector. Estimates suggest that the civil service employs approximately 135,000 individuals, which represents a significant portion of the government's recurrent expenditure. Reports indicate that nearly 60% of the recurrent budget is allocated to civil servant salaries.

This level of employment in the civil service has raised concerns about efficiency and sustainability, particularly in the context of rising government expenditures and declining revenues. The IMF and other analysts have pointed out that the bloated nature of the civil service contributes to fiscal challenges, as a large share of the budget is often tied up in salaries rather than in funding essential services and development initiatives.

Transitioning to e-governance and fully digitizing government services can result in considerable cost savings and enhanced efficiency. However, the budget does not adequately address this, as the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology receives minimal attention and is allocated a shared budget among other ministries

OLD AGE PENSION:

The Old Age Pension, referred to as Tandabala Allowance in Botswana, is set to increase from P830 to P1,400 starting April 1, 2025. This adjustment represents a substantial increase in support for senior citizens, reflecting the government's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for its elderly population.

Current Demographics: As of recent estimates, Botswana has approximately 74,000 pensioners who are eligible for the old age pension. The increase in the pension amount will positively impact these individuals, providing greater financial security and improving their ability to meet basic needs.

Fiscal Implications: The increase in the pension could lead to a significant budgetary impact. If the current pension amount of P830 is paid to 74,000 pensioners, the total expenditure for the old age pension would be approximately P616 million annually. When the new amount of P1,400 is applied, this expenditure will rise to around P1.046 billion per year, effectively increasing the pension budget by approximately P430 million.

NEWBORN BABY ALLOWANCE ANALYSIS

In conjunction with the increased Old Age Pension, the budget proposes a targeted monthly allowance of P300 for newborns until they turn one year old. This initiative aims to support families and improve the welfare of infants in Botswana.

Birth Statistics: Botswana records an average of 52,000 births annually based on recent data. If all newborns qualify for the proposed allowance of P300, the annual expenditure for this initiative will be around P187.2 million (P300 x 52,000 newborns x 12 months).

Social Impact: The introduction of this allowance may bring about several benefits, including improved nutrition and health outcomes for infants, reduced financial strain on young families, and increased overall investment in early childhood development.

OPPORTUNITY COST CONSIDERATIONS

While the increases in the Old Age Pension and the introduction of the newborn baby allowance represent progressive steps toward enhancing social welfare, it is essential to consider the opportunity costs associated with these budgetary decisions:

Budget Allocation: The additional expenditure on both initiatives (approximately P617 million for the pension increase and P187.2 million for the newborn allowance) could total around P804 million. This substantial financial commitment must come from a finite budget, likely leading to cuts in other critical areas such as ICT, sports, youth.

Long-term Sustainability: Investing heavily in these social welfare programs without identifying offsetting revenue sources could strain Botswana's fiscal sustainability. While supporting vulnerable groups is essential, it raises questions about whether the government can maintain such expenditures without compromising other economic and social priorities, such as job creation and economic diversification.

Sectoral Trade-offs: Every pula allocated to pensions and allowances represents a pula that could have been used for other development projects, public services, or infrastructure investments that might yield higher economic returns and broader societal benefits in the long term. While there are potential costs associated with these budgetary decisions, the increased financial support from both the Old Age Pension and the newborn baby allowance could lead to positive economic outcomes through trickle-down effects:

Increased Consumer Spending: The additional income for pensioners and young families can lead to increased consumer spending, benefiting local businesses and stimulating economic activity.

New Business Opportunities: The heightened financial capacity among pensioners and families may create new pathways for businesses focused on sectors such as healthcare, childcare, and elder services, fostering entrepreneurship and innovation.

Job Creation: As consumption increases, businesses may require additional workers, which could lead to job creation in various sectors, further contributing to economic growth.

Overall Economic Growth: The combined effects of increased spending and new business developments can enhance economic growth, potentially generating additional tax revenues that could be reinvested in public services and infrastructure.

The government's decision to implement a 1.5% increase in both corporate tax and the highest bracket of personal income tax indicates a departure from previous assurances of no new taxes. This change has been framed as a necessary measure for fiscal consolidation, prompted by rising budget deficits that demand immediate attention. However, economists have long warned that such funding for expanded social welfare initiatives would inevitably come at a cost, making this tax increase somewhat of an expected eventuality.

Economic Pressures on Households and Businesses

The implications of this tax increase are particularly concerning in the context of rising living costs and economic stagnation currently faced by many Batswana. Families are grappling with inflation that strains their budgets, and the added tax burden may only exacerbate their financial hardships. For businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the increased tax obligations could lead to reduced cash flow, hampering their ability to invest, hire, and grow.

A Glimpse of Hope with Proposed Sovereign Wealth Fund and Fund of Funds

In the evolving landscape of Botswana's economic development, Ndaba's proposals for a Sovereign Wealth Fund and a National Fund of Funds present a potential game changer for the nation. These initiatives could redefine how resources are allocated and managed, paving the way for sustainable growth and innovation.

A Sovereign Wealth Fund: Building Long-Term Prosperity

The idea of a Sovereign Wealth Fund is particularly compelling as it aims to invest national wealth into productive assets that can generate returns for future generations. This fund could be financed through revenues from natural resources, strategic investments, or surpluses generated from government budgets. By creating a buffer against economic volatility, a Sovereign Wealth Fund could ensure that Botswana's wealth benefits not just the current population but also future generations. This foresight could lead to enhanced economic stability and reduced reliance on fluctuating revenue sources.

National Fund of Funds: A Game Changer for Economic Development

Complementing the Sovereign Wealth Fund, the proposed National Fund of Funds could serve as a more agile and responsive financing mechanism. By reimagining the role of CEDA and Botswana Development Corporation this initiative would allow for the strategic allocation of resources to priority sectors, including innovation-driven industries, creative sectors, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The flexibility of a fund of funds structure could empower local entrepreneurs and innovators by providing them with the capital and support they need to thrive. Entrepreneurs in Botswana are fervently eager to achieve success; however, the organizations responsible for fostering this ambition must possess unequivocal mandates focused on cultivating an enabling environment conducive to business growth. Yet, the predicament frequently arises from bureaucratic inertia and restrictive regulatory frameworks that can impede the very entrepreneurial spirit they are intended to promote. Such obstructions can undermine innovation and dissuade potential business ventures, thereby stifling economic

With the State of the Nation Address (SONA) and the budget speech now behind us, the responsibility now lies with you, the legislators, to craft transformational laws that elevate Botswana to new heights. The urgency for progress is undeniable; as the saying goes, "hope deferred makes the heart sick." It is imperative that we move beyond rhetoric and translate our ambitions into tangible action. This is the moment to implement policies that foster innovation and entrepreneurship, ensuring that our legislative framework empowers every citizen to succeed. Together, let us seize this opportunity to create a resilient and vibrant economy that embodies the dreams and aspirations of all Batswana, paving the way for a prosperous and sustainable future for generations to come

Bakang Phuthogo is an entrepreneurial specialist with research interests in global entrepreneurship, international business development and Impact Investing.



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

MINISTRY OF MINERALS AND ENERGY

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO 2 OF 2025

VACANCY: Deputy Director (Mineral Affairs Division)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified, experienced and highly motivated citizens of Botswana for the above position in the Ministry of Minerals and Energy (MME) under Mineral Affairs Division.

Salary: E2 (P449, 256 – P467, 436 per annum)
Leave: 30 working days per annum.
Benefits: Optional Contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government Contributes 50% and employee 50%)
Duration: 2 – 3 years' contract
Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Economics/ Finance/ Statistics or Mining Engineering/Geology or related fields from a recognized and accredited institution.
Experience: A minimum of fourteen (14) years' work experience in the field of mining and minerals industry or related field.

Main Purpose of the Job:

To provide strategic direction in the development and promotion of mining and minerals statutes, and offer advice on key areas for policy development.

Key Performance Areas:

- Coordinates the review of mineral policies and legislation.
- Provides technical advice in developing negotiation strategies for mining development agreements.
- Provides technical advice on forums for discussing mining and minerals issues.
- Liaises with stakeholders in the development, review and harmonization of mineral policies, programmes and procedures.
- Monitors and evaluates minerals projects.
- Addresses the public/stakeholder forums on Minerals programmes.
- Prepares financial budget estimates for the Division.
- Facilitates training and development programmes for subordinate staff.
- Guides subordinate staff on matters relating to Mining and Minerals programs.
- Undertakes any other related duties as may be assigned by Management.

Key Competencies

- Deciding and Initiating Action
- Adhering to Principles and Values
- Analyzing
- Leading and Supervising
- Formulating Strategies and Concepts
- Planning and Organising
- Delivering Results and Meeting Customer Expectations
- Adapting and Responding to change
- Entrepreneurial and Commercial Thinking

APPLICANTS:

- a) Applicants should quote the Vacancy Circular No. for this advertisement and provide the following details:
- Full names, address and place of birth.
 - Certified copy of National Identity Card.
 - Brief summary of career with duties (Curriculum Vitae)
 - Certified copies of certificates together with their transcripts (both academic and professional).
 - At least two (2) traceable references confirming the required experience (not more than six (6) months) old.
 - Names and contact details of two (2) current referees.
- b) Applicants should indicate:
- Date of first appointment
 - Present post and date of appointment thereto.
 - Candidates from Parastatals and Private Sector Organisations should provide a certified statement of salary or pay.

IMPORTANT

All Applications from serving Public Officers should be routed through their respective Heads of Departments and Permanent Secretaries. Applications **NOT** so routed will not be considered.

Note: All applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements stipulated above will not be responded to. **Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

Applications should be addressed to:

Permanent Secretary
 Ministry of Minerals and Energy
 Private Bag 0018
 Gaborone

OR hand delivered to:

Ministry of Minerals and Energy
 Fairgrounds Office Park
 First Floor
 Records Management Unit

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO 3 OF 2025

VACANCY: ASSISTANT MANAGER (Facilities Management)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified, experienced and highly motivated citizens of Botswana for the above position in the Ministry of Minerals and Energy (MME) under the Department of Corporate Services.

Salary Scale: D2 (P337,008 – 371,628) per annum
Leave: 30 working days per annum.
Benefits: 1. Optional Contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and employee pays 50%).
 2. Contributory pension scheme for permanent and pensionable appointments. (Government pays 15% and employee pays 5%)
Qualifications: Degree in Estate/ Property Management/ Facilities Management / Construction / Management/Engineering/ Building Services or any related field. Must be registered with the relevant regulatory body.

Experience: A minimum of eight (8) years post qualification experience in Estate/ Property/Facility Management, two (2) years should have been served at D3 salary scale or equivalent equivalent in Parastatal or Private Sector. Knowledge of Government Procurement processes will be an added advantage.

Main Purpose of the Job:

To facilitate maintenance of all projects in the Ministry buildings.

Key Performance Areas:

- Implements facility management regulations, procedures and requirements.
- Secure office accommodation for the entire Ministry and develop design of the available office space and implement, in order to achieve optimal utilisation.
- Develop and implement maintenance schedule for buildings within the Ministry
- Carryout risk assessment of the Ministry buildings and other health and safety checks as directed by the Health and Safety standards and regulations.
- Works in collaboration with contract management office to ensure work is properly performed, and processes claims for payment.
- Supervises work of contractors in connection with maintenance and improvement of buildings and building facilities.
- Carries out periodic inspections of buildings and recommends any needed repairs.
- Prepares report on the operational effectiveness of the facilities.
- Undertakes any other related duties as required to meet exigencies of the service.

Key Competencies:

- Deciding and Initiating action
- Adhering to principles and values
- Working with People
- Analyzing
- Writing and Reporting
- Planning and Organizing
- Delivering results and meeting customer expectation
- Adapting and Responding to Change

APPLICATIONS:

- a) Applicants should quote the Vacancy Circular and the reference number of this advertisement and provide the following details:
- Full names, address and place of birth.
 - A certified copy of a valid National Identity Card.
 - Brief summary of career with duties (Curriculum Vitae).
 - Certified copies of academic qualification certificates together with their transcripts (both academic and professional)
 - At least two (2) traceable references confirming the required experience (not more than six (6) months) old.
- b) Applicants should indicate:
- Date of first appointment.
 - Present post, date of appointment thereto and salary scale.
 - Contact number (s).
 - Candidates from Parastatals and Private Sector Organizations **SHOULD** provide a statement of salary or pay.

IMPORTANT

All applications from serving Public Officers should be routed through their respective Heads of Departments and Permanent Secretaries. Applications **NOT** so routed will not be considered.

NOTE: All applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements stipulated above will not be responded to. **Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

Applications should be addressed to:

The Permanent Secretary
 Ministry of Minerals & Energy
 Private Bag 0018
 Gaborone

OR hand delivered to:

Ministry of Minerals & Energy
 Fairgrounds Office Park – Block C
 Records Management Unit
 First Floor, Office No. F04

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 4 OF 2025

VACANCY: PRINCIPAL PROJECT OFFICER II (ANTI – CORRUPTION)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified, experienced and highly motivated citizens for the above position in the Ministry of Minerals and Energy tenable in the Department of Corporate Services under the Anti-Corruption Unit.

Salary Scale: D3 (P293,652 - 323,748) per annum
Leave: 30 working days per annum
Benefits: 1. Optional contributory medical aid scheme (Government pays 50% and employee pays 50%)
 2. Contributory Pension (Government pays 15% and employee pays 5%)

Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences or Business Administration. Post Graduate qualification in Strategic Management, Enterprise Risk Management will be an added advantage

Experience: A minimum of eight (8) years' relevant experience in the Anti-Corruption field with at least two (2) years served at D4 salary scale or equivalent in Parastatal or Private Sector.

Main Purpose of the Job:

To provide guidance and take part in conducting internal investigations and Transactions Monitoring Exercises.

Key Performance Areas:

- Coordinates the development of Corruption Risk Assessment and implementation of the recommendations made.
- Coordinates case conferences aimed at measuring the progress of investigations.
- Assists in the development of the investigation plans and guides the operations of the investigation teams.
- Conducts preliminary enquiries on suspected fraud/ corruption incidences and refer those that needs further enquiries to the DCEC/Police.
- Prepares the case reports and analyses evidence.
- Gives feedback to informers and reporters regarding investigation process.
- Monitors initiatives aimed at improving the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of the investigations.
- Prepares monthly and quarterly reports for planning purposes.
- Drafts performance Annual Plans for the Unit.
- Facilitate training and development programme for subordinate staff.
- Prepares Budget estimates and resource planning for the Unit.
- Undertakes any other related duties as maybe assigned by Management.

Key Competencies

- Deciding and Initiating Action
- Working with people
- Relating and Networking
- Analyzing
- Creating and Innovating
- Adhering to Principles and Values
- Coping with Pressures and Setbacks

APPLICANTS:

- a) Applicants should quote the Vacancy Circular No. for this advertisement and provide the following details:
- Full names, address and place of birth.
 - Certified copy of National Identity Card.
 - Brief summary of career with duties (Curriculum Vitae)
 - Certified copies of certificates together with their transcripts (both academic and professional).
 - At least two (2) traceable references confirming the required experience (not more than six (6) months) old.
 - Names and contact details of two (2) current referees.
- b) Applicants should indicate:
- Date of first appointment
 - Present post and date of appointment thereto.
 - Candidates from Parastatals and Private Sector Organisations should provide a certified statement of salary or pay.

IMPORTANT

All Applications from serving Public Officers should be routed through their respective Heads of Departments and Permanent Secretaries. Applications **NOT** so routed will not be considered.

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Applications should be addressed to:

Permanent Secretary
 Ministry of Minerals and Energy
 Private Bag 0018
 Gaborone

OR hand delivered to:

Ministry of Minerals and Energy
 Fairgrounds Office Park
 First Floor
 Records Management Unit

CLOSING DATE: 21st February 2025

For further information required contact Human Resource Management Unit at 3656693/6695/6686.

lifestyle

The power of film

DONALD MOLOSI*

IN THE HEART OF SOUTHERN Africa lies our Botswana, a nation rich in culture, history, and potential. Yet, like many countries, it faces challenges that require innovative solutions. As an actor and storyteller, I believe that film can serve as a powerful tool to address these challenges and elevate our society. Through storytelling, we can inspire change, promote understanding, and foster unity among our diverse communities. After all, Botswana's superpower has always been her ability to find unity in diversity.

Cultural Preservation
Botswana is home to a myriad of

cultures and languages. However, globalization poses a threat to the preservation of our unique identities. Film offers an opportunity to document and celebrate our traditions. By creating films that showcase our customs, languages, and stories, we can ensure that future generations understand their heritage. Documentaries about traditional ceremonies or fictional narratives rooted in local folklore can help preserve our cultural legacy while also educating audiences both locally and internationally.

Empowering Voices
One of the most significant benefits of film is its ability to amplify voices that are often marginalized. In Botswana, women, children,

and minority groups frequently face societal challenges that go unaddressed. By producing films that highlight their experiences—be it through dramas or documentaries—we can raise awareness about their struggles and triumphs. This not only empowers these individuals but also encourages dialogue within society about pressing issues such as gender equality and social justice.

Economic Development
The film industry has the potential to be a significant driver of economic growth in Botswana. By investing in local filmmakers and creating infrastructure for film production—such as studios and training programs—we can create jobs and stimulate entrepreneurship.



The success of films like "A United Kingdom" has already shown the world what Botswana has to offer; imagine if we could produce more content that showcases our landscapes, stories, and talent! This would not only attract tourists but also position Botswana as a hub for film production in Africa.

Fostering National Pride

Film has an unparalleled ability to evoke emotions and foster national pride. When we see ourselves represented on screen—our struggles depicted authentically—it creates a sense of belonging and unity among citizens. Films that tell stories about Botswana's history or achievements can instill pride in our identity as Botswana. This collective pride

is crucial for nation-building; it encourages us to work together towards common goals while celebrating our diversity.

A Call to Action

As we look towards the future of Botswana, let us embrace the power of film as a catalyst for change. We must invest in our storytellers—supporting them with resources,

training, and platforms to share their narratives with the world. By doing so, we will not only enrich our cultural landscape but also pave the way for economic development and social progress.

Donald Molosi is an award-winning film producer. He wrote and produced "Partly Cloudy & Hot" (2023) starring Kaone Kario.

BUSANG J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO: CVHGB-001495-23

In the matter between:

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA
And
SOLOFELANG GABANCHEBE M RAMAJA

PLAINTIFF
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE: Friday 21st March 2025
TIME OF SALE: 10:30 Hours
PLACE OF SALE: Piece of land being Tribal Lot 2122, Molepolole
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 Tribal Lot 2122, Molepolole, measuring 1000m² (One Thousand square metres) held under Notarial Deed of Cession No MA 283/2010 dated 18th day of January 2010 made in favour of Solofelang Gabanchebe Moseatsana Ramaja with developments thereon being 1x1 two bedroomed house, sitting room, kitchen and outside toilet

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025

Deputy Sheriff M. Moshabi
7301311 / 7162304
C/o Gobhoza Legal Practice
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 115, Unit 19, Kgale Mews
Gaborone International Finance Park
P O Box 26168, Game City
Gaborone

GOBHOZA LEGAL PRACTICE
Attorneys, Conveyancers, Notaries, Arbitrators & Corporate Services

NOTICE OF INTENDED CHANGE OF MARITAL PROPERTY REGIME

(Section 8(1) (d) of the Married Persons Property Act)

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT:

ONALENNA NTHOYAPELO and **KEINEETSE KGOSIETILE** married in community of property at **Thamaga** on the **8th day October 2021** to change their matrimonial property regime from in community of property to out of community of property.

The parties intend to make an application to the High Court of the Republic of Botswana following the expiration of three(3) weeks' notice period from the date of first publication hereof;

Any person or creditor who may have an interest in the assets and/or liabilities of the parties' individual or separate estates, should they have any objection should inform the parties at their undersigned address, of any such objection before the expiration on the three (3) week period, or make representations before the High Court of the Republic of Botswana once the contemplated application is lodged.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 20TH DAY OF JANUARY 2025

ONALENNA NTHOYAPELO
P.O Box 40116
Gaborone
Cell: 74029787

(Before GABANAGAE J)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO. CVHGB-000329-22

BBS LIMITED Plaintiff

and

LISENDA LISENDA Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE: 14th March, 2025
TIME OF SALE: 10:00hours
PLACE OF SALE: Plot 26014, Gaborone

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, piece of land being **Lot 26014, Gaborone**, measuring 450m² situated in Gaborone West Extension 27, held under deed of transfer No 1471/2004 dated 25th day of July 2004, with developments there being 1 x dining room, 2 x bedrooms fitted sharing toilet and bath tub, master ensuite with closet, open fitted kitchen, sitting room with fire place, study room, laundry room fitted, garage, veranda, motorised gate, electric fence and paved yard, made in favour of **LISENDA LISENDA**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 27TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

N. OOKAME c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence Avenue, Extension 11, P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/14822)
72879169/77435503

RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

Geotourism: A holistic approach to diversify tourism



BOTSWANA'S TOURISM industry has long been celebrated for its rich wildlife and pristine natural environments, particularly in renowned destinations like the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park. However, the industry faces seasonal challenges, with the green season (low season) resulting in a significant drop in tourist numbers and economic activity. To address this, a holistic approach that integrates geotourism with other tourism niches—such as cultural tourism, ecotourism, adventure tourism, and wildlife tourism—can create a sustainable, year-round tourism economy.

What is Geotourism?
Geotourism focuses on the preservation and promotion of a region's geological features and landscapes, emphasizing the relationship between the earth's natural heritage and the cultural and ecological systems it supports. This form of tourism aligns seamlessly with Botswana's diverse offerings, providing an opportunity to not only enhance the visitor experience but also address current challenges in the tourism sector.

The Interrelationship of Geotourism with Other Tourism Niches

Cultural Tourism
Geotourism and cultural tourism naturally intersect in Botswana, where geological features are deeply tied to local traditions and heritage. For instance:
The Tsodilo Hills, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are celebrated for their ancient rock art and spiritual significance to local communities.
Local storytelling, traditional

crafts, and indigenous knowledge about the land can complement geotourism experiences, offering tourists a deeper understanding of the region's cultural history.

Ecotourism
Geotourism enhances ecotourism by focusing on the conservation of geological landmarks alongside biodiversity. For example:
Tours of the Makgadikgadi Pans can highlight both their ecological importance and their geological evolution, fostering a broader appreciation for the environment.
Sustainable tourism practices can be applied to geosites, aligning with Botswana's commitment to low-impact tourism.

Adventure Tourism
Botswana's dramatic landscapes provide the perfect setting for adventure activities that can be integrated with geotourism:
Rock climbing, hiking, and exploration of caves or gorges can attract thrill-seekers during the low season. Desert expeditions in the Kalahari can blend adventure with education about the region's unique geology.

Wildlife Tourism
Geotourism can complement wildlife tourism by educating visitors about how geological processes have shaped ecosystems. For example:
Understanding the role of seasonal flooding in the Okavango Delta's formation can deepen tourists' appreciation of the wildlife it supports.
Geological tours of salt pans or fossil beds can add diversity to wildlife safaris, making green season trips more appealing.
Long-Term and Short-Term Approaches
To fully integrate geotourism into Botswana's tourism strategy, a combination of long-term and short-term initiatives is required.
Short-Term Approaches
Develop Green Season Packages
Combine wildlife safaris with geotourism experiences, such as visits to the Makgadikgadi Pans, Tsodilo Hills, or Gwihaba Caves.
Offer discounted packages during the green season, promoting activities that showcase the beauty of the landscape during this time.
Community Training Programs

Train local communities and guides in geotourism principles, ensuring they can effectively interpret and present Botswana's geological and cultural heritage.

Develop partnerships with local artisans to create geologically themed crafts and souvenirs.

Marketing Campaigns
Highlight Botswana's unique geological features in domestic and international marketing campaigns.
Use storytelling and digital media to showcase how geotourism connects with wildlife, culture, and adventure tourism.

Pilot Geotourism Events
Host annual geotourism festivals during the green season, featuring guided tours, cultural performances, and educational workshops.
Long-Term Approaches
Create Geoparks
Establish geoparks that integrate geology, ecology, and culture, such as a geopark encompassing the Makgadikgadi Pans and surrounding communities.
Collaborate with UNESCO to designate and promote geoparks as international attractions.
Develop Infrastructure
Invest in infrastructure to support geotourism, such as interpretive centers, hiking trails, and eco-friendly accommodations.
Improve access to remote geological sites to make them more tourist-friendly.
Education and Research
Partner with universities and research institutions to study and document Botswana's geological heritage.
Develop educational materials and programs to teach both locals and tourists about geotourism.
Diversify Offerings Across Regions
Expand geotourism experiences beyond traditional hotspots, promoting lesser-known areas like the Tswaing Hills or the Ghanzi Ridge.
Create regional itineraries that connect different tourism niches, encouraging longer stays.
Achieving a Year-Round Tourism Economy
By embracing geotourism as a central pillar of Botswana's tourism strategy, the country can mitigate the

challenges of the low season while creating a more diverse and inclusive industry. This holistic approach not only benefits the economy but also promotes conservation and cultural preservation. Botswana's unique geological heritage, when integrated with cultural, ecological, adventure, and wildlife tourism, can create unforgettable experiences that attract visitors throughout the year. With strategic planning and collaboration, the green season can become an opportunity rather than a challenge, positioning Botswana as a leader in sustainable and innovative tourism.

**Director of Business Development, Afrigetaway (Pty) Ltd*
Website
<https://afrigetaway.com/>
Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/Afrigetaway>
Instagram
https://www.instagram.com/afrigetaway_official/

UB Radio

ON TUESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY 2025, The Minister of Communications, and Innovation, David Tshere alongside the Minister of Higher Education, Prince Maele officially launched the UB radio station at the University of Botswana in Gaborone.

When setting tone for the event, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Botswana Professor David Norris highlighted the significance of the radio station as he believes that it will bridge knowledge gap between the institution and the community.

He further indicated that UB is a research-based institution, and it is through the radio station that they will share essential information with the community. Prof. Norris however assured Hon. Ministers that the radio will self-sustain itself financial through adverts.

In his Keynote address, Minister of Communications and Innovation David Tshere acknowledged the development, and stated that the UB Radio Station represents a critical moment in the evolution of media in Botswana as a community radio station.

Tshere further noted that the station serves as a platform for

Stanbic Bank Botswana celebrates Gabane Steam Roadshow Graduates, Ushering In A New Era Of Innovation For Bw Youth

THE GABANE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Roadshow Graduation successfully took place with the graduation of 36 students, marking a significant milestone in Botswana's education and skills development agenda. Held at Gabane Primary School on the 12th of February 2025 in partnership with Stanbic Bank Botswana and Standard Bank Group, the programme stands as a testament to the power of collaboration in equipping young minds with future-ready skills.

Since its launch in May 2024, the STEAM Roadshow has served as a transformative platform, providing hands-on learning experiences that inspire students to explore the limitless possibilities of technology, engineering, and creative problem-solving. The initiative is part of Standard Bank's Kuunda STEAM programme, which focuses on advancing Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education to close the skills gap and prepare students for the evolving workplace.

Reflecting on the impact of the programme, Mr Mthabisi Bokete, Stanbic Bank Botswana Board member, stated: "Education is the most powerful tool for sustainable economic growth. The success of this first cohort proves that when we invest in the right skills, we shape a generation capable of transforming Botswana's future. At Stanbic Bank Botswana, we believe in action-driven impact. Botswana is our home; we drive her growth, and initiatives like the STEAM Roadshow are critical to building a knowledge-based economy."

Aligned with Stanbic Bank Botswana's Social, Economic, and Environmental (SEE) framework, the STEAM Roadshow directly supports the Bank's commitment to youth employability, enterprise growth, and education. By introducing students to cutting-edge technology and critical thinking skills, the initiative ensures that Botswana's next generation is equipped to compete in an increasingly digital and global economy.

Addressing the graduates, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr. Kgotso Ramoroka, commended the initiative. "This graduation marks the beginning of a new era in Botswana's education landscape. The skills these students have gained will not only shape their future careers but also contribute to our national development. We commend all partners for their commitment to education and innovation."

The success of this first STEAM Roadshow cohort underscores the potential of public-private partnerships in advancing education. With plans to expand the initiative to more schools across Botswana, Stanbic Bank Botswana remains committed to driving sustainable impact through education, innovation, and youth empowerment as it works to continue to drive Botswana's growth.

ENDS –
For more information contact:
Taazima Kala, Hotwire General Manager & Chief Consultant
taazima@hotmail.com or +267 3923579
OR
Ratang Motladieli, Stanbic Bank Botswana PR & Communications Manager

motladieli@stanbic.com or +267 3618230

About Stanbic Bank Botswana
Stanbic Bank Botswana (SBB) is a member of the Standard Bank Group. It opened its doors as Stanbic Bank Botswana in Broadhurst, in March 1992 and has been in operation for 32 years. It is the third largest commercial bank by profitability and a market leader in the Corporate and Investment Banking sector, high ambitions of reclaiming its stake in the Business and Commercial Banking space and growing extensively in the Personal and Private Banking space.

The Bank caters for three main client segments which are Personal and Private Banking responsible for servicing retail clients, Business and Commercial Banking which services Enterprise/SME clients and Commercial clients and Corporate and Investment Banking which is responsible for large corporates and multinationals. These are all supported by numerous Corporate Function Units to help deliver solutions to the market and grow the Bank.

The Bank is guided by key pillars that guide and govern how it goes about building its communities. These include Employability and Entrepreneurship, Health and Education emanating from our Corporate Social Investment Policy. Under Sponsorships the focus is on Thought Leadership, Team Sports, and the Performing Arts. The Social Economic and Environment (SEE) pillar is executed mainly through the Bank's Accelerate Incubator and Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP). These programmes were established to serve underserved youth and entrepreneurs, to help combat youth unemployment and support the scaling of small to medium enterprises through coaching, mentoring, access to markets, accelerated growth programmes and access to funding.

Stanbic Bank Botswana currently employs just over 645 members of staff and has a national footprint comprising 13 branches. Six branches are located within Gaborone, with representation in Francistown, Letlhakane (a digital branch), Maun, Mogoditshane, Palapye, Selebi Phikwe and Kazungula. We offer a comprehensive Card Acquiring solution set with Stand-alone Point of Sale (POS) devices countrywide, eCommerce merchant solutions and integrated POS tills deployed across key retailer outlets. The Bank also services customers through a network of 79 ATMs countrywide.

Unayo, our mobile money platform Unayo, services individuals and businesses, of which a large number are large retail chain stores. We also introduced a worldclass mobile forex app, Shyft, which trades in four leading currencies including US Dollar, British Pound Sterling, Euro and Australian Dollar.

Having operated in Botswana for over 32 years, Stanbic Bank Botswana continues to receive prestigious awards as testament to the transformative role it plays in partnering Botswana and driving her growth. In the year 2023, the Bank, received various awards from the Global Finance including Best Consumer Digital Bank in Botswana, Best Sub-Custodian Bank in Botswana and Best Consumer Digital Bank for Information Security and Fraud




Management, among others.
<https://gfmag.com/award/award-winners/worlds-best-digital-banks-2023-round-1/>
<https://gfmag.com/award/award-winners/worlds-best-sub-custodian-banks-2023-2/>
Stanbic Bank Botswana is committed towards attainment of our vision to create value for clients and the communities we serve by providing access to digital financial and related solutions that support sustainable growth. Our Letsema 2025 Strategy is a clear, actionable, and measurable roadmap towards attaining this and achieving our growth and performance measures, both financial and Social, Economic and Environmental ("SEE"), for we believe Botswana is our home and we drive her growth.
For further information, go to www.stanbicbank.co.bw

launched




knowledge sharing, critical discussions as well as professional media training for students, where they can engage in key issues with the general public. Tshere said the Launch of UB radio station reflects a broader transformation of Botswana's media environment.

UB radio was initially launched on 6th May 2021 as an online radio station before it transitioned into a community radio station as defined by BOCRA. It will be now accessible in Gaborone (99.5 MHz), Francistown (107.2 MHz) and Maun (101.0 MHz).



2025 BURS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

#ReIsaDitlameloKoBathong



SOUTH REGION

- Mochudi**
Mochudi Mall
Monday 24th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Ramotswa**
Plot 3273 Mall
Wednesday 26th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- GoodHope**
Choppies mall parking
Friday 28th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Kanye**
Mongala mall (bus rank) parking
Tuesday 04th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Werda**
Opposite the shops
Thursday 06th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Kang**
Choppies mall
Monday 10th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs

- Molepolole**
Mafenyatlala Mall
Tuesday 25th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Moshupa**
PEP stores parking
Thursday 27th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Lobatse**
Junction mall (bus rank) parking
Monday 03rd March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Jwaneng**
Choppies mall (opposite ABSA bank)
Wednesday 05th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Tsabong**
TCM Complex opposite Shoppers
Friday 07th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Hukuntsi**
Macheng mall
Tuesday 11th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs

CENTRAL REGION


- Bobonong**
Open space near Fours Supermarket
Monday 24th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Mahalapye**
Watershed plaza mall
Wednesday 26th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Palapye**
Venue to be confirmed
Friday 28th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Tutume**
Venue to be confirmed
Tuesday 04th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Sowa Town**
Venue to be confirmed
Thursday 06th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs

- Selebi Phikwe**
Venue to be confirmed
Tuesday 25th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Serowe**
Serowe main mall opposite Bots Post
Thursday 27th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Francistown**
Galo Mall next to Total filling station
Monday 03rd March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Masunga**
Open space in front of the post office
Wednesday 05th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Letlhakane**
Open Space Teemane mall
Monday 10th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs

NORTH REGION

- Kasane**
Venue to be confirmed
Monday 24th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Maun**
New Mall of Maun
Friday 28th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Cumare**
Open space at Okavango JSS
Tuesday 04th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Charles Hill**
Open Space by RAC
Monday 10th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs

- Nata**
In front of Nata Service Centre office
Wednesday 26th February 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Shakawe**
Acacia Mall open space by CEBA
Monday 03rd March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs
- Chanzi**
Open Space next to bus rank
Thursday 06th March 2025
0830Hrs - 1800Hrs



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Sport

Ntungamili the Champ

Local tennis sensation, Ntungamili Raguin is causing upsets at the ongoing ITF World Junior Tour in Nairobi, Kenya where he has won the J60 title and is aiming for the J100 and Doubles titles. The wins mark a significant step closer to qualifying for a spot in major titles among them Junior Wimbledon, the French Open and the US Open. He had a chat with **Patriot Sport** about his game.

PATRIOT SPORT (PS): How does it feel being only the second Motswana to win the J60 title?

RAGUIN: After Denzel Seetso, I am the 2nd Motswana to win a J60 title. What makes me particularly proud is that I have only turned 16 two weeks ago. (The ITF World Junior Circuit is open to players aged 18 years and under).

PS: How does it feel winning your 4th ITF tour title?

RAGUIN: I am very excited as this 4th title comes to confirm my potential; the fact that I am now winning a J60 also comes as a great reward for the hard work accomplished during training with my coach and confirms my ongoing progress.

PS: How much work went into the competition that led to your win in Kenya? How were the conditions in East Africa compared to back home in Botswana (Southern Africa). Must have been challenging?

RAGUIN: I focused on getting as ready as possible for every match, taking it one match at a time. What made this tournament particularly hard was that while playing at 1,800 m altitude in Nairobi, we were using regular balls (normally we use pressured balls for high altitude); this meant that the balls were flying a lot and it was very hard to keep the ball in the court, thus making it hard for me to attack other players. We were also playing on clay whereas tennis in Botswana is always played on hard courts, but I am used to playing on clay as I am now based in France for training.

PS: Describe your preparations for the ITF world tour?

RAGUIN: I have a 2 hours tennis training per day with my personal coach Jeremie Cayla and I also do physical training 3 times a week.

PS: How much support are you getting from Botswana Tennis Association (BTA)?

RAGUIN: The Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) has been very supportive all along and I also get support from the BNSC via a Zebra sponsorship. I am also in need of corporate sponsors as both BNSC and BTA have limited budgets.

PS: How old are and how long have you been playing tennis? What attracted you to tennis?

RAGUIN: I turned 16 years old at the end of January and have started tennis when I was 4 years old. I naturally started playing tennis when my father started the Francistown School of Tennis in 2013 to develop tennis in the North and I spent most of my afternoons at the School of Tennis having fun with other players such as Mark Nawa.

PS: How do you describe the sport in general? Would you encourage other youngsters to take up tennis as a sport?

RAGUIN: Tennis is sport that requires to be strong physically, technically, and mentally. As such, it is a very demanding sport. The mental part I'd say plays a key role during matches but would not lead to anything without a robust technique and strong physical abilities. What I like most about tennis is that it



Ntungamili

makes you travel very early (I was already travelling to tournaments in Zimbabwe and South Africa when I was 8 years old). So it gave me the opportunity to see different places, and get to know different cultures. We then see Botswana with a different eye when we come back home.

PS: What is the level of appreciation of the sport (tennis) in Botswana?

RAGUIN: I feel that when I win titles, Botswana are very responsive and supportive countrywide. It is extremely motivating for a young athlete to know that people back home are behind you and always responsive to appreciate your achievements.

PS: Anything else you would like to share with your supporters back home and Botswana in general.

When I visit other African countries to play ITF tournaments, I always try to discover local places to learn more about the local environment and its people and challenges. For instance, here in Nairobi, I visited last weekend the Sadili Oval sport project in Kibera, the largest slums in Nairobi (one of the biggest if not the biggest in Africa). That gave me a first-hand insight at how children grow up in Kibera, the type of challenges they will face, and also how lucky I am to have grown up in Botswana.

My dream is to inspire children in Botswana as well as in the rest of Africa to incite them to play sport. When I see children living in remote places or in underprivileged areas, I always feel that sport can be a great way out of poverty.

'ITTF Africa Cup will be attractive' - Oshodi

THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OF THE African Table Tennis Federation (ITTF Africa), led by President Wahid Enitan Oshodi, will officially begin its four-year tenure with the ITTF Africa Cup in Tunis, Tunisia, from February 25 to 27. Oshodi is committed to making the events more attractive to stakeholders and engaging for fans worldwide. Here are some excerpts from his interview:

This is your first official tournament as the President of ITTF Africa. How excited are you, and what should we expect in terms of organization and logistics?

Firstly, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Khaled El-Sally, the former ATTF President, for his dedication and efforts in elevating the Africa Cup to its current level. His leadership has significantly contributed to the growth of this prestigious event.

As the newly elected ATTF Executive Committee, we are thrilled that the 2025 African Table Tennis Cup will be our first major event of the term. While many of our Executive Council members have been involved in this competition in previous years, this new chapter presents an opportunity for us to innovate and introduce enhancements that will make the event even

more exciting and attractive for all stakeholders.

We have been in close discussions with our top officials, ITTF representatives, and, most importantly, our leading players. These conversations have allowed us to evaluate various aspects of the event and explore ideas for improvements that will quickly become evident.

This event marks a significant moment—not just for me personally, but for ITTF Africa as we begin implementing our vision for the sport on the continent. Tunisia has a strong history of successfully hosting top-level table tennis events, and I have full confidence that this year's edition will meet global standards in logistics, hospitality, and competition management.

We will be working closely with the Tunisian Table Tennis Federation and all relevant stakeholders to ensure a seamless experience for players, officials, and fans. I look forward to an exciting and memorable tournament that will showcase the best of African table tennis.

What innovations will be introduced in Tunis for this tournament?

We are introducing several innovations aimed at elevating the professional standards of the tournament. We have taken note of the exciting developments in WTT events and plan to

integrate some of those elements into the African Cup to enhance its appeal. One major focus is on improving officiating quality. For the first time, we will have a world-class Gold Badge umpire mentoring our young international umpires.

This initiative will help raise officiating standards across Africa. Additionally, we will be hosting a Level 3 Coaching Course, the highest certification level for our coaches, before the tournament. This is a critical step in equipping our coaches with advanced knowledge, which in turn will improve the development of players across the continent.

Beyond competition, we hope to transform the African Cup into an entertainment spectacle in years to come. The goal is to make the event more engaging, not just for table tennis enthusiasts but for entire families. We are enhancing media coverage, digital engagement, and fan interaction to bring African table tennis closer to a global audience. We are also exploring improved broadcasting solutions to make the tournament more accessible and enjoyable for viewers worldwide.

On the financial side, we are working on securing sponsorship deals that will increase prize money and provide long-term financial support to teams, ensuring sustainability and greater participation.

The African Club Championship will precede the African Cup. How do you intend to make the club tournament more attractive for teams in Africa?

The African Club Championship has seen a decline in participation in recent years. However, we have actively engaged with member associations, and I am pleased to see a rise in team entries from across different regions this year. After this edition, we will conduct a comprehensive review to determine the best direction for the championship. We will analyze the successful club models in Europe and see what strategies we can adopt. Currently, Africa is the only continent still hosting this event in its traditional format, and we will explore ways to modernize and enhance it. Our key priorities include increasing visibility and incentives for clubs, introducing a ranking system to add prestige and encourage long-term participation, and expanding marketing and media coverage to make the event more appealing to fans and potential sponsors.

The African Cup is one of the prestigious tournaments in Africa, what areas does your board intend to change in the competition, and

how do you plan to attract more teams to it?

As a qualifier for the ITTF World Cup, the African Cup is already one of the most prestigious tournaments on the continent. While it has been successful, there is always room for improvement. A key challenge has been increasing participation from more African nations. A major obstacle for many teams has been the high cost of travel and hospitality. To address this, we have taken a crucial step by securing a partnership with Ethiopian Airlines as the official travel partner of the ATTF. This will help reduce travel costs for member associations. We expect to see the first great impact of this partnership at the Africa Youth Championships in Lagos this July, and we are confident it will encourage more teams to participate in the African Cup as well.

Additionally, we are focusing on increasing sponsorship and broadcasting deals to boost prize money and enhance the player experience through better facilities and scheduling.

What confidence do you have in Tunis to stage this tournament?

Tunisia earned the right to host the African Cup based on its proven track record of successfully organizing major sporting events. The Tunisian Table Tennis Federation (TTTF) has always been an excellent partner, and I have personally worked with President Lotfi Guerfel

and his team on multiple occasions. Their professionalism and commitment give me full confidence that this event will be well-organized and up to international standards.

Tunisia has also been a consistent host of WTT events, which means they already have experience managing high-level competitions. Over the past few months, we have worked closely with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) to refine various aspects of the tournament, and I am assured we will deliver a world-class event in Tunis.

What is the direction of ITTF Africa this year?

This year, ITTF Africa is focusing on three core pillars: development, competition, and global visibility. For grassroots development, we will expand youth training programs and provide more opportunities for young players to develop their skills. We will strengthen our events by making events more attractive, financially sustainable, and globally competitive.

We intend to raise Africa's global profile by ensuring that African players and competitions gain greater international recognition while fostering partnerships that bring investment and growth to table tennis in Africa.

We are excited about the journey ahead and are committed to making 2025 a transformative year for African table tennis.



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