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Morupisi back in jail

STAFF WRITERS
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A FULL BENCH OF THE APPEAL court, the Court of Appeal on Friday dismissed and set aside an earlier High Court judgment, which had released convicted criminal -Carter Morupisi from prison by overturning a seven-year imprisonment he was serving in jail.

The former Permanent Secretary to the President, Carter Morupisi was freed by the High Court on New Year's Eve, which led to the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) led by attorney Tshiamo Rantao appealing the decision on urgency.

On Friday, the five Judges Isaac

Lesetedi, Goemegabo Tebogo Maruping, Leatile Dambe, Johan Coenraad Froneman, Edwin Cameron overturned and set aside the High Court decision and ordered that Morupisi be taken back to jail to continue serving the seven year jail term imposed by the Court of Appeal.

Morupisi's lawyers had applied for stay of the proceedings and the recusal of Justice Bambe and Justice Lesetedi. The stay application was preceded by a recusal application, initially for the recusal of this entire panel; but later whittled down to only two members of the Court. The question whether the High Court Judge whose recusal was sought, Kebonang J, should have acceded to that application was also raised.



Morupisi

The basis for seeking the recusal of Lesetedi and Dambe JJA is that they adjudicated in what even the Respondent's written argument characterized as an 'offshoot' case arising from the case before the Court of Appeal. This was Director of Public Prosecutions & another v Timothy Gordon Marsland and another CACGB-211-21. Yet Marsland is of no -help at -all to the Respondent in alleging -apprehension of bias against the two members of this panel. That decision dealt with an issue of law, namely the appropriate test when a decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions to prosecute a matter is sought to be reviewed.

The Court upheld the decision

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Moses saved from raging floods

AFTER MIRACULOUSLY being saved from raging floods that hit Gaborone on Wednesday afternoon, Moses 'Oats' Kelepile is counting his blessings. In the worst floods to hit Gaborone in the past three decades, Kelepile became the face of how the human spirit can conquer tragedy when a good Samaritan came to his aid at the most crucial time having managed to get out of his Mac 2 sedan and was now standing desperately on top of it.

In a rush hour to go and pick a child from school within a clearly worsening climate condition he chose to veer off from the western by-pass road leading to Molapo Mall, choosing to go through Phase II - taking the Jamal link that goes between Mass Media Complex and the Grand Aria Hotel. He landed right in the raging Segoditshane river just before it crossed the Btv/SADC robots and when he attempted to reverse having realised that the water pressure was way too high for him to proceed, his car was swept off the road and ended up blocked by the trees and a huge BPC power pole. Water was fast entering his car and he sought escape through a window and managed to stand up on top of the roof of his car, hands waving frantically in he air.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

UB cut 270 employees

Retrenchment gobbles P208 million

- Mmadikolo charts a new era, implements HPO strategy
- Employees voluntarily leave UB after decades of service
- Right sizing had become business imperative, UB emphasizes



Norris

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THE UNIVERSITY OF Botswana (UB) is currently undertaking a rationalisation process that will see 270 of its employees retrenched at a cost of P208 million worth of the retrenchment packages under the newly implemented High Performance Organisation (HPO) strategy, The Patriot on Sunday has

learnt.

UB in its drive of transforming into a globally competitive education provider adopted the HPO strategy, with the Vice Chancellor Professor David Norris saying they intend to usher in a new robust organisation with agreed deliverables.

UB issued letters inviting employees, who wish to voluntarily exit the institution as part of the HPO implementation, to apply. This followed intense negotiations

between management and the three UB unions - UBASSU, UBSU and Manual Worker's Union - on retrenchment packages for voluntary and involuntary retrenchment.

Responding to The Patriot on Sunday enquiries regarding the retrenchment process, UB Director of Public Affairs Dr Faith Rapulung-Tuelo said the University of Botswana has retrenched 270 of its employees including both academic and support staff. She said

UB expects to spend around P208 million to facilitate retrenchment packages.

Delving into the merits of HPO, she said UB has developed a new strategic plan, adding that in order to implement this strategy, the University needs to re-organise itself - something that inevitably results in creation of new jobs requiring different set of qualifications and competencies.

She also said the new organisation structure and related processes are geared at capacitating the University to execute its new strategic plan in a much more efficient and effective manner. "The University needs this as it has continued to experience dwindling financial support from its main financier - the government.

Right-sizing had become a business imperative," said Dr Rapulung-Tuelo. Additionally, she said the consultative process with the Trade Unions was extensive - from the beginning to the end.

According to her, most of those who have been retrenched have been paid what is due to them. "Only a few people are still trying to get clearance from Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) before their payments can be affected," she said.

Union

Meanwhile, Secretary General of UBASSU Dr Seabo Batlang said the retrenchment process was not as transparent as they had

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NEW

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Monageng appointed ICC Special Adviser

THE PROSECUTOR OF THE International Criminal Court, Mr Karim A.A. Khan KC, is pleased to announce the appointment of new Special Advisers pursuant to article 42.9 of the Rome Statute: Judge Dr Sanji Mmasenono Monageng – Special Adviser without portfolio (Bio); Evelyn Ama Ankumah – Special Adviser without portfolio (Bio). The appointment of Special Advisers is intended to create a network of experts representing different regions of the world with cultural, linguistic, and gender diversity. Their specific expertise reinforces the Office of the Prosecutor's (OTP) capabilities to effectively and efficiently discharge its mandate under the Statute, and to strengthen specialisation on a wide range of issues and priority areas identified by the Prosecutor.

"I am delighted to welcome Judge Monageng and Evelyn Ankumah to the roster of Special Advisers, whose expertise will significantly enhance the Office's work on critical issues. Their involvement will undoubtedly provide tremendous benefits to our Rome Statute stakeholders and staff. I deeply appreciate their generosity in offering their time, extensive experience, and valuable insights," stated Prosecutor Khan.

Judge Dr Sanji Monageng (Bio) is an international expert with over 30 years of experience in law and

human rights. She has been the Botswana High Commissioner to South Africa since November 2022 and has served as President of the Southern African Development Community Administrative Tribunal (SADCAT) until 2024. Dr Monageng was also an ICC Judge from 2009 to 2018, holding roles such as Appeals Division Judge and First Vice President. She has served as a Judge in Eswatini and The Gambia, and as Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. She has received numerous accolades, including an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Botswana and the Human Rights Award from the International Association of Women Judges in 2014. Dr Monageng is also an experienced lecturer.

Evelyn Ama Ankumah (Bio) is a prominent lawyer, human rights advocate and founder of Africa Legal Aid (AFLA). With legal experience across Africa, Europe and North America, she has led initiatives promoting gender-sensitive and victim-centred approaches to international criminal justice. Evelyn Ankumah holds a Juris Doctor (JD) degree from William Mitchell College of Law and an Advanced Diploma in human rights from the International Institute of Human Rights. She was a Research Fellow at the Maastricht University and



Monageng

authored a groundbreaking book on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Evelyn Ankumah shaped key legal frameworks for international justice, including the Review of the Kampala Amendments on the Crime of Aggression, and she leads the Gender Mentoring Training Programme for Judges. Her advocacy also helped establish the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA). Evelyn Ankumah has received multiple accolades including joining the International Gender Champions Network in 2020. As editor and author, she has published six books and over forty editions of the AFLA Quarterly journal, continuing to drive global efforts for justice, accountability and human rights.

Special Advisers to the Prosecutor are persons with outstanding professional credentials and expertise in their fields. They provide advice to the Prosecutor within their respective mandates as Special Advisers, and may assist in training initiatives of the Office. They work on a pro bono basis and are required to sign a confidentiality agreement and are bound by the 'Standards of Conduct' stipulated in, inter alia, Annex I to Administrative Instruction ICC/AI/2016/002. <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2025-02/Bio-Judge-Dr-Sanji-Mmasenono-Monageng-ENG.pdf>

BotswanaPost: Making life better



AS BOTSWANAPOST MARKS 150 years of service, the organisation continues to champion inclusivity, empowerment, and sustainable community impact. Through its partnership with the FNB Kazungula Bridge Marathon, BotswanaPost is reinforcing its commitment to accessibility, social progress, and digital innovation.

BotswanaPost has a long-standing commitment to supporting Persons with Disabilities (PWD) across Botswana. Through various social responsibility initiatives, BotswanaPost has worked to uplift and empower vulnerable groups, ensuring they have the resources and opportunities to thrive. This dedication is reflected in its ongoing partnerships and investments in sustainable community development. "There is something special that we do at BotswanaPost, something that goes beyond processes and systems; it is embedded in our Smile and Move culture. At BotswanaPost, we believe in driving meaningful change through smart partnerships and targeted community initiatives," said BotswanaPost Chief Corporate Affairs & Sustainability Officer, Ms. Tebogole LebotseSebebo, PCH.

As part of its Smart Partnerships approach, BotswanaPost has joined forces with Sandfire – Motheo Copper Operations to support PWD students at Kachikau Primary School. This collaboration underscores BotswanaPost's commitment to leveraging strategic alliances to create meaningful and lasting change.

On Friday, 21st February 2025, BotswanaPost and Sandfire will host a handover ceremony at Kachikau Primary School, where they will present donations of essential goods and toiletries to students in the PWD Unit. The event will be attended by village leadership, school

representatives, and key stakeholders, highlighting the collective commitment to enhancing the well-being of the students, supporting their daily lives, and upholding their dignity.

Beyond its CSI efforts, BotswanaPost will give marathon attendees an opportunity to experience BotswanaPost's range of innovative digital services: Posa'it – BotswanaPost's super app, seamlessly integrating its digital services for enhanced customer convenience. DigiPost – A digital mobile post office offering customers access to essential postal services while providing tools to support financial empowerment. PosoInsure – BotswanaPost's newest insurance product under the tagline "Itsegetse", designed to provide affordable and accessible financial security.

To commemorate 150 years of BotswanaPost, marathon participants will take part in a special postcard initiative – #Kwala Tempa Posa, where they can write messages to women, which will be placed in a commemorative envelope. This initiative extends into March for International Women's Month and will continue throughout the year, celebrating key commemorative days and reinforcing BotswanaPost's role in connecting communities and fostering a culture of writing.

BotswanaPost's participation in the FNB Kazungula Bridge Marathon is a testament to its commitment to inclusivity, social responsibility, and digital transformation. Through Smart Partnerships and targeted initiatives, BotswanaPost continues to integrate postal and digital services into everyday life while uplifting communities across Botswana.

Free Expression Legal network launched

THE FREE EXPRESSION LEGAL Network, a new initiative dedicated to strengthening legal protections for free expression and media freedom, was launched at Webber Wentzel's Sandton office on 18 February 2025, with more than 50 People in attendance. The Campaign for Free Expression (CFE) was central to the development of the network, along with SA National Editors' Forum (Sanef), the Press Council and other organisations and legal experts.

The network aims to ensure that individuals and organisations facing legal threats can access the support they need. Among those that this new initiative aims to support are journalists, writers and others facing legal threats. It aims to ensure co-ordination with several other international efforts of this kind to provide a stronger framework for defending free expression.

The network will focus on several key areas to strengthen legal protections for free expression and

media freedom. Media freedom is critical – ensuring that individuals and media organisations can report and impart information freely and hold power to account without fear of legal repercussions. Additionally, the network will support media viability by providing legal guidance to help media outlets navigate financial and operational challenges, ensuring their long-term sustainability. Another critical area is policy advocacy, where the network will assist with legal challenges related to media regulation and press freedom policies, helping to create a more supportive legal environment for journalism. Lastly, the initiative will prioritise small and community media, offering essential legal resources to newsrooms and organisations that often lack adequate legal support, ensuring they have the protection needed to operate effectively.

But this initiative comes at a time of new and sinister threats to freedom of expression more

generally. Unchecked and unprecedented powers to platform and platform certain voices and sources of information present pronounces threats to freedom of expression globally. It is intended that this network, enabling resources and expertise, is able to respond innovatively, nimbly and effectively in meeting these dangers.

The keynote address was delivered by Navi Pillay, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Judge of the International Criminal Court, and President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Drawing from her extensive experience in international human rights law, she provided invaluable insight into the legal challenges surrounding free expression and the role of judicial systems in upholding these rights. Emphasising the power of collective action, she stated, "If you clap with a single hand, nobody yells for you. But if a lot of people form a network clap, they will be heard. So, I can only see success for an initiative

like this, I encourage them to go for it here. Anton Harber, Campaign for Free Expression Director, emphasised the importance of the new body in defending free speech, stating, "This new body will be a vital tool in preventing attacks on free speech and free media, bringing together a range of resources to respond quickly and strongly. It will help ensure that anyone whose free speech is threatened will be properly defended. It will also be proactive - pushing for change to laws that don't defend free speech or the right to information. In the face of growing threats to free speech, we are building a strong defence". Echoing this urgency, Nicole Fritz, Executive Director of Campaign for Free Expression, highlighted the global nature of these challenges, adding, "I think that the threats to free expression are especially intense at this time, not only in our country but in the world generally. It is especially important that those who have their rights to expression violated and threatened are offered expert support and legal assistance in order to counter those threats".

Dario Milo, a partner at Webber Wentzel and a leading expert in media law, emphasised the

importance of this initiative, stating: "The Free Expression Legal Network is a significant step forward in ensuring that journalists, media organisations and other human rights defenders, particularly those with limited resources, have access to the legal guidance they need. At a time when media freedom is under increasing pressure, this initiative will play a crucial role in safeguarding free expression and upholding the public's right to know."

More than 50 people attended the launch of the Free Expression Legal Network to support free expression and free media.

Sanef and The Press Council also expressed their support for the initiative, with Izak Minnaar, stating, "We are very glad that we are part of and contributed to the establishment of such a network because we think it will be really useful for journalists around the country and media organisations to have the comfort of a network of people who can be their advisors, whom they can rely on—whether for urgent issues they are defending in court or policy matters related to access to information".

Anton Harber Director, CFE anton@harber.co.za.

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ex SA miners get P18.4 million

STAFF WRITERS
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BOTSWANA LABOUR Migrants Workers Association (BOLAMA) give Tshiamo Trust a pat in the back for speeding up the compensation of Ex-South African mine workers who were exposed to permanent lung damage from silicosis and tuberculosis in South African gold mines.

Tshiamo Trust announced this week that 231 Batswana claims amounting to P18,4 million has been paid to date since the Benefit Medical Examination (BME) kickstarted last year to ascertain if miners have been exposed to permanent lung disease in order to receive compensation. Tshiamo Trust spokesperson, Lusanda Jiya encouraged the former mineworkers to lodge their claims through TEBA offices in Molepolole and Palapye, adding that among the 3280 claims that have been lodged, only 231 of the 581 miners have been compensated.

BOLAMA Secretary General, Tshepo Sebetlela's heaped praises on Tshiamo Trust which is tasked with coordinating the

compensation of Ex -South Africa mine workers in Botswana. The BME excise and compensation which runs up to 2031 will benefit ex-miners who have worked in 82 mines owned by African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa, Anglo Gold Ashanti, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Stillwater and Gold Fields.

Sebetlela has called on Tshiamo Trust to take their services to people around the country as the current arrangement is only favourable to those who reside in urban areas. He was of the view that the Trust was only providing service relating to the compensation and medical examination in urban areas, mainly concentrating in places such as Kanye, Molepolole, Gaborone and Palapye.

He said that there are people residing in the fung-flung corners of the country, in places such as Shakawe, Maun, Gantsi, Kgalagadi and Northeast who have to endure traveling long distances.

Sebetlela said that some are elder people who are expected to travel more than 1000 to urban areas for lodging and examination which is inconvenient for most of the ailing and old ex-mine workers.

BERA calls for increased fuel quality monitoring

... warns of possibility of water sipping into tanks



THE BOTSWANA ENERGY Regulatory Authority (BERA) notes that although retail service stations are designed to operate normally even during rains, the risk of water seeping into the fuel tanks (especially the underground) tanks is very high due to ongoing heavy rains and flooding of some areas.

Therefore, the Authority would like to advise retail service station operators to increase the frequency of their fuel quality monitoring (commonly known as water dips). It is advisable that water dips are not only conducted at the beginning of the shifts but throughout the day with more frequent intervals since the rains are continuously pouring. The operators are also advised to ensure that fuel is free of water or any contaminant before they sell it to

consumers.

Consumers are urged to be more vigilant and to keep their proof of purchase (receipts) after fueling and that should they experience any challenges they should contact the retail service station for remedy. Where consumers have exhausted the retail service station's complaints resolution process and are still aggrieved, they may then lodge their complaints with the Authority.

The Authority wishes to further assure the nation that it has increased its random spot fuel quality checks and will be making rounds at retail service stations. The Authority shall continue to ensure that Retailers are selling petroleum products of desirable quality and that any contamination incidents are immediately addressed. [PRESS RELEASE]

Moses: The car roof top floods survivor

■ Moses Kelepile thanks his rescuers – I want to meet them

STAFF WRITER
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AFTER MIRACULOUSLY BEING saved from raging floods that hit Gaborone on Wednesday afternoon, Moses 'Oats' Kelepile is counting his blessings.

In the worst floods to hit Gaborone in the past three decades, Kelepile became the face of how the human spirit can conquer tragedy when a good Samaritan came to his aid at the most crucial time having managed to get out of his Mac 2 sedan and was now standing desperately on top of it.

PICKING CHILD

In a rush hour to go and pick a child from school within a clearly worsening climate condition he chose to veer off from the western by-pass road leading to Molapo Mall, choosing to go through Phase II – taking the Jamal link that goes between Mass Media Complex and the Grand Aria Hotel.

He landed right in the raging Segoditshane river just before it crossed the Btv/SADC robots and when he attempted to reverse having realised that the water pressure was way too high for him to proceed, his car was swept off the road and ended up blocked by the trees and a huge BPC power pole. Water was fast entering his car and he sought escape through a window and managed to stand up on top of the roof of his car. Onlookers were alarmed.

However good Samaritans were soon on the scene. Some employees of Grand Aria Hotel were brave enough, with a man of Asian origin braving the waves to across over to rescue him before being joined by others who came with a rope to tie around his waist and pull him to safety. "This happened very fast. Within a period of 30 minutes, it was done, and I am glad for all



the good men who showed up at my most serious moment of need. God prevailed and I wish to thank everyone who assisted. In fact, I desperately want to meet the man who swam across to rescue me and all others that helped me," said the highly relieved Kelepile.

Though he has elementary swimming skills, he simply froze when he had to count on them. "I don't know what happened, I simply froze and lifted my hands to appeal for help," he said. To his utter shock, others were simply enticed by having to video and shoot his pictures.

Overnight he had become the most shared picture providing the human face of the extremes of the

Gaborone floods.

As soon as he was rescued, he was taken into a police SUV and rushed to the Block 9 clinic where he was quickly treated and later discharged.

Being an asthmatic person, what remains for now as a legacy of the water charge on his body is the raging cough. He can not stop pinching himself with the believe that there was a bigger force that aided his survival under the torrential storm. "I thank the Lord; anything could have happened," he professed.

HEROES AND HEROINES

In every tragedy, floods or storms there are those who go all out to turn

what would be a horrible experience to others into less painful one. In the midst of Wednesday storm in Gaborone and subsequent one in Francistown, some locals went all out to assist and show love through various gestures. The police and soldiers overworked themselves.

As in the case of Kelepile, he had workers from the nearby hotel coming all out and joined by other onlookers. Cross many trouble spots, locals joined in the rain and flowing water to get back to their homes, government stepped in to close schools for Thursday and Friday. They equally adjusted working times for public workers for Thursday and Friday. The President Advocate Duma Boko released a statement

along the Btv/SADC traffic lights to pull out cars that were stuck in the water. Many other good Samaritans have continued in every flooding area across the country.

GOVT RESPONSE

Following a day in which school going children were the most affected by the Gaborone storm as they walked in the rain and flowing water to get back to their homes, government stepped in to close schools for Thursday and Friday. They equally adjusted working times for public workers for Thursday and Friday. The President Advocate Duma Boko released a statement

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and also visited a number of floods-hit areas. After Gaborone the severe floods hit Francistown on Thursday with big rivers in the area – Tati, Shashe, Motloutse over spilling and causing severe damage to properties along the way.



Close down Morupule B -BCP

BAKANG TIRO
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- Kenewendo faces backlash over defunct plant
- BCP calls on govt to shut down Morupule B

OPPPOSITION BOTSWANA Congress Party (MP) Taolo Lucas has called on Minister of Minerals and Energy Bogolo Kenewendo to close down defunct Morupule B station to save government millions of Pula's.

The plant has been going through operational defects for many years with that plunging the country security of power supply in turmoil, a development that forces BPC to find alternative power suppliers.

Taolo, MP for Bobirwa constituency on Wednesday grilled Kenewendo over the defunct performance of Morupule B power station located in Palapye which is owned by Botswana Power Corporation (BPC).

Lucas had asked Kenewendo to give update on the state of Morupule Power Plant, whether or not is operating optimally and what it will take for it to cease bleeding government coffers

Kenewendo while responding said the government is content that the power station would operate at maximum scale buttressing that the cost of remedial work is taken care by a contractor not government.

She said government continues to assess the situation of the plant and it is its desire to see the plant operating optimally and meet the demand



of national electricity supply. "We are not in the process to determine if the plant is defunct state asset or not. BPC is responsible for taking care of plant maintenance and operating the plant. Remedial works from time to time are the responsibility of engineering contractor. Government don't bear costs of remedial works," she added. Lucas said the plant is not giving Batswana and taxpayers value for their money because it hasn't been operating optimally, adding that failure to operate at full capacity

force BPC to spend more in importing electricity. According to him, the plant is bleeding government coffers and therefore it must be considered a defunct government asset. "We are wasting lot of money in this plant. We are not going to get any worth for our money **Divestment** In the past, the Auditor General (AG) report noted the auditors noted in 2016 that, government took a decision in principle to sell Morupule B power plant after the liability

period. The AG report said 24 months liability period which was scheduled to end in June 2016 was extended for the contractor to make good on the outstanding defects, some of which were impacting on the reliability or availability of the power plant. It was noted at the time that government's intention was to give priority to Chinese state-owned entity, China National Electric Equipment Corporation ("CNEEC") in the divestment process. CNEEC, identified as the

original build contractor and thus was seen as best placed to mitigate the risk which may arise as a result of the complexity and other issues attached to the project. In evaluating the management approach, the auditors indicated that decision to determine Morupule B Power Station as a Cash Generating Unit (CGU) was not appropriate because it could not generate cash flows on its own without the involvement of transmission and distribution network.

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Weathering the Storm: Can Technology Keep Education Afloat?



LAGAGO TAMOCHA*
EDUCATING THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNER

IN RECENT YEARS, EXTREME weather events have become more frequent and intense, challenging traditional systems across various sectors. In Botswana, torrential rains have disrupted daily life, including the nation's education system. With roads washed out and school facilities rendered inaccessible, the promise of digital learning as a solution to ensure continuity has attracted significant attention. This article examines the potential of technology to sustain educational delivery during such climatic disruptions, while also considering the challenges that must be addressed for it to be a viable long-term strategy.

Extreme Weather Disruptions
The impact of severe weather on education is multifaceted. In Botswana, torrential rains frequently lead to the closure of schools, impeding students' access to learning and compromising academic progress. Rural areas, where infrastructure is often less robust, are particularly vulnerable. Not only do these weather events

delay academic schedules, but they also exacerbate existing inequalities in educational access. Traditional classroom settings become untenable, and the interruption of in-person teaching calls for a rapid shift to alternative modes of instruction.

Extreme weather conditions, by their very nature, expose the fragility of systems that depend solely on physical infrastructure. In such circumstances, technology offers a promising alternative, enabling educators to pivot to remote learning models that can continue the academic dialogue even when the classroom doors must remain closed.

The Promise of Digital Learning

Digital learning has emerged as a potential game-changer in ensuring educational continuity. Platforms that enable online lessons, virtual classrooms, and mobile-based learning can bridge the gap created by physical disruptions. For instance, during weather-induced school closures, educators can utilize online platforms to deliver lectures, assign homework, and maintain interactive discussions with students. These tools not only preserve the flow of education but also prepare students for a world in which digital literacy is increasingly paramount.

Recent global experiences, such as those during the COVID-19 pandemic, have underscored the utility of digital platforms in education.



While the pandemic forced educational institutions worldwide to adopt online learning, it also highlighted the transformative power of technology. In many parts of the world, digital tools ensured that learning could continue despite unprecedented challenges. The lessons learned from that period are directly applicable to contexts like Botswana, where extreme weather events can similarly disrupt conventional teaching methods.

Moreover, the integration of digital learning tools has the potential to enhance the educational experience beyond mere continuity. Interactive content, real-time assessments, and adaptive

learning technologies can offer personalized educational experiences that cater to the diverse needs of students. These advancements promise not only to mitigate the effects of disruptions but also to improve the overall quality of education.

Digital Integration Challenges
Despite its promise, the effective integration of technology into Botswana's education system faces significant hurdles. First and foremost is the digital divide. While urban centers in Botswana may enjoy relatively better internet connectivity and access to digital devices, rural communities often lag behind. According to reports by international agencies such as

UNESCO and the International Telecommunication Union, many rural schools in sub-Saharan Africa continue to struggle with inadequate internet connectivity and insufficient digital infrastructure. This disparity means that the very students who are most affected by weather-induced disruptions are also the least likely to benefit from digital learning initiatives.

Another critical challenge is the lack of digital literacy among educators and students. Transitioning from traditional classroom methods to a digital environment requires not only access to technology but also the skills to use it effectively. Without proper training and

support, both teachers and learners may find it difficult to adapt to digital platforms, thereby undermining the potential benefits of technology. Investment in professional development for educators, as well as in digital literacy programs for students, is essential to overcoming this barrier.

Infrastructure challenges also extend to issues such as reliable electricity supply and affordable internet access. In regions where power outages are common during extreme weather events, the reliance on digital devices can be counterproductive. Therefore, any strategy to integrate technology into education must also consider complementary investments in energy infrastructure and telecommunications.

Recommendations, Way Forward

For technology to effectively support education during extreme weather events in Botswana, a multi-pronged approach is required. First, there must be significant investment in digital infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. This includes expanding broadband access, ensuring reliable power supply, and equipping schools with the necessary hardware. Public-private partnerships could play a vital role in accelerating these investments, leveraging the expertise and resources of both sectors.

Second, targeted professional

development programs are needed to enhance digital literacy among educators and students. Teacher training programs should be reoriented to include modules on digital pedagogy, enabling educators to effectively utilize online platforms. Similarly, integrating digital skills into the school curriculum can prepare students for a future where technology is integral to all aspects of life.

Third, hybrid learning models that combine traditional classroom instruction with digital components can provide a more resilient educational framework. Such models can ensure that, even when physical attendance is disrupted, students have access to supplementary learning resources through digital channels. This redundancy not only minimizes learning loss during extreme weather events but also contributes to a more dynamic and adaptive educational system.

Finally, it is imperative that policymakers adopt a long-term perspective. While the immediate need is to address the disruptions caused by torrential rains and other extreme weather events, the broader goal should be to transform the education system into one that is inherently flexible and resilient. This requires a coordinated strategy that involves government agencies, educational institutions, community stakeholders, and international

partners. As Botswana grapples with the recurring challenge of extreme weather, the integration of technology into education emerges as both a necessity and an opportunity. Digital learning platforms offer a promising avenue to ensure educational continuity, even when physical infrastructure is compromised. However, realizing this potential requires addressing significant challenges, including the digital divide, inadequate infrastructure, and limited digital literacy.

By investing in robust digital infrastructure, enhancing professional development for educators, and embracing hybrid learning models, Botswana can build an education system that not only withstands extreme weather events but also paves the way for a more equitable and modern approach to learning. The journey toward fully integrating technology in education is complex and fraught with challenges, yet it holds the promise of transforming adversity into an opportunity for lasting improvement in the educational landscape. In the face of nature's unpredictable challenges, proactive and inclusive policies that harness technology will be essential for keeping education afloat. As Botswana navigates these turbulent times, the lessons learned today will undoubtedly shape the resilient and adaptive education system of tomorrow.

UB cut 270 employees

FROM PAGE 1

expected, accusing UB of hiding key information from the union. Dr Batlang noted that UBASSU don't know how many of its members are part of voluntary retrenchment because last time they wrote to the management asking for that information management refused with it. He also said the management had indicated in their last update that they have so far paid 172 employees who volunteered to leave UB, adding that the remaining employees still have clearance issues with BURS. "The process

was not smooth due to delays and poor engagement by the management. For instance, not issuing timely updates and also refusing with key information requested by the union," he said. Dr Batlang added: "In their last update, they indicated that they have received appeals from some rejected staff members and would be writing to those employees directly concerning the outcome of the appeals."

Bloated

Furthermore, Dr Batlang said UBASSU has always believed that this retrenchment process was undertaken without much

preparation. He indicated that what is making matters worse is that UB has been consistently losing staff to retirement and non-renewal of contracts, a move that jeopardises the competitiveness of the institution.

"The proposed structure of high-performance organisation is quite bloated with several administrative posts such that we do not know what problem the management would be addressing when they retrench while they still maintain a heavily bloated institution," said Dr Batlang.



Dr Seabo Batlang

Orange donates P180,000 to National Flood Relief Efforts

IN RESPONSE TO THE devastating floods that have swept across Botswana, Orange Botswana Foundation has stepped up with a P180,000 relief package to support national rescue and recovery efforts. The Orange Botswana Foundation, has committed financial aid and essential supplies to the Office of the President and the Gaborone City Council, reinforcing its dedication to disaster response and community welfare.

The catastrophic flooding has damaged infrastructure, homes, and vehicles, leaving many families displaced. With emergency teams working around the clock, Orange

Botswana Foundation's contribution aims to alleviate pressure on rescue efforts and ensure swift support to affected communities.

To directly aid search and rescue operations, Orange Botswana Foundation has allocated P100,000 to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), covering accommodation and meals for boat operators and rescue teams. Funds will be transferred directly to their Orange Money accounts for immediate access. The donation also includes P20,000 worth of airtime and 1,000 litres of water to bolster communication and logistical operations. At the city level, the Orange Botswana Foundation has donated P50,000 to the Gaborone City Council, along with an additional P10,000 in airtime and 1,000 litres of water to assist in coordinating emergency response efforts. Orange Botswana Foundation has partnered with 03 Beverages who are the water partners.

Orange Botswana CEO, Néné Maiga, emphasized the company's unwavering commitment to supporting the nation in times of crisis, "this is a moment for all of us to come together. The resilience of our emergency teams and city officials is truly commendable, and we are honored to stand with them. Our donation is not just financial, it is a statement of solidarity and a commitment to helping rebuild lives."

She further highlighted the

critical role of digital connectivity in disaster response, "in times of crisis, communication is vital. By providing airtime and essential resources, we are ensuring that rescue teams remain connected and equipped to carry out their life-saving missions."

Maiga urged the private sector to play an active role in national relief efforts, "corporate Botswana must take responsibility and step up in moments like these. Disaster relief is not just the government's responsibility, it is a shared role. We urge fellow businesses to contribute meaningfully and help accelerate recovery efforts."

The National Disaster Management Office has commended Orange Botswana for prioritizing the welfare of frontline rescue personnel and providing much-needed resources to sustain ongoing relief efforts.

As Botswana embarks on the road to recovery, Orange Botswana remains steadfast in its mission to support authorities and affected communities. The company encourages Botswana to stay vigilant, prioritize safety, and contribute to relief initiatives wherever possible.

To further support relief efforts, Orange Money has opened a dedicated account for donations. Citizens who wish to contribute can do so via Orange Money to aid those affected by the floods. Orange Botswana urges the public to donate and help bring much-needed relief to communities in distress.



Rebuttal of Business Weekly & Review Newspaper Articles on the Online Business Registration System

The Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) has noted with concern a series of articles published by the Business Weekly and Review Newspaper which aim to undermine the achievements of CIPA in improving the ease of doing business in Botswana through the implementation of the Online Business Registration System (OBRS).

The Business Weekly has attempted to mislead the public by publishing a biased and exaggerated statement on a decision taken prior to the establishment of CIPA, to write-off outstanding annual returns. The write-off was carried out by the former Registrar of Companies and Intellectual Property (ROCIPI), a department under the former Ministry of Trade and Industry. The Business Weekly's attempt to associate this write-off with current CIPA operations demonstrates the newspaper's blatant disregard for Journalism ethics, more especially that the Authority was not afforded an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

The newspaper further alleges widespread revenue leakages on the OBRS. The truth of the matter is that the system has capabilities that enable the identification of any revenue leakage by providing an audit trail of all transactions. This has enabled the Authority to address and minimize any leakages, and with the support of the system developers, to continually enhance system functionality.

Contrary to the revenue losses alleged by the Business Weekly, in its first year of operation, the OBRS doubled CIPA's revenues from P40 million to P80 million, with revenues continuing to grow each year since. These funds are collected by the Government and deposited into the consolidated fund for redistribution by the Ministry of Finance. As a State-Owned Enterprise, the Authority adheres to the highest standards of accountability and transparency, conducting regular audits on the OBRS to ensure it provides value for money for the Government of Botswana and supports the growth of entrepreneurship in our economy.

CIPA is tasked with ensuring efficient business registration and maintaining accurate and up-to-date information on both basic and beneficial ownership. To date, the Authority is confident that the system has effectively supported the achievement of its mandate. Botswana, the Business Community, Government entities, procuring entities and the public at large continue to benefit from utilizing the system, and as an Authority we take pride in being able to provide this important service to our stakeholders.

We wish to reassure the public that CIPA operations are well-governed, with Middle management and the Executive Committee (EXCO) working together efficiently under the leadership of the Caretaker Registrar General (CRG). Any challenges or concerns are addressed through open dialogue and collaborative effort.

The Authority wishes to assure its clientele and stakeholders that we will continue to provide an online platform that is secure, reliable, and efficient. As pioneers of Government digitization, we are wholly committed to improving service-delivery, supporting the diversification of the economy, and promoting an investor-friendly business environment.

Joel D. Ramaphoi

Caretaker Registrar General

FEASIBLE INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD t/a iQube is looking for suitable candidate

Network & Cloud specialist: Person should be able to work with very less supervision, responsible to handle team of IT professionals.

Job description and responsibilities:

- Need to be able to configure SD WAN, VPN ,
- Need to have ability to install, configure and maintain CISCO firewall
- Need to be able to design and implement WAN
- In-depth knowledge on DNS, routing and switching & Mail server
- Need to be able to manage all type of server infra, VM, Citrix, Microsoft, Cloud
- 7 to 10 years' experience working as system Admin

Required Qualification:

- Need Cloud Certification
- Need minimum of 7 + years' experience working in a relevant technology

Short listed candidate will have to go through practical assessment

Kindly share your current CV, copies of their certificates and transcripts, copies of identification and two traceable referees to recruitment@iqube.net.bw on or before the 10th March 2025 or apply to the following address:

**The General Manager
Feasible Investments (Pty) Ltd
Unit 4, Plot 53609, Gaborone West Industrial
P.O. Box: 53286 Broad Hurst,
Gaborone, Botswana**

Africa to learn from Russia

SOON AFTER BEING ELECTED the new head of ALMA at the AU Summit in Addis Ababa last week, **President Advocate Duma Boko was interviewed by Sputnik Africa news agency, where he told the Russian media agency that he will tap into the expertise of how the USSR successfully got rid of malaria in the 1920s.**

Question: Thank you for joining Sputnik Africa. The budget speech in Botswana was recently held. How can the emphasis on the diversification of the economy fit into Botswana's foreign policy?

Duma Boko: The diversification of the economy is the very sheet anchor of the foreign policy. Our foreign policy is about promoting partnerships, sustainable, durable, long-term partnerships that enable us to bring in expertise, skills, and resources, which we deploy in other sectors away from, in particular, the diamond industry. We will diversify within the mineral sector and outside of it. We have pinned our growth on two key matters. The first, I have said, is the green economy. Climate

smart agriculture. We are looking at renewable sources of energy, and we have set ourselves the lofty and ambitious target. In the budget speech, it says we must have 30% of our energy coming from renewables by 2030. But it is more ambitious than that. In fact, we are looking to have 50% of our energy coming from renewables, and we are working hard on that. So we will need to deploy foreign direct investment in those areas as well. We also want to push ecotourism.

The other engine of growth is the digital economy. Many countries across the world have advanced in these regards. And so we will need their participation, their expertise, their skills, and the resources that they are able to deploy in partnerships, as I said, that are durable and take us forward. So this is how our foreign policy is informed by the need to reach out to create these collaborations, these partnerships, these affinities, these links that enable us then to bring in the scales and the resources needed.

Question: According to several



Boko

sources, the Russian Federation, as well as South Korea and China, have some of the best financial

ecosystems. Would Botswana be interested in cooperating with these countries?

Duma Boko: We cooperate with any and every country where our interests are served. And so,

in any cooperation, obviously, the paramount consideration is the best interests of the Republic of Botswana, and so, we will collaborate with any other countries. In fact, we have diplomatic relations with these countries, and so, those diplomatic relations are an appreciation, an acknowledgement of the fact that we will have to work together.

Question: Sputnik will now air programs on Gabz FM once a week. What is your opinion on Russian media diversifying the media landscape in Botswana?

Duma Boko: In Botswana, we believe in freedom of expression. We believe people must have access to information and that this information must not be filtered, that the state must not adopt any paternalistic approaches and attitudes. And so they must allow the citizens to have access to information in the great marketplace of ideas. And so any media that comes into the country, they are welcome. And they will be able to disseminate, we believe, we hope, accurate information, verifiable information,

which will enable people to make decisions appropriately.

Question: Your Excellency, the USSR got rid of malaria in the 1920s quite successfully, and the results were mostly attributed to the information campaigns that the state ran. As now the head of ALMA, what main approach will you have in combating malaria? And would you consider engaging Russia for all they know how?

Duma Boko: We have said, and this is what I highlighted, we will deploy data-driven strategies. And data-driven strategies also need to draw from exemplars across the world, those who have done it, those who have succeeded. We need to learn from them. And if Russia has done it, we are amenable to learning from them. And because of the relationship that currently exists between us and the Russian Federation, we are most delighted if they can come onboard and deploy their learnings to enable us to be malaria-free in the shortest possible time.

Sputnik Africa

Disaster strikes, NDMO caught napping

BAKWADI LEKOPANE
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DESPITE EARLY WARNINGS and a meteorological forecast predicting extreme weather conditions, the National Disaster Management Department appears to have been caught off guard once again—an oversight likely to lead to a huge economic cost to the nation and strain the already burdened national purse.

For years, concerns have been raised over Botswana's disaster preparedness and response strategies, particularly regarding floods. However, stakeholders have made little progress in improving these crucial areas.

In an interview this week, the Director of Meteorological Services, Chandapiwa Sebeela, distanced her department from the crisis, emphasizing that they had fulfilled their mandate. "We did all we could by issuing a forecast and warning of extreme weather conditions for all stakeholders to prepare," she stated.

Sebeela further revealed that her department had collaborated with the Disaster Management Department to release an official press statement. However, she acknowledged ongoing criticisms of Botswana's reactive approach to

- Meteorological services long released floods warning
- 'We prepared a joint statement with NDMO' -Director
- National disaster management strategy needs total overhaul – study
- Botswana spent P550 million on relief efforts between 2009 -2014



disasters, saying, "In the future, we plan to send messages directly to citizens rather than relying on press releases. Accusations that we are reactionary as a nation have some semblance of truth."

Meanwhile, attempts to reach the National Disaster Management Office for comment proved futile. Its director, Dr. Nkosiabo Moyo, declined to respond, citing an overwhelming workload due to the crisis. He instead referred inquiries to his senior officer, Tapologo Kwapa, whose phone remained unanswered.

In 2022, Scholars, Gorata Samuel Ditiro B. Moalphi and others published a critical study titled Evaluation of national disaster management strategy and planning for flood management and impact reduction in Gaborone, Botswana which attributed Botswana's generic national disaster management strategy goes to "low technology uptake as use of technological advancements to respond to the changing dynamics of flood disasters are not assimilated into the current strategy, planning and policies which appear outdated.

This, therefore, means the national management strategy, plan, and policy has reached their design life and thus should be replaced as a matter of urgency."

According to the report "Botswana's disaster management strategy, plan and policy are more on provision of relief than preparedness" and "the disaster management cycle is not followed systematically in Botswana since only relief is provided and the response is reactive and not proactive."

Floods and droughts are the most common natural disasters in Botswana that have and continue to result in huge economic losses and loss of life. According to the study "flood disasters come about due to intersection of flood waters with areas that are unprepared to deal with flooding, mostly due to poor physical planning and layout of developments and corresponding storm drainage networks especially in urban areas"

"With the case of Botswana, this is further exacerbated by ineffective disaster management strategies which are limited in providing comprehensive and proactive guidelines for mitigation and adaptive measures. Further, failure of the Botswana disaster management strategy is as a consequence of it being used as an all-purpose disaster management framework that does not recognize that different types of disasters have their individual unique challenges."

Botswana's strategy is structured in a way that it shows mainly products of consultation and inputs by different stakeholders such as the police, military, health, agriculture, the red-cross and other private stakeholders.

The study stated that "it is thus imperative that the country develops pro-active and efficient disaster management strategies that are reviewed periodically to keep up with current emerging challenges especially regarding flooding"

In Botswana, the country suffered from several drought and flood related disasters which have affected 1.5 million people and economic losses of over US\$3 million to the country between 1965 and 2006, the report said. Between the years 2009 and 2014, over US\$4 million, according to the report, was expended to provide relief for flood disasters alone. Damages due to flooding and associated costs are mostly felt around the capital Gaborone and its surroundings due to high investment in infrastructure and high population densities over the area. The increasing intensity of destruction caused by recurring floods on a yearly basis in the capital Gaborone is widely believed to be an indication that the existing plans are not adequate to manage floods.

SADC Sustainable Energy Week

■ Minister Kenewendo upbeat on energy secure SADC region

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE FIRST 2024 SADC Sustainable Energy Week (SADC SEW) conference that commences tomorrow in Gaborone to be officiated by president Advocate Duma Boko holds immense potential to enable the Southern African region to be energy secure, Minerals and Energy minister Bogolo Kenewendo said.

The five (5) days SADC SEW is co-hosted by the government of Botswana through ministry of Minerals and Energy and the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) respectively.

Addressing the media on Tuesday, Kenewendo said the conference will bring together six (6) ministers of energy from Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique showing how crucial it is.

Kenewendo noted that Botswana and her counterparts



in SADC are still grappling with energy deficiency and as such affect industries leading to weak economic performance in many occasions in the region.

She said the conference is a call to action as well as bold step towards sustainable energy and resilient energy production for the Southern Africa region.

"SADC's potential on the renewable energy is vast and remain untapped. It is now time for us to come together and power of region to sustainable energy. We need to achieve security of supply and that will be followed by sound economic security and protection of jobs across important sectors," she added.

Kenewendo also said the theme of the conference "Accelerating Sustainable Energy Solutions for an Energy Secure SADC Region" calls for the SADC member states to secure their energy future as soon as now.

For her part, Kornelia Lipinge-Silisho - the Project Coordinator for the SADC Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility at SACREEE said SADC SEW provides an invaluable platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among key stakeholders in the energy sector.

She said the primary aim of the SADC SEW is to promote opportunities in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors along the entire energy value chain.

"The platform will enable SADC member states and the industry to share ideas on how the region could secure its energy stability through tapping into the renewable energy to balance the electricity supply deficiencies that is common in majority of countries that rely more on importing electricity," she said.

Potential

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has in its 2021 research paper titled "Renewables Readiness Assessment: Botswana" noted that Botswana has considerable unexploited renewable energy potential, especially as solar, wind and bioenergy aim to use these renewables to achieve economic energy security and independence.

The renewable energy study was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Minerals and Energy.

IRENA said Botswana announced at the end of 2020 that renewable energy would account for at least 15% of the country's energy mix by 2030, with 50% renewable energy contribution to the energy mix by March 2036.

Also, IRENA observed that is the case in most countries of the region, Botswana's power system is characterised by unreliable power supply, lack of investment, poor maintenance and high service costs.

"To meet its peak power demand, Botswana imports power from the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP) – mainly from South Africa – and when imports are not available, resorts to the use of costly backup diesel power plants," explained IRENA in the study.

Morupisi back in jail

from page 1

of the Director of Public Prosecutions, finding that the charges sought to be prosecuted were reasonable. The Marsland adjudication has nothing at all to do with the involvement of the Respondent in any of the issues before it. Nor does it have anything to do with his connection to possible corrupt practices related to the companies Mr Marsland may have been associated with.

The judges said bias or perceived bias which would disqualify a judicial officer must relate to the actual case being tried. The fact that a judicial officer may have been involved in a different case where the same litigant was a party or had made an adverse previous ruling against that litigant, does not sufficiently ground a claim for recusal for actual or perceived bias.

Therefore, the judges ruled that the application for the recusal of Lesetedi and Dabbe JJA thus has no merit. This is why the Court dismissed the application. The consequence, both in logic and in substance, is that the averment of apprehended bias on the part of the President in empanelling this Court also lacks substance. Without reasonable apprehension of bias or perceived bias on the part of any of the judges she assigned to the matter, there is similarly no basis to seek to review her

decision. That is why the stay, too, was refused.

In addition, the contention that the President of this Court was empanelling this Court in her own cause fails because her involvement was purely professional: this appeal is concerned solely with questions of law, in which she has no perceivable personal interest.

Kebonang's recusal

That brings us back to whether Kebonang's refusal to recuse himself has become immaterial. It is true that the High Court's assumption of jurisdiction to revisit Court of Appeal judgments has already been rejected. Nevertheless, broader considerations relating to recusal make it necessary in the interests of justice to deal with this matter.

A comparison of the recusal application directed at this Court, and the one in the High Court, reveals two pronounced differences. The first is the relative strength of the grounds for recusal in each; the second is the manner in which the merits of these grounds were dealt with in each. We have just pointed out how flimsy the 'offshoot' case argument is in the recusal application against this Court. The ground of recusal in the High Court was radically different.

The principal ground on which recusal was sought there was that close family members

of the Judge benefitted from funds of a company, following upon the unlawful award of a tender to that company by the very Respondent in these proceedings. There existed an association between the Judge's twin brother and the controlling minds of that company. This association led to his brother receiving an undue payment. The brother was later obliged to return that payment when the liquidator of the company hunted down the money trail. In addition, there was another association: but for the criminal acts of which the Respondent was convicted in these proceedings, the company would not have received the very funds that were used to purchase a vehicle for the Judge's mother and to make the undue payments to his brother.

The reasonable bystander could be readily pardoned if she apprehended that the Judge would be biased in favour of the respondent. The Respondent was the person who was the root cause of benefits that flowed to the Judge's brother and to his mother.

Under those circumstances, it would have been proper for the Judge to step aside from the entire litigation in these proceedings. Instead, the Judge made matters worse, by imputing bad faith to the Appellants for applying for his recusal. He did so, surprisingly, on the basis of matters the

Appellants did not raise at all in the recusal application. Nor did he give the Appellants, or those he accused of ulterior motives, a chance to be heard. His outburst does nothing to assuage the reasonable doubts reflected in the actual ground the Appellants advanced for his recusal.

First judgment

Setting Morupisi free, the High Court had ruled that Judge Singh Walia of the CoA was not impartial but was rather influenced by the Executive to convict him on three charges of corruption and money laundering and sentence him to seven years in jail. Judge Walia had mentioned during sentencing that the President is desirous of ending corruption. The High Court then nullified the seven year sentence imposed by the CoA, reinstating an earlier suspended sentence by High Court Judge, Mokwadi Chris Gabanagae. The judge had convicted Morupisi on two counts of corruption and one of money laundering. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment wholly suspended on the first count of corruption and P50 000 on the second count of corruption or five years imprisonment in default of payment. On the money laundering count, Morupisi was fined P80 000 or eight years imprisonment in default of payment.

SOLOMON J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN
 Case No. CVHFT-000472-17

In the matter between:

CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA) Plaintiff

and

CHEVRON CONTRACTORS (PTY) LTD 1st Defendant
JAMES KGALAJWE KGALAJWE 2nd Defendant
AGATHA KGALAJWE 3rd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution of this Honourable Court, the following immovable property shall be sold by public auction to the highest bidder by Deputy Sheriff Obakeng Kgwakwe in the manner hereinafter set out:

Date of Sale: 9th May 2025
Venue: Tribal Lot 464, Serowe
Time: 10:30 a.m.

Property to be sold: A certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 464, Serowe, situated in Bangwato Tribal Territory, measuring 1841m2 (One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty One Square Metres) held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. 208/90 dated 29th day of October 1990 made in favour of James Kgalajwe Kgalajwe, with developments thereon being a thatched room and the plot is fenced.

Terms of Sale: STRICTLY CASH or BANK GUARANTEED CHEQUES.

Conditions of sale: Details and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriff's office, Cell: 75604170

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025.

.....
DEPUTY SHERIFF OBAKENG KGWAKGWE
 CELL NO 75604170
 C/O CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA)
 FOUR THIRTY SQUARE, PLOT 54350
 PG MATANTE ROAD, CBD
 PRIVATE BAG 00504
 GABORONE
 (LEGAL.COL.01731)

SECHELE J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE
 Case No. CVHGB-002374-16

In the matter between:

CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA) Plaintiff

and

CHOBE TENT HIRE (PTY) LTD 1st Defendant
STEPHEN SAMUNZALA 2nd Defendant
LYDIA SAMUNZLA 3rd Defendant
BOIPUSO SAMUEL 4th Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following property shall be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Phillip Maitseo to the highest bidder as follows:

Date of Sale: 11th April 2025
Venue: Tribal Lot 2816, Kasane
Time: 10:00a.m

Property to be sold: 1x LG washing machine, Dry clean machine, 1x Samsung washing machine, 1x Whirlpool dryer machine, 1x Speed queen dryer machine, Industrial iron, spot table, 1x utility presser, 1x Dri Buddi dryer machine, dry clean baskets, 1x Mecor Computer set, 2x office chairs, 1x two seater couch, 1x industrial cooling Tower and 1x Ingersoll Rand

Terms and Conditions of Sale: STRICTLY CASH or BANK GUARANTEED CHEQUES.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17 DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025

.....
DEPUTY SHERIFF PHILLIP MAITSEO
 CELL NO. 75889734/71320924/6865722
 C/O CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA)
 FOUR THIRTY SQUARE
 PLOT 54350, PG MATANTE ROAD, CBD
 PRIVATE BAG 00504
 GABORONE
 (LEGAL.COL.01558)

SOLOMON J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN
 Case No. CVHFT-000472-17

In the matter between:

CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA) Plaintiff

and

CHEVRON CONTRACTORS (PTY) LTD 1st Defendant
JAMES KGALAJWE KGALAJWE 2nd Defendant
AGATHA KGALAJWE 3rd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution of this Honourable Court, the following immovable property shall be sold by public auction to the highest bidder by Deputy Sheriff Obakeng Kgwakwe in the manner hereinafter set out:

Date of Sale: 24th March 2025
Venue: Lot 20477, Francistown
Time: 14:30 p.m

Property to be sold: A certain piece of land being Lot 20477, Monarch, Francistown, situated in Francistown Administrative District under Deed of Transfer No. FT 648/2012 dated 24th day of August 2012 made in favour of James Kgalajwe Kgalajwe, Measuring 1225m² (One Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Five Square Metres) with developments thereon being

Terms of Sale: STRICTLY CASH or BANK GUARANTEED CHEQUES.

Conditions of sale: Details and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriff's office, Cell: 75604170

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025.

.....
DEPUTY SHERIFF OBAKENG KGWAKGWE
 CELL NO 75604170
 C/O CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA)
 FOUR THIRTY SQUARE, PLOT 54350
 PG MATANTE ROAD, CBD
 PRIVATE BAG 00504
 GABORONE
 (LEGAL.COL.01731)

SECHELE J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN
 Case No. CVHFT-000258-23

In the matter between:

CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA) Plaintiff

and

GEO PARK HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD 1st Defendant
MOSHE MABUTA 2nd Defendant
MWALE ESTHER MABUTA 3rd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following property shall be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Phillip Maitseo to the highest bidder as follows:

Date of Sale: 8th April 2025
Venue: Tribal Lot 1001, Pandamatenga
Time: 10:00 a.m

Property to be sold: 1x Diesel generator -model V36, 1x Wheel loader- model 920CD, 1X Front loader – model 922, serial number 180747, 1x overhead Crain, Chain conveyor, main body machine, material transport, 1x 400c mixer, 2x hopper machine, 500 pallets, shelter, 4x brick moulder, 1x TATA truck- model 158, registration no. B 635 BIE

Terms and Conditions of Sale: STRICTLY CASH or BANK GUARANTEED CHEQUES.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025

.....
DEPUTY SHERIFF PHILLIP MAITSEO
 CELL NO. 75889734/71320924/6865722
 C/O CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA)
 FOUR THIRTY SQUARE
 PLOT 54350, PG MATANTE ROAD, CBD
 PRIVATE BAG 00504
 GABORONE
 (LEGAL/COL.02610)

SECHELE J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE
 Case No. CVHGB-002374-16

In the matter between:

CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA) Plaintiff

and

CHOBE TENT HIRE (PTY) LTD 1st Defendant
STEPHEN SAMUNZALA 2nd Defendant
LYDIA SAMUNZLA 3rd Defendant
BOIPUSO SAMUEL 4th Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following property shall be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Phillip Maitseo to the highest bidder as follows:

Date of Sale: 11th April 2025
Venue: Tribal Lot 2816, Kasane
Time: 12:00noon

Property to be sold: A certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 2816, Kasane, situated in the Chobe Administrative District, measuring 600m2 (Six Hundred Square Metres) which property is held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 621/2012 dated 30th day of October 2012, made in favour of Stephen Samunzala subject to the reservations and conditions contained in the aforesaid deed, being a business plot with development thereon being four rooms, 2x rest rooms (male and females)

Terms of Sale: STRICTLY CASH or BANK GUARANTEED CHEQUES.

Conditions of sale: Details and conditions of sale may be inspected at Deputy Sheriff Phillip Maitseo's office, on 75889734/71320924/6865722

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17 DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025

.....
DEPUTY SHERIFF PHILLIP MAITSEO
 CELL NO. 75889734/71320924/6865722
 C/O CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA)
 FOUR THIRTY SQUARE
 PLOT 54350, PG MATANTE ROAD, CBD
 PRIVATE BAG 00504
 GABORONE
 (LEGAL/COL.01558)

SECHELE J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN
 Case No. CVHFT-000258-23

In the matter between:

CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA) Plaintiff

and

GEO PARK HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD 1st Defendant
MOSHE MABUTA 2nd Defendant
MWALE ESTHER MABUTA 3rd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following property shall be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Phillip Maitseo to the highest bidder as follows:

Date of Sale: 8th April 2025
Venue: Tribal Lot 1001, Pandamatenga
Time: 12:00 noon

Property to be sold: A certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 1001, Pandamatenga, situated at Pandamatenga (Cadastral 573) measuring 4900m2 (Four Thousand Nine Hundred Square Metres) which property is held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 537/2018 dated 24th day of August 2018 made in favour of GEO PARK Holdings subject to the reservations and conditions contained in the aforesaid lease with some developments thereon being a one room connected with water and electricity

Terms of Sale: STRICTLY CASH or BANK GUARANTEED CHEQUES.

Conditions of sale: Details and conditions of sale may be inspected at Deputy Sheriff Phillip Maitseo's office, on 75889734/71320924/6865722

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025

.....
DEPUTY SHERIFF PHILLIP MAITSEO
 CELL NO. 75889734/71320924/6865722
 C/O CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA)
 FOUR THIRTY SQUARE
 PLOT 54350, PG MATANTE ROAD, CBD
 PRIVATE BAG 00504
 GABORONE
 (LEGAL/COL.02610)

KETLOGETSWE J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN
 Case No. CVHFT-000165-24

In the matter between:

CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA) Plaintiff

and

LESEGO ETHEL KASNU 1st Defendant
GRANIC AGENCIES (PTY) LTD 2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following property shall be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Phillip Maitseo to the highest bidder as follows:

Date of Sale: 14th April 2025
Venue: Tribal Lot 35344, Maun
Time: 10:30a.m

Property to be sold: A certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 35344, at Maun, situated at Maun (Cadastral 274) in the Batawana Tribal Territory, measuring 1838m2 (One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Eight Square Metres) which property is held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 636/2018 dated 17th day of October 2018 made in favour Granic Agencies (Pty) Ltd subject to the reservations and conditions contained in the aforesaid deed and development thereon six roomed house with ensuite, sitting room, kitchen, toilet and bathroom, water and electricity connected with boundary wall.

Terms of Sale: STRICTLY CASH or BANK GUARANTEED CHEQUES.

Conditions of sale: Details and conditions of sale may be inspected at Deputy Sheriff Phillip Maitseo's office, on 75889734/71320924/6865722

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025

.....
DEPUTY SHERIFF PHILLIP MAITSEO
 CELL NO. 75889734/71320924/6865722
 C/O CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA)
 FOUR THIRTY SQUARE
 PLOT 54350, PG MATANTE ROAD, CBD
 PRIVATE BAG 00504
 GABORONE
 (LEGAL/COL.02907)

SECHELE J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN
 Case No. CVHFT-000258-23

In the matter between:

CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA) Plaintiff

and

GEO PARK HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD 1st Defendant
MOSHE MABUTA 2nd Defendant
MWALE ESTHER MABUTA 3rd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following property shall be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Phillip Maitseo to the highest bidder as follows:

Date of Sale: 7th April 2025
Venue: Tribal Lot 1513, Kasane
Time: 14:30p.m

Property to be sold: A certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 1513, Kasane, situated in the Township of Kasane measuring 588m2 (Five Hundred and Eighty Eight Square Metres) which property is held under Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. FT 151/2018 dated 20th day of March 2018 made in favour of Moshe Mabuta subject to the reservations and conditions contained in the aforesaid deed with some developments thereon being a three bedroom house with master-ensuite, fitted kitchen, sitting room, toilet and shower, guest toilet, boundary wall with electric fence and motorized gate

Terms of Sale: STRICTLY CASH or BANK GUARANTEED CHEQUES.

Conditions of sale: Details and conditions of sale may be inspected at Deputy Sheriff Phillip Maitseo's office, on 75889734/71320924/6865722

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025

.....
DEPUTY SHERIFF PHILLIP MAITSEO
 CELL NO. 75889734/71320924/6865722
 C/O CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA)
 FOUR THIRTY SQUARE
 PLOT 54350, PG MATANTE ROAD, CBD
 PRIVATE BAG 00504
 GABORONE
 (LEGAL/COL.02610)

RADIJENG J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE
 Case No. CVHGB-000644-22

In the matter between:

CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA) Plaintiff

and

JORINAH LIZO HASTAG 1st Defendant
PIET HASTAG 2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following property shall be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Nonoto Mabina to the highest bidder as follows:

Date of Sale: 13th May 2025
Venue: Tribal Lot 131, Draaihoek
Time: 11:30 am

Property to be sold: A certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 131 Draaihoek, situated in the Kgalagadi Tribal Area measuring 1634m² (One Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty Four Square Meters) held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. TL 985/2011 dated 6th day of September 2011 made in favour of Piet Hastag, subject to the reservations and conditions contained in the aforesaid lease together with developments thereon being Two Bedroom House comprising of Sitting Room combined with dining, Kitchen, Common Bathroom, Two Bedroom House, Sitting Room, Common Bathroom. The yard is fenced

Terms of Sale: STRICTLY CASH or BANK GUARANTEED CHEQUES.

Conditions of sale: Details and conditions of sale may be inspected at Deputy Sheriff Nonoto Mabina's office on 71657100

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025.

.....
DEPUTY SHERIFF NONOTO MABINA
 CELL NO. 71657100
 C/O CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA)
 FOUR THIRTY SQUARE
 PLOT 54350, PG MATANTE ROAD, CBD
 PRIVATE BAG 00504
 GABORONE
 (LEGAL.COL.0834)

KEBONANG J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE
 Case No. CVHGB-001609-23

In the matter between:

CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA) Plaintiff

and

OLETETSWE PITSO Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following property shall be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Moitshhepi Marumolwa to the highest bidder as follows:

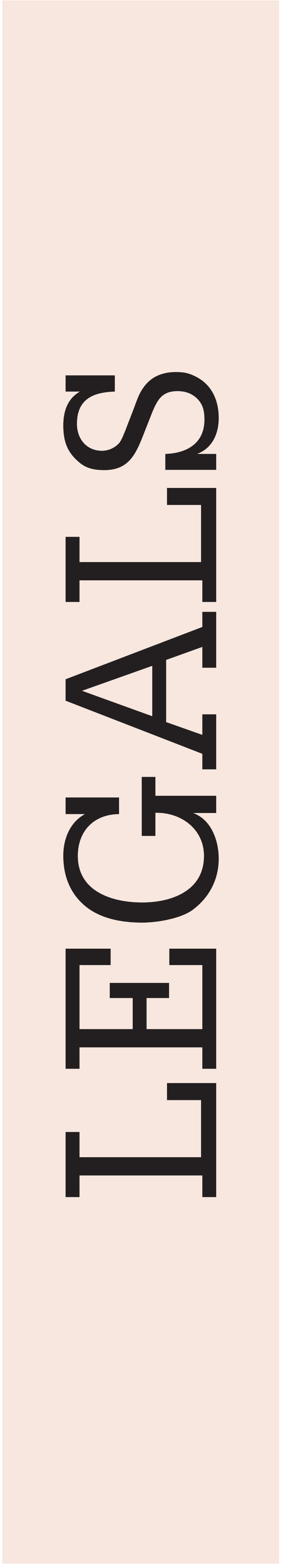
Date of Sale: 15th May 2025
Venue: Botapo Ward, Kokong
Time: 11:30 a.m

Property to be sold: 10 x Dorper sheep, 10x mixed Cattle, 10x Calves

Terms of Sale: STRICTLY CASH or BANK GUARANTEED CHEQUES.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025.

.....
DEPUTY SHERIFF MOITSHHEPI MARUMOLWA
 CELL NO. 75365073/71654838
 C/O CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA)
 FOUR THIRTY SQUARE
 PLOT 54350, PG MATANTE ROAD, CBD
 PRIVATE BAG 00504
 GABORONE
 (Legal.Col.02794)



Opinions, Reviews & Analysis

COMMENT

Floods expose failure in disaster readiness

THE RAVING FLOODS THROUGHOUT THE whole country have demonstrated the horrible poor workmanship of those contracted to plan, and construct roads and related infrastructure in major villages, towns and cities. The whole country is simply a mess despite billions of Pula spend on infrastructure development.

What passes as the country's capital city has been exposed a rag tag of brick and mortar placed together without any serious thought and foresight. Why would one allocate Molapo, Riverwalk, Sebele Centres – why would an engineer allow the Segoditshane River to stream across the city without all necessary bridges build alongside it. Why were the roads not elevated high enough and provided with sufficient drainage system to avoid them being turned into rivers?

The amount of time motorists jammed across Gaborone roads on Wednesday night is an indictment on the engineers who planned such roads. If one of such engineers was equally on the road that evening they would have experienced the harsh outcome of their shoddy work! It looks like the planners had imagined that Gaborone and Francistown would not grow to the level the

cities have done. The western bypass is no longer a bypass – it is a road in the middle of a city that during downpours turns into a river on its own.

Instead of building three more fly-overs government must rather spend that money in correcting and realigning the city's drainage systems – construct bridges alongside the Segoditshane river to direct water properly to ensure it does not wonder about into shopping centres and people's houses. Climate change is here with us and hence plans must take into consideration the future outlook more intensely to avoid any unforeseen developments as it has happened now.

Fire NDMO boss

Officials at the National Disaster Management Office do not seem to know a hoot about the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. This articulated strategies for building the resilience of communities during disasters. Things that are written there, we've done almost the opposite throughout the years. The subsequent Sendai Framework, 2015- 2030 adopted in April of 2015 in Japan warned countries of eminent

disasters and recommended advanced risk reduction strategies. Our officials have sat on these recommendations, advised government notably nothing to improve our preparedness and responses to disasters. Notably, we are still managing disasters with a policy adopted in the 90s. Our disaster strategy has been solely based on response and not mitigation, no community engagement, no basic warnings until disaster struck, no disaster resilience plans. Basically, zero adherence to international standards and best practices. Nothing at all, apart from officers running all over the place with reflectors after disaster strikes, property destroyed and lives at risk.

To avoid endangering lives further, President Duma Boko should remove failed bureaucrats from office forthwith. We need radical changes in the new administration now! The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government should realise that the chameleon approach they have adopted does not work in Public Service in Botswana. By this time the Director for National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) should have been fired or resigned voluntarily in shame. Unfortunately, it is business as usual because the new UDC government leadership have guaranteed reckless and non-performing civil

servants a safe passage to continue what they know best - zero delivery while the lives of thousands of citizens are in danger because of their ineptitude.

The nation is reeling in untold misery and huge losses due to damage to property because some useless civil servants in the NDMO do not know why they are paid even in those positions and offices. Poor and/ or failure to make the right decision, which endanger people's lives, should attract punishment without any hesitation. NO excuses should be entertained.

The Meteorological Services shares weather forecasts daily, with information on weather patterns and the expected outcomes. Such information is also readily available on social media platforms from reputable international sources.

It boggles the mind, why the National Disaster Management Office never processed information at their disposal and advise government and the general public to take necessary precautions in advance.

The heavy storm that ravaged Greater Gaborone on Wednesday was detected along the Namibian border and Gantsi Area on Tuesday night around 20:52, the travelling speed and it's nature was available from the

satellite and when it will reach the Capital City of Gaborone. Why did the National Disaster Management Office fail to use this information and immediately set up a Command Center to prepare for what was coming at 21:00 hours on Tuesday night because clearly from the satellite and data this was not an ordinary storm, it needed total preparedness.

Almost 14 hours that could have been used to prepare adequately was lost until the storm hit Greater Gaborone in the mid-afternoon on Wednesday. It caused havoc everywhere, it caught vulnerable school children, citizens, businesses, institutions, organisations unprepared because the weather forecast data available publicly was never processed by the National Disaster Management Office and used to predict the possible damage and risk to lives.

In the aftermath of this disaster, a Command Center was automated led by Ministers and other State Agencies in a reactionary manner rather than a proactive approach.

This is where our problems start, we need to hold those responsible to account and tell us why this critical data that was provided by Meteorological Services was never processed

for usability.

In summary those employed by the national Disaster Management Office have no valid reasons why they should continue in their positions because they have betrayed the confidence that government and the public bestowed upon them. They have demonstrated colossal failure to protect the citizens and their property by simply doing their job. They should, therefore, be relieved of their duties instantly!

Mr President, Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, this is your time to govern, your prowess and mettle in leadership is being tested beyond reasonable doubt. The ball is in your court to be decisive in all those who lead different Offices and State Own Enterprises, a kind reminder some of these people are the same whose failure precipitated the collapse of the past regime that had stayed in power for the last 58 years.

They will take you down in 2029 if you do not act firmly and decisively to rid government of such malcontents.

Leadership is defined by boldness, and as we reconstruct what has been destroyed, we need to speak to our conscience about what meritocracy can do for this new Republic. We cannot afford failures of the past anymore!

The media must rise to the occasion

MALATSI GALANI*

Watchdogs or Lapdogs? The Fourth Estate's Role in Fighting Corruption in Botswana

IN RECENT YEARS, BOTSWANA HAS WITNESSED growing public outcry over the misappropriation of public funds for personal enrichment. Reports of inflated costs for government-funded infrastructure projects—whether roads, schools, clinics, or office buildings—have become commonplace, raising the fundamental question:

Why does public procurement (government funded), construction of roads, public buildings or schools, seem disproportionately expensive compared to private sector projects. This is not a mere coincidence but a consequence of deeply entrenched corruption within public procurement.

The Culture of Corruption and the Role of the Media

Casual conversations among citizens increasingly reflect the normalization of corruption. The sentiment that one must align with those in power to gain financial benefits is deeply troubling. Some argue that engaging in corrupt practices is merely a means of survival, while others caution that such actions push Botswana towards the levels of systemic corruption seen in Kenya or Zimbabwe, where state institutions have been significantly weakened by unchecked graft.

Interestingly, many of the politically connected elites who benefit from illicit wealth seek medical treatment, investment opportunities, education for their children, and real estate in countries with strict

anti-corruption measures. This raises an ironic yet critical question:

If corruption is so rewarding, why do those benefiting from it run to corruption-free countries to invest, seek medical attention, and educate their children?

In countries where corruption is minimal or aggressively prosecuted, the media—often referred to as the Fourth Estate—has played a pivotal role in holding those in power accountable. In one notable case, a Member of Parliament resigned after failing to disclose a single bottle of wine received from a government supplier. In another instance, a politician was forced out of office for misusing a trade union credit card at a brothel before entering Parliament. Both of these cases were exposed by investigative journalism, demonstrating the power of the press in ensuring accountability.

The Decline of Investigative Journalism in Botswana

While it would be unfair to paint all media practitioners with the same brush, there is a glaring absence of serious investigative journalism in Botswana. There are instances where corruption is reported, but these efforts remain sporadic and insufficient. Corruption in the country has reached endemic levels, yet the media appears largely disengaged.

A common complaint is that many stories in Botswana's media landscape are paid for, undermining journalistic independence and



Journalists at work

ethics. If journalists accept retainer fees to suppress corruption exposés, then they become complicit in the very system they should be fighting against. This raises the question:

What happened to professionalism and ethics in journalism?

Where is the relentless scrutiny that the media is supposed to apply to those in power?

Where are the investigative reports on illicit financial transactions, procurement fraud, and

abuse of office?

Are journalists truly failing to find corruption, or have they been silenced by those who benefit from it?

A Case Study in Procurement Corruption

To illustrate the cost of corruption, consider the following scenario:

A bidder submits a proposal to tile a classroom for P10,000. However, a local councillor and procurement officer intervene, demanding a

share of the contract in kickbacks. To facilitate their cut, they instruct the bidder to inflate the price to P35,000 or apply for a variation post-award. The councillor secures a P15,000 bribe, while the procurement officer takes P10,000, promising the contractor future projects as a reward for their cooperation.

In this case alone, P25,000 is stolen without any additional work done—money that could have funded two and a half additional classrooms. This is a microcosm of how unchecked corruption drains public resources, ultimately compromising service delivery, education, and infrastructure development.

Without media scrutiny, such corruption becomes normalized. The above example highlights how Botswana has descended into a "dog-eat-dog" world, where self-interest has overridden collective duty. This raises yet another crucial question:

If journalists are aware of these corrupt practices but choose not to report them, how different are they from those looting public funds?

The Media's Responsibility: A Call for Ethical Journalism

The media's failure to expose such schemes enables corruption to thrive. By accepting payments to kill stories about SOE, government entities, and private companies engaged in fraudulent activities, journalists become complicit. When they accept retainers to silence

corruption exposés, they betray the public interest. Go tala-nyana?

The money stolen is not abstract—it belongs to the people of Botswana, me and you. Every pula siphoned through corrupt deals is money paid by citizens through taxes on groceries, fuel, and essential goods. By failing to report on corruption, journalists are no different from the very thieves looting public funds.

It is, therefore, imperative to restore professionalism and ethics in Botswana's media industry. Investigative journalism must be revived, strengthened, and protected. The country urgently needs a press corps that is committed to uncovering illicit financial dealings, procurement fraud, and political corruption.

A Final Challenge to the Fourth Estate

Journalists must ask themselves:

- Where is the investigative journalism on corruption?
 - Where is the constant scrutiny of those in power?
 - Where are the reports on illicit deals, procurement fraud, and corrupt acts?
 - Are journalists truly failing to see corruption, or are they on the payroll of those in power?
 - Has professional and ethical journalism completely disappeared in Botswana?
- Lefatshe la rona dawg, and its future depends on truth, transparency, and accountability. The media must rise to the occasion.

*Facebook Post

Progressive taxation, obtains from the rich and exempts the poor

KEAOLEBOGA DIPOGISO*

FOR THOSE WHO'VE BEEN WONDERING, AND or comparing an increase in Value Added Tax to the recent increase by the new administration and referring to the "stripping the naked man" metaphor by the current president, this is the difference. Please remember the VAT is an indiscriminate type of tax on all goods and services, unless selected goods and services are exempted.

This means every person pays it, upon procurement of goods and services regardless of their status and they pay it equally. With the recent increment, the higher bracket of income earners will pay. This is called, progressive taxation. It is a discriminatory tax, that obtains from the rich and exempts the poor, with the hope for improvement of conditions for the latter. It has philosophical foundation on the concept of social justice as argued by John Rawls.

A great proponent of this sort of political economy, in his book "A theory of Justice" published in 1970 argues that greater good can be achieved from pursuing this sort of taxation. He starts by explaining the origins of inequality and suggests that people are born into different situations, mainly due to their familial descents. He imagines, a position, the original position, where man is devoid of bias and other contingent privileges that set him different from the rest. He calls it the 'position of equality', where man uses no calculus to measure another man's worth, because they basically are equal.

Now, he accepts that that very position is abstract, as man will always have hedonistic interests, will prevail over the other and set to reaffirm his dominance if he is dominant. So to bring about equality, he discusses two principles, one being of equality where every man is observed being equal. He says in here, that, man

is born with 'inviolability founded on justice!' That is, society should not assume the position of imposing judgement that places individual rights at jeopardy when in pursuit of collective rights. That is, man should be free as possible to achieve personal goals.

Quickly, he compliments that position with the second principle - the difference principle - where he argues that inequalities are actually permissible in society. He asserts that condition for accepting inequality should be when it brings about greater gain for the people on the floor of the political economy. For example, a tax the rich policy, if implemented in this light, is an efficient way of achieving redistribution.

Thus, if the resources are concentrated in a few rich people, taxing them more and utilizing the money in improving conditions for the poor will build a more socially just society. This is an alternative to the Herbert Hoover's 'trickle down' economics that insinuate that lowering of taxation for corporate men yields greater impetus in the improvement of conditions for the poor.

Those browsing for a left leaning sentiment from the budget, the increment of old age, provision of sanitary pads and birth allowances for targeted individuals is an immediate response. It's a great leap into securing the care economy. It is not only commendable but progressive as the state has just assumed a huge chunk of black tax. It will allow households to rearrange their food baskets without being hampered by the need to carry some funds back home. Furthermore, it is stimulus in nature, as it will induce and stimulate demand.

* Social Dialogue Specialist at Botswana Federation of Public, Private & Parastatal Sector Unions * Former Lecturer - Political and Administrative Studies at University of Botswana_Official.

Beware the hidden dangers of floodwaters -Kalafhi

KALAFHI MEDICAL CENTER IS WARNING the public about serious health hazards that come with floodwaters. While disaster response efforts often focus on evacuations and property loss, Kalafhi Medical Center is emphasizing that contaminated water, mosquito breeding, and damaged sanitation can trigger severe disease outbreaks.

Why Floodwaters Pose a Risk
Contamination with Germs and Waste
Floodwaters can mix with sewage, garbage, or animal waste. This dirty mix quickly becomes a breeding ground for bacteria, viruses, and parasites—raising the risk of illnesses such as dysentery, hepatitis A, and Typhoid.

Easy Spread of Mosquito-Borne Diseases
Mosquitoes flourish in stagnant water left behind by floods. In Botswana, malaria remains a pressing concern, especially around pools of water in low-lying areas.

Risk of Bilharzia (Schistosomiasis)
Bilharzia can spread if people come into contact with water containing parasitic worms. Playing or wading in contaminated ponds and puddles significantly increases this risk.

Damage to Toilets and Drainage Systems
Floods can destroy pit latrines, septic tanks, and drainage channels, allowing germs to travel from one place to another—leading to diarrhoeal outbreaks in high-density locations.

Practical Ways to Protect Yourself and Your Family
Use Safe Drinking Water
Boil water for at least one minute before drinking.
Store this clean water in tightly sealed containers to avoid recontamination.



Practice Good Hand Hygiene
Wash your hands thoroughly with clean water and soap—particularly before eating or cooking and after using the toilet.

Remind children, who are often more at risk, to do the same.
Avoid Floodwater Exposure
Even if it looks shallow, floodwater may be full of harmful germs.

Children should be strictly discouraged from playing in puddles or flooded areas.
Stop Mosquitoes from Breeding
Drain stagnant water in old tires, buckets, or any other containers.
Sleep under mosquito nets where possible, and use approved insect repellents.

Dispose of Waste Responsibly
Place garbage in designated areas and keep it away from open water sources.
If toilets or latrines are damaged, ensure human waste is disposed of safely until repairs are done.
Seek Early Treatment and Recognize Symptoms
Dysentery and Other Diarrhoeal Illnesses:

Diarrhea (sometimes with blood), stomach cramps, vomiting, and fever.

Malaria: Fever, chills, headaches, fatigue, and sweating. Seek help if these persist or worsen.

Bilharzia (Schistosomiasis): Itchy skin or rash soon after contact with contaminated water; later symptoms can include abdominal pain, diarrhea, blood in urine or stool, and fatigue.

Typhoid Fever: Prolonged high fever, headache, weakness, abdominal pain, and possible rash.

Hepatitis A: Jaundice (yellowing of skin or eyes), loss of appetite, fatigue, and dark-colored urine.

If you notice any of these or any other unusual symptoms in yourself or your family members, do not hesitate to contact the nearest health facility. Early treatment helps prevent more serious complications.

Stay tuned to local radio, television and social media broadcasts and take the advice of medical experts to protect your community during this heavy rainfall season.

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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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USA no longer bastion of democracy

▪ Trump is trumping true democracy

ANY PEOPLE USED TO BELIEVE that the USA was a leader of free democratic world.

There are four basic systems of government – true democracy, flawed or defective democracy, hybrid regime and authoritarian regime. A true democracy is a government system in which state power is vested in, or held by, the people. Rulers are elected through regular, free and fair elections, and civil liberties and human rights are guaranteed and respected. Civil liberties and human rights include freedom of an independent press, freedom of speech, religion, and assembly, an independent judiciary, a right to a free trial, rights of minorities, rights to education and health care, etc. Plus, a system of government checks and balances, and zero tolerance for corruption, nepotism, favouritism, racism and discrimination. A truly democratic country abides by the rule of law and stands by those international treaties and agreements to which it is a signatory. Plus, it should also abide by democratic principles in its foreign affairs.

And rulers of such countries should be exemplary in their conduct both on the job and in their private lives – they should be men and women of integrity and honesty. Furthermore, they should be humble and accept criticism where it is due. Plus, they should have no criminal record!

And the biggest test of any true democracy is what happens when the ruling party loses at an election. If there is, indeed, a peaceful, seamless, and orderly transfer of power then that nation can boast of its democracy! A tall order! But it happened in Botswana in October 2024 when, against the odds, the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) defeated the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) hands down after which the new president, Duma Boko, told the world that Botswana is a true democracy!

Flawed democracies are countries where elections are free and fair and basic civil liberties are honoured. However, there may be faults such as media freedom infringement, suppression of political opposition and critics, low levels in participation in politics, and issues in the functioning of governance. Also, too much power may be concentrated in the Executive branch of government or the presidency. This means that the Legislature branch of government – Parliament – may have less power and yet it is responsible for making laws.

Hybrid regimes are countries where regular electoral fraud occurs, thus preventing them from being true democracies. These countries commonly have governments that apply pressure on the political opposition, harass the independent media, have a non-independent judiciary, and corruption is widespread, etc.

Authoritarian, or autocratic, regimes are countries where political parties may be banned or severely restricted, the media is state owned, the judiciary is non-independent, infringements and abuses of civil liberties and human rights are commonplace, and suppression of criticism of government is the norm. Also, political opponents may be tortured, imprisoned or simply 'disappear'. And elections, if they are held, are not free and fair. Leaders here have unlimited power, and there are no limits to the time a leader may remain in power. Many such countries are dictatorships, or run by the military.

The 2023 Economist Democracy Index (EDI) measures the quality of democracy in 167 countries across the world (The Economist is a UK weekly newspaper). Each country receives a score of between 0 (very undemocratic) and 10 (very democratic): full democracies (8-10), flawed democracies (6-8), hybrid regimes (4-6), and



Trump

authoritarian regimes (0-4).

Most true democracies occur in western Europe – Norway is ranked first with an impressive score of 9.81, closely followed by New Zealand, Iceland, Sweden and Finland, Denmark, Ireland, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the UK. Spain and Germany were also classed as true democracies – they have made considerable progress since the 1940s when both were authoritarian fascist states ruled by dictators Francisco Franco and Adolf Hitler respectively. Ranked last was Afghanistan with a miserable score of only 0.26, with countries such as North Korea, Central African Republic, DRC and Sudan not far behind.

The USA, considered once as the champion of democracy, and the so-called leader of the free democratic world, is now struggling to preserve its own democratic foundation. The country's Founding Fathers held democracy in high esteem and upheld liberty, individual rights and the sovereignty of the people. And a Bill of Rights was adopted in 1781 to allay concerns about too much power being held by the Executive branch of government. George Washington, first president of the USA (1789-1797), refused to run for a third term as president, and this set a precedent for the supremacy of civil authority in the USA and the peaceful transfer of power.

However, in 2016, the USA was downgraded from a full democracy to a flawed democracy and is now ranked 29 in the world by the EDI. This was caused by many factors dating back to the late 1960s with the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy, plus the Watergate scandal which involved the administration of President Richard Nixon which began in 1972 and ultimately led to Nixon's resignation in 1974. It revolved around a group associated with Nixon's re-election campaign breaking into, and planting listening devices, in the Democrat National Committee Headquarters (of the main opposition Democrat party) at the Watergate Office Building in Washington, D.C. Plus, Nixon's later attempts to hide his administration's involvement. Also, there has been a steady decline in the public's trust in governmental institutions. American politics is also becoming more polarised with a growing divide between the Republican and Democrat parties with no middle ground. And the decline in democracy continued through Donald Trump's first presidency (2017-2021). Most flawed democracies occur in Latin America, Southern Africa and also include India and nations in South East Asia.

In the American elections in November 2020, Donald Trump's Republican government lost to the Democrats under

Joe Biden. Now the transfer of power should have taken place in the same way as it did in Botswana last year. But it was not to be! Trump, instead, insisted that the elections had been 'rigged' by the Democrats and refused to accept the result. So, on Trump's behalf, on January 6th 2021, his supporters stormed and ravaged the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. during which some 200 people were injured (including many police officers) and five killed (Capitol building is the seat of the U.S. Congress, the legislative branch of government). To some people, the unwarranted attack was seen as an attempt to overthrow the new government which could be seen as treason. And the event was also described as a 'self-coup'. No wonder, then, that Trump has been identified as a key figure in increasing political violence in America. A peaceful transfer of power? A true democrat?

In 2020, Duma Boko insisted that the 2019 elections here in Botswana had also been 'rigged' by the ruling BDP which allowed it to remain in power until 2024. However, unlike Trump, Boko and his supporters did not storm the National Assembly in Gaborone!

After the Capitol attack, the new Democrat government rightly imprisoned many of the perpetrators for the crimes that they had committed. However, in the November 2024 elections, the Democrats lost to Trump's Republican party and he was inaugurated president on January 20th this year. Immediately, he pardoned and released some 1500 of these perpetrators despite the fact that they had not completed their prison sentences. He told the world that they were actually peaceful protesters and that the damage done was 'very minimal'. So here we have a president who seems to sanction violence when it is in his own interest? A true democrat?

Trump also signed dozens of Executive Orders on his first day in the White House (an executive order is a directive by the American president that is supposed to manage the operations of the federal government). Many of these were actually concerned with immigration and the deportation of so-called undocumented immigrants, whom Trump refers to as 'millions of aliens' who are 'drug traffickers or prostitutes'. However, this has led many to say that there is now too much power concentrated in the Executive and some even say that Trump now more closely resembles a dictator than any other US president before him. A true democrat or authoritarian figure?

In his first few weeks in office, his actions have ignored, or violated, federal laws, regulations and even the Constitution. And, so far this has attracted some 70

lawsuits. For example, as a response to his directives on deportation of immigrants, some 24 Democrat states and cities have lodged lawsuits against him. And he is even threatening the children born of immigrants in the USA with deportation, even though citizenship by birth is guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. Trump has also signed another executive order which has dismantled most of USAID – United States Agency for International Development. However, the legality of the order has been contested and a federal court has issued a temporary restraining order. He has also initiated mass firings of employees in the federal government, a move that has been criticised as a violation of federal law. A true democrat?

Recently, Trump has also planned to stop recruiting blacks into the U.S. military and to prevent the entry of millions of criminal aliens (mostly latinos from Latin America), people he labels 'drug traffickers and prostitutes'. But the Archbishop of Washington in her sermon during Trump's inauguration church service mentioned that the vast majority of such people are actually law abiding. Is Trump racist? A true democrat? Also, he plans to ban transgender people from serving in the U.S. military. At least 1500 such persons are currently serving in the military, and it is estimated that it will cost some US\$960 million to discharge them. And that is taxpayers' money. So, we can see that Trump discriminates against minority groups in the U.S. Therefore, it may come as no surprise to learn that Trump plans to withdraw the U.S. from the United Nations Human Rights Council and to prohibit further funding for UNRWA, a UN agency that supports the relief and human development of Palestinian refugees who have been fleeing the often-barbaric attacks on Gaza (including on hospitals) by Trump's ally, Israel.

In his inauguration speech, Trump said that he would sign an executive order to bring back freedom of speech to Americans. The Archbishop of Washington took him up on this a day later in the inauguration service by advising Trump to be humble and show mercy to Americans who are now scared. But Trump did not like this, and demanded an apology from her and yet he says that he supports free speech? In Trump's eyes, freedom of speech is fine provided that you do not criticise him; he hates criticism and believes that he is absolutely right! No wonder then, that he has asked the Supreme Court to let him fire officials who do not embrace his views. He had in mind probably the head of an independent agency that protects whistleblowers. A true democrat?

On assuming the presidency, Duma Boko promised Botswana that the choice of cabinet ministers would be based on merit only. However, this democratic principle has been ignored by Trump. Let us see how he chose some members of his governmental team. Firstly, Education Secretary, Linda McMahon. She is best known as a professional wrestler than for any contribution to education. Her experience in education is limited to serving on Connecticut state's board of education. However, after just two years she was forced to resign after it was discovered that she had lied about having a Bachelor's degree in education; instead, she has a degree in French. Now I reckon that many Botswana teachers here would be more eligible than this lady!

Next, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) director, Kash Patel. Recently, he has published a series of children's books in which he depicted Trump as a king and began to sell pro-Trump merchandise. A worthy candidate for the top job in

America's domestic intelligence and security service? Maybe some of our local budding authors could qualify for the position?

Next Pete Hegseth, Defence Secretary. Although he is a veteran of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, so have thousands of others in the U.S. military! Top people already working in the Pentagon, Headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defence, would have been much better candidates for this post!

Next, Charles Kushner, now U.S. ambassador to France, one of America's leading allies. This billionaire real estate developer is no other than the father of Jared Kushner who is married to Trump's daughter, Ivanka. Nepotism?

And there are also jobs for Trump's rich multi-billionaire pals. Elon Musk, the world's richest man with a net worth of US\$397 billion (about P5558 billion), donated US\$277 million (about P3900 million) to help Trump get re-elected. His reward – to head up the newly created Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Finally, Mark Burnett, Special Envoy to the UK. This British-born TV producer has zero political experience!

Finally, we cannot always believe what Trump tells us. In his inauguration speech, he told us that the U.S. has defeated communism. But is this really true? The fall of communism in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in 1991 was largely due to uprisings in many communist states such as Poland and Romania and even in the Soviet Union itself. And the U.S. lost the Vietnam war (1955-1975). Thousands of Americans fled Saigon as the Vietcong from communist North Vietnam invaded and took over democratic South Vietnam. The result: one communist nation – Vietnam. Next the war in the Korean peninsula (1950-1953). Again, no victory over communism for the U.S. since the northern half of the peninsula – communist North Korea – is now firmly under the control of 'rocket man' Kim Jong Un. And communism is still alive and kicking in China, and Cuba which lies just 150 kilometres south of the American state of Florida, in America's backyard!

Trump also claims that the war between Ukraine and Russia has resulted in the deaths of 'millions' of troops. However, about 40 000 Ukrainian troops have so far died in the conflict; so, where are the millions Trump is telling us about? And this week, Trump accused Ukraine of actually starting the war in Ukraine. But we all know that it was Russia who started the conflict by illegally invading Ukraine, thus violating the borders of another sovereign state. Trump has also told us that the U.S. is sitting on top of the world's largest oil and natural gas reserves. Again, not true! Here are the facts: Venezuela has the largest oil reserves with the U.S. lagging far behind in position 10. Russia has the largest natural gas reserves with the U.S. in position 4.

So, when we hear Trump, we need to ask ourselves whether what we hear is true, partly true, exaggerated, or plain lies!

In a true democracy, we would expect the president to show exemplary behaviour, not only in office, but also in his private life. But not so for Trump! In recent years, he has been found guilty of sexual assault/abuse and defamation. And in the last few years he has been charged with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records to conceal payments made to a pornographic actress, Stormy Daniels, as 'hush money' to buy her silence over a sexual encounter between them. This makes him the first US president ever to be inaugurated with a criminal record. A true democrat? And yet ordinary people applying for jobs may be asked to provide documents showing that they do not have a criminal record.

Grahame McLeod

The Patriot
on Sunday

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TO ADVERTISE

The Rise of an African Visionary: A Leader for a New Dawn

NONOFO KANOKANG

FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR HISTORY, through the struggles of our forefathers, Africa has always stood as a continent of resilience, wisdom, and boundless potential. Yet, for too long, we have watched as the dreams of our ancestors have been stolen by corruption, division, and the remnants of a past that seeks to chain us. But now, a new leader emerges—not just a politician, but a visionary, a torchbearer of hope, a warrior of justice.

This leader does not seek power for personal gain but wields it as a tool for transformation. He is a bridge between the wisdom of the past and the innovation of the future. With a heart burning for Africa's greatness, he calls upon every son and daughter of the Motherland to rise—to believe again, to dream again, and to build together.

He speaks not in whispers of compromise, but in the thunderous voice of truth, unshaken by fear. He does not bow to foreign dictates, nor does he sell the birthright of his people for riches that fade. Instead, he plants the seeds of economic

independence, self-sufficiency, and unity, knowing that Africa's strength lies not in the hands of outsiders but within her own people.

Under his leadership, nations awaken. Borders do not divide but unite in purpose. Education ceases to be a privilege and becomes the key that unlocks a new era. Industries rise, built by African hands, feeding African mouths, and shaping African futures.

The wealth of the land—the gold, the diamonds, the oil, and the soil—is no longer stolen but becomes the foundation of a self-reliant people.

He is the embodiment of Ubuntu—the belief that "I am because we are." He does not rule from a golden throne but walks among the people, feeling their pain, understanding their struggles, and lifting them to their rightful place in destiny.

To the young, he is a mentor. To the old, he is a fulfillment of a long-awaited dream. To the oppressor, he is a storm that cannot be silenced.

And to Africa, he is a beacon of hope, the kindling of a new fire that will never be extinguished.



Through his hands, Africa does not merely rise—it ascends to its rightful place among the greatest civilizations of the world. Not as beggars, not as victims, but as kings and queens, builders and creators, leaders

and innovators.

This is the African leader we await. The leader who will restore the glory of the Motherland. And when he comes, we must be ready—not just to follow, but to stand

beside him, to work with him, to become the generation that finally lifts Africa to its destiny.

For the time of waiting is over. The time to rise is now.

Business

NATURAL DIAMOND SALES BLUES

De Beers revenue down to \$3.3bn

- Decline as rough diamonds sale continues to weaken
- Economic headwinds in key markets have big impact
- De Beers move to strategically lowers production levels



Diamond Trading, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Niranjan Mylvaganam

BAKANG TIRO

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THE CONTINUOUS SLUGGISH SALES volume and weak demand by the consumers for natural diamonds had significant impact on the performance of De Beers Group which saw its revenue declining to \$3.3 billion (P45 billion) in 2024 as compared to \$4 billion in 2023. Presenting the Group's 2024 interim financial results on Thursday, Diamond

Trading, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Niranjan Mylvaganam, said 2024 just like 2023 was challenging for rough diamonds trading. He noted that underlying EBITDA decreased to \$300 million (30 June 2023: \$347 million), driven by reduced sales volumes and high unit costs due to intentional lower production and the ramp up of Venetia underground. Mylvaganam said the economic headwinds in China has resulted in lower demand of rough diamonds that negatively

impacted on the business as middle-income Chinese are cautious in deciding where to spend their money. De Beers also said consumer demand in the United States continued to be affected by economic uncertainty, soft consumer confidence and lab-grown diamonds. Conversely, in India, strong economic growth underpinned positive natural diamond jewellery demand growth. Mylvaganam said De Beers is focusing on category marketing and strategic

partnerships to quell the weaker demand and sales situation.

"In reducing our overhead costs, we are not only making sure we are well placed to navigate the challenging period but also making sure we are best placed to maximise our performance once the upturn comes," he said.

For his part, James Kirby – the Senior Vice President Product Planning at De Beers – said the new origins strategy will enhance value across our business from mining to retail and revitalise desire for natural diamonds among a new generation of consumers.

Kirby said through the strategy, De Beers pivot synthetics and suspend Lab Grown Diamonds production and focus on being a world leading provider of synthetic diamond technology solutions for industrial applications.

He also said there is an urgent need to deliver Jwaneng mine underground production within time. In addition, Kirby said the Russian diamonds which had been sanctioned by the G7 countries don't necessarily have impact on De Beers although they are being sold to other markets, especially the East.

PRODUCTION

Meanwhile, De Beers said rough diamond production reduced to 13.3 million carats (30 June 2023: 16.5 million carats).

The Group said this reflects the decision to intentionally lower production and change short term plant feed mix in response to the weaker rough diamond demand due to the higher-than-average levels of inventory in the midstream and cautious retailer restocking.

In Botswana, production was reduced by 24% to 9.7 million carats (30 June 2023: 12.7 million carats), driven by intentional lower production and short-term changes in plant feed at Jwaneng and Orapa.

According to De Beers, Namibia production decreased by 3% to 1.2 million carats (30 June 2023: 1.2 million carats), with planned lower production at Debmarine Namibia, partially offset by planned mining of areas with higher grades and recoveries at Namdeb.

Economic recession concerns BoB



Governor of Bank of Botswana Cornelius Dekop

BAKANG TIRO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE GOVERNOR OF BANK OF Botswana (BoB) Cornelius Dekop said the domestic economy is facing severe headwinds and is expected to grow by 3.3 percent in 2025.

Dekop, while briefing the media on the decision of the bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decision on Thursday, said the economy is in deep contraction, which is a great concern for BoB.

He said as reported by Statistics Botswana, real gross domestic product (GDP) declined by 4.3 percent in the third quarter of 2024, compared to a growth of 1.1 percent in the corresponding quarter in 2023.

Dekop said this marks the third consecutive decline in GDP, following contractions of 5.2 percent and 0.4 percent in the first and second quarters of 2024, respectively, indicating that the economy is in a recession.

"The contraction in economic activity is mainly attributable to the decline in diamond mining output and revenues. This contraction is further compounded by the weaker performance in non-mining sectors," he said. As a result, Dekop said export earnings declined, constraining government spending and dampening overall economic activity in the second half

of 2024. According to the January 2025 International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook Update, global output is estimated to have expanded by 3.2 percent in 2024 and is forecast to grow by 3.3 percent for both 2025 and 2026.

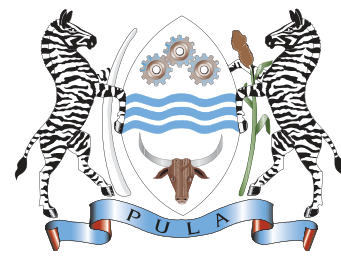
Dekop noted that the 2025 Budget Speech indicate that the economy contracted by 3.1 percent in 2024, adding that the decline is mainly due to the downturn in the diamond industry, driven by weak global demand.

"The 2025 Budget Speech also projects the domestic economy to recover but grow below its potential at 3.3 percent, premised on the recovery of the diamond industry in the latter part of the year," he said.

Given the current economic conditions and the outlook for both domestic and external economic activity, as well as the market liquidity condition, Dekop said the MPC decided to maintain the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) at 1.9 percent.

He said the 7-day Bank of Botswana Certificates auctions, repos and reverse repos will be conducted at the MoPR of 1.9 percent.

Moreover, the MPC observes that inflation could be higher than projected if international commodity prices were to increase above current forecasts, and supply as well as logistical constraints in the global value chains persist.

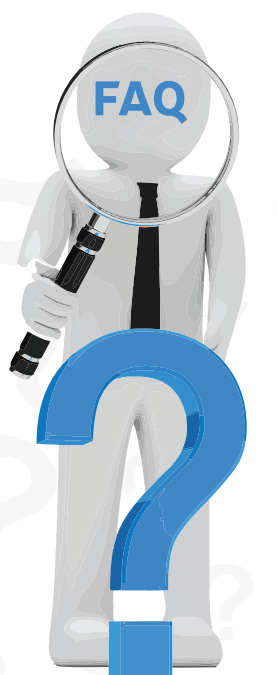


REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY DIRECTORATE

HOW DO I DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF CASH TO BE DECLARED?

The Declarant is expected to disclose any amount of cash available in the bank or any other financial institution in Botswana, or outside at the time of declaration.



PROMOTING AND REINFORCING INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC OFFICE

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Anglo agrees sale of nickel business for \$500m



Wanblad

ANGLO AMERICAN PLC ANNOUNCES that it has entered into a definitive agreement to sell its nickel business to MMG Singapore Resources Pte. Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of MMG Limited ("MMG") for a cash consideration of up to \$500 million ("the Transaction"). The nickel business comprises two ferronickel operations in Brazil – Barro Alto and Codemin – and two high quality greenfield growth projects – Jacaré and Morro Sem Boné. The agreed cash consideration of up to \$500 million comprises an upfront cash consideration of \$350 million at completion; the potential for up to \$100 million in a price-linked earnout(1); and contingent cash consideration(2) of \$50 million linked to the Final Investment Decision (FID) on the development projects. Duncan Wanblad,

Chief Executive of Anglo American, said: "The sale of our nickel business after a highly competitive process marks a further important milestone towards simplifying our portfolio to create a more highly valued copper, premium iron ore, and crop nutrients business. Today's agreement, together with those signed in November 2024 to sell our steelmaking coal business, is expected to generate a total of up to \$5.3 billion of gross cash proceeds, reflecting the high quality of our steelmaking coal and nickel businesses.

MMG is well-respected as a safe and responsible operator and we believe our agreement represents a strong outcome not only for our shareholders, but also for our employees and Brazilian stakeholders. We will work together to ensure a successful transition. "Anglo American's portfolio focus, exceptional asset quality and growth

options offer a differentiated investment proposition for investors. We are unlocking the inherent value of all of Anglo American as we create a much simpler, more resilient and agile business that will enable full value transparency in the market." Cao Liang, Chief Executive of MMG, said: "We are excited by our acquisition of Anglo American's nickel business which provides important diversification for our business and strengthens our presence in Latin America. This is a strong business with a talented team, growth potential and demonstrated excellence in sustainability performance and we look forward to continuing this positive legacy. MMG and Anglo American have a long track record of close collaboration and shared values demonstrated through our commitment to ICMM principles. We look forward to working together towards completion." Anglo American's nickel business is well positioned to serve both the stainless steel and battery value chains. The business comprises the operating assets of Barro Alto mine, Niquelândia mine and the Barro Alto and Codemin ferronickel processing plants which together produced 39,400 tonnes of nickel in 2024; and two high quality greenfield growth development projects: Jacaré with c.300Mt of mineral resources, and Morro Sem Boné (MSB) with a total potential mineralisation of 65Mt.

Barro Alto is the only nickel mine in the world certified by the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance, having achieved the IRMA 75 level of assurance in 2024. The Transaction is subject to a number of conditions, including customary competition and regulatory clearances. The upfront cash consideration is subject to normal completion adjustments and completion is expected by Q3 2025. [bse.co.bw]

Dr Mandlebe joins Absa board

ABSA BANK BOTSWANA'S BOARD OF Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Wilfred Jiwa Mandlebe as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company with effect from 20 February 2025. The appointment is subject to conclusion of the voting of shareholders at the Company's Annual General Meeting in June 2025. Dr Mandlebe is a seasoned economist and public policy practitioner, with over 37 years of professional experience in the public service; having worked at the Bank of Botswana and the Ministry of Finance for most of his career. He also served in an advisory capacity for the African Development Bank for six years. Dr Mandlebe has extensive experience in public, development and macroeconomic policies, having held positions such as the Director of Macroeconomic Planning, Deputy Secretary for Economic Affairs, Secretary of Financial Affairs, Senior Policy Advisor, and Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance. Additionally, over his public service career, he has represented Botswana in regional and international organisations such as the Board of the African Capacity Building Foundation, World Bank, African Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. His experience on various boards and board committees of organisations such as the Botswana Telecommunications Corporation; Botswana Unified Revenue Services; Botswana Building Society; Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency; De Beers, Debswana, Minerals Development Company Botswana,



Dr Wilfred Jiwa Mandlebe

National Development Bank and the Bank of Botswana will undoubtedly be invaluable to the Company. Dr Mandlebe holds a PhD in Public Policy (Walden University, USA); a Master of Business Administration (University of Botswana); a Master of Arts in Economics (Syracuse University, USA) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and

Accounting (University of Botswana). On behalf of Management, Employees and Stakeholders of the Company, the Board welcomes Dr Mandlebe into this new role and is confident that his wealth of experience will inspire further delivery of the Company's ambitions. [bse.co.bw]



Public Notice

Okavango Diamond Company (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") wishes to inform members of the public and international investors that it accepts applications to trade directly with it at absolutely no cost to applicants.

The Company categorically states that it has no affiliation, partnership, or relationship whatsoever with any third party or agent for the above purpose, and actions of any entity or individual which advertises its services to assist in the above process are independent of and do not represent the Company.

Members of the public and international investors are hereby cautioned that any dealings with any such entities are undertaken at their own risk. The Company shall not bear any responsibility or liability for any losses, damages, or disputes arising from such dealings.

We are aware of an advertisement on social media which specifically mentions our Company. In particular, the advert states that it does amongst other things, "Diamond Bourse Registration with Okavango Diamond Company". That is wholly incorrect and a false misrepresentation of what the Company does. We do not deal with Diamond Bourse Registration as the Company is not a Bourse. Whilst we appreciate that business entities are entitled to advertise their services as they wish, we wish to make it clear that such entities are not an agent or affiliate or partner, nor are they authorised by us, in so far as any of their services are concerned. Members of the public and international community who still choose to deal with third parties in order to register with us, do so at their own risk and the Company will not be liable in any way.

For any inquiries or to submit applications directly, please contact the Company through its official communication channels and/or website.

Know Your Corporate Leader

Full Name: Mathews Tito Phetogo
Position: Chief Operating Officer
Institution: FNB Botswana
Date Started: 1 January 2025
Nature of business: Banking

Stanbic supports Private Sector Disaster Relief Fund

IN RESPONSE TO THE DEVASTATING floods impacting communities across Botswana, Stanbic Bank Botswana has pledged P2 million to the Private Sector Disaster Response Fund (PSDRF). This contribution will support emergency relief efforts, provide essential aid, and assist in rebuilding affected areas.

The PSDRF, established by Business Botswana, is a private-sector-led initiative that mobilises swift financial assistance during natural disasters. It helps bridge gaps where government aid may be delayed or insufficient, ensuring an accountable and structured response. Managed by a dedicated board and in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), the PSDRF ensures efficient coordination of relief efforts across the country.

Stanbic Bank Botswana Chief Executive, Chose Modise, said, "While rain is a blessing, the recent floods have caused immense devastation to businesses, communities, and households. Business Botswana's initiative in creating the PSDRF is commendable, and we are honoured to support this cause. Our contribution reflects our commitment to standing with



Stanbic Bank Botswana Chief Executive, Chose Modise

our communities, ensuring aid reaches those most in need swiftly. As Botswana, we take pride in the values of care, botho, and unity - especially in times of crisis. Botswana is our home, and together, we will rebuild." Stanbic Bank remains dedicated not only to providing financial solutions but also to fostering resilience and sustainable recovery efforts. The Bank calls upon other corporate entities and individuals to join in supporting the PSDRF and making a meaningful impact in affected communities.

Motshegwa leaves Letshego board



Motshegwa

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF Letshego Africa Holdings Limited wishes to advise that Mr. Kethalefile Motshegwa resigned as a non-executive director of the Company with effect from 19th of February 2025. The Board would like to thank Mr. Motshegwa for his valuable contribution to the Company and wishes him well in his future endeavours. Motshegwa is the now the MP for Mmadinare and Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs.

Chobe Holdings' proposed joint venture



MC Odumetse Managing Director of Chobe Holdings Limited

DESERT & DELTA SAFARIS Proprietary Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Chobe Holdings, is in negotiations to partner with a related party to develop and operate a property in Botswana. The proposed transaction is subject to all statutory

approvals required in terms of the laws of the Republic of Botswana. Accordingly, Shareholders and investors are advised to exercise caution when dealing in the Company's securities until the results of these negotiations are formally published. [bse.co.bw]

Overreliance on Chatbots is turning brains to mush



DR DIMAKATSO POLOKELE

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) is taking a centre stage in our lives, not just in Botswana but around the world. As it becomes fashionable, the line between convenience and dependency has become blurred. While AI-powered tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, the newest kid on the block Deep Seek and others have revolutionized the way we access information, they have also created a generation of students and professionals who are increasingly reliant on these technologies to complete tasks. This overreliance is not without consequences. When individuals outsource their thinking to AI, they risk losing the ability to think critically, solve problems independently and perform in situations where they must think on their feet. This article explores the implications of this trend, not only for students but for society as a whole and offers actionable solutions to mitigate its effects.

The Copy and Paste Syndrome
One of the most common ways students misuse AI is by relying on chatbots to generate entire essays or assignments. Instead of conducting research, formulating arguments, and crafting their own work, students simply input a prompt into an AI tool and copy the output verbatim. While this may yield a well-structured essay, it robs students of the opportunity to engage deeply with the subject matter, develop their

own ideas, and refine their writing skills. The consequences of this behaviour extend beyond the classroom. Imagine a student who has consistently used AI to write essays. When faced with an in-class essay exam or a job interview where they must articulate their thoughts on the spot, they struggle. They may have memorized facts or phrases, but without the ability to synthesize information and express their own ideas, they falter. This lack of critical thinking becomes glaringly obvious in high-pressure situations where AI is not an option. The same principle applies to professionals who rely on AI to draft reports or presentations. Without the ability to think independently, they may struggle to innovate or adapt in dynamic work environments.

The Shortcut to Problem-Solving
AI tools are increasingly being used to solve complex math and science problems. Students input equations or scientific questions, and the AI provides step-by-step solutions. While this can be a helpful learning aid when used responsibly, many students skip the learning process altogether, relying on AI to do the heavy lifting.

Consider a student who consistently uses AI to solve math problems. When they encounter a similar problem in a timed exam or a real-world scenario, they are unable to recall the steps or logic needed to solve it. Their overreliance on AI has left them ill-prepared to think critically or apply mathematical principles independently. This not only affects their academic performance but also limits their ability to solve practical problems in fields like engineering, finance or medicine. In the workplace, professionals who depend on AI for problem-solving may lack the analytical skills needed to address unforeseen challenges or develop innovative solutions.

The Illusion of Knowledge
AI chatbots can quickly summarize vast amounts of information, making them an attractive tool for research

projects. However, students who rely solely on AI-generated summaries miss out on the process of reading, analysing, and synthesizing information from multiple sources. This creates an illusion of knowledge - students may feel they understand a topic, but their understanding is superficial at best.

Picture a student who has used AI to summarize research for a project. When asked to defend their findings in a classroom debate or a presentation, they struggle to answer follow-up questions or provide deeper insights. Their lack of engagement with the material leaves them unable to think critically or respond to challenges, undermining their credibility and confidence. In professional settings, employees who rely on AI for research may produce work that lacks depth and originality, ultimately hindering their career growth and the success of their organizations.

The Death of Creativity
Even in creative fields, AI is making inroads. Tools like AI art generators and design assistants can produce impressive work with minimal input from the user. While these tools can be inspiring, students who rely on them risk stifling their own creativity and originality.

Imagine an art student who uses AI to generate designs for their portfolio. When tasked with creating an original piece during a live competition or a client meeting, they find themselves at a loss. Their overreliance on AI has dulled their creative instincts and ability to think outside the box, leaving them ill-equipped to produce unique work under pressure. Similarly, professionals in creative industries who depend on AI may struggle to innovate or differentiate their work in a competitive market.

The Language Barrier
AI-powered language tools can translate text, correct grammar and even generate conversational responses. While these tools can aid language learning, students who rely



on them excessively may fail to develop a true understanding of the language.

Consider a student learning a new language who uses AI to translate and generate sentences. When placed in a real-life conversation or a language exam, they struggle to construct sentences or understand nuances. Their overreliance on AI has hindered their ability to think and communicate independently in the new language. In a globalized workforce, professionals who rely on AI for language tasks may face similar challenges, limiting their ability to collaborate effectively across cultures.

A Generation at Risk
The examples above illustrate a troubling trend: individuals who rely too heavily on AI are not only compromising their academic or professional performance but also their ability to think critically and solve problems in real-world situations. This has far-reaching implications for society. A generation that cannot think on its feet is ill-prepared to tackle the complex challenges of the 21st century, from economic development to climate change. The overreliance on AI risks creating a workforce that lacks the creativity, adaptability, and problem-solving skills needed to drive

innovation and progress. Addressing this issue requires a collective effort from educators, parents, policymakers, and employers. Here are a few recommendations:

Promote Responsible AI Use: Teach students and professionals to use AI as a supplementary tool rather than a replacement for critical thinking and creativity. Emphasize the importance of understanding the process behind the results AI provides.

Emphasize Process Over Product: Encourage individuals to focus on the learning process, not just the end result. This includes showing their work, explaining their reasoning and engaging deeply with the material.

Create AI-Free Zones: Designate certain tasks, exams or activities as AI-free to ensure individuals develop essential skills independently. This could apply to classrooms, workplaces, and even personal development.

Encourage a Culture of Curiosity: Encourage individuals to ask questions, explore ideas and think critically about the information they encounter, whether it comes from AI or other sources. Cultivating a mindset of lifelong learning can help mitigate the risks of overreliance on technology. AI is a powerful tool, but it should not be used as a substitute for human intellect. As we embrace these technologies, we must not lose sight of the importance of critical thinking, creativity and independent problem-solving. The future of our society depends on a generation that can think on its feet, adapt to new challenges and contribute meaningfully to the world. By promoting responsible AI use and fostering a culture of curiosity and resilience, we can ensure that individuals are prepared to meet this future with confidence and competence. Let us not allow the convenience of AI to become a crutch that cripples our ability to think, create and innovate.

Did a tax dispute hold up the De Beers-Botswana deal?



DE BEERS AND THE BOTSWANA government have concluded their negotiations over a new sales agreement for rough diamonds after more than five years of discussions. They haven't signed yet: Bogolo Kenewendo, the African country's minister of minerals and energy, said she hoped this would happen later this month — a pronouncement De Beers CEO Ai Cook met with a nod at a press briefing on February 3. All that remains is the "largely formulaic" process of issuing the mining licenses, Cook told the audience.

The new government, under President Duma Boko's Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) coalition, has touted the fact that it managed to seal the deal in 100 days. But why did it take so long under the old government and so little time under the current one?

100-day wonder
The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), which lost the national election in October, released a statement on February 5 that came across as somewhat bitter. It claimed the De Beers deal was a "testament to the strategic vision, commitment, and expertise of the BDP-led government," which had been in power for almost 60 years and negotiated the agreement for all but the previous 100 days.

But nestled in that text were a few important sentences hinting at what might have been preventing a final consensus for so long.

Former President Mokgweetsi Masisi's party asked whether Boko's government had "waived the tax that De Beers has been owing Botswana," on what terms, and whether "it" (presumably the waiver) totaled BWP 4 billion (about \$290 million), BWP 7 billion (\$508 million), BWP 10 billion (\$725 million) or BWP 14 billion (\$1.02 billion).

"Under the BDP-led government, all key commercial terms were agreed upon in principle, and the only outstanding issue was the payment of this significant tax amount," the statement continued. "It is our view that if the UDC administration has indeed waived these taxes, it would have made a reckless decision that deprives Botswana [the people of Botswana] of critical funds that could have been used to improve healthcare, education, and infrastructure as well as create jobs."

Unresolved matter
The tax issue has been going on for years. In 2021, a confidential report by the Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) claimed De Beers owed the state BWP 4 billion after optimizing its structure to lower its tax liability in the African country, according to local media. Botswana's president's office ordered BURS to write off the bill after the miner refused to sign the sales deal, according to another report in January 2023. It's unclear when and whether this happened and why President Masisi and his party changed their stance toward the idea of a waiver, as appears to be the case. BDP's assertions indicate the matter was

still unresolved as of Masisi's departure. The former president had faced criticism for gaining political points from the tough negotiations.

"The tax issue has been hanging for a couple of years and not getting anywhere," a source in Botswana told Rapaport News on condition of anonymity, speculating too that the parties had reached a settlement. "Masisi was using it as a stick to beat De Beers with. It was likely to end up in court, which could have delayed the new agreement for ages."

Reasons and rumors
The new government has not spoken publicly about any settlement and did not respond to a request for comment from Rapaport News.

"In line with the principles outlined in our board-approved tax strategy, we take a responsible approach to the management of taxes, supporting the principles of transparency and active and constructive engagement with our stakeholders," a De Beers spokesperson said.

The previous contract between De Beers and the government was supposed to expire at the end of 2020 but has seen repeated extensions.

A range of official and unofficial reasons have emerged for why the parties had not closed the deal, from Covid-19 to wranglings over how much production state rough trader Okavango Diamond Company (ODC) would receive. The real reason might have been a simple three-letter word. [rapaport.com]

PHUTHEGO J.

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

CASE NO: CVHGB-000201-17

IN THE MATTER BETWEEN

OMOGOLO JULIAN TSHIPANA
AND
EUNAN GALEYO BAKWENA

PLAINTIFF

DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property of the above named Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff of Francistown **Zacharia F. Mashamaite**.

DATE OF SALE: 14TH MARCH 2025
TIME: 1430HRS
VENUE: MOOKANE VILLAGE, AT THE JUNCTION TOWARDS THE MAIN KGOTLA.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Ploughing field/intergrated farm measuring 60hectares with a borehole and electricity, held under notarial deed FT MA 93/2016 issued on the 7th day of April 2016...Tribal land Grant No 176-LP.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Terms and conditions may be viewed at the office of Deputy Sheriff Zacharia F. Mashamaite, **DATED AT MAHALAPYE THIS 6TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025**

DEPUTY SHERIFF ZACHARIA F. MASHAMAITE
NGILICHI HOUSE
FIRST FLOOR UNIT 15
NEXT TO MVA FUND
FRANCISTOWN
74271019/77638433/71526815

(Before BUSANG J)

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

CASE NO. CVHGB-002795-20

BBS LIMITED Plaintiff

and

MESHACK MOTSONANE 1st Defendant
GOTHATA MOTSONANE 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 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: 1030hours
PLACE OF SALE: Lot 8045, Gaborone

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, title and interest in a piece of land being Lot 8045, Gaborone Extension 26 with development thereon being a house comprising of 3 bedrooms all ensuite, fitted kitchen, sitting room, wall wardrobe, combined bath and toilet, 2 rooms separate, 2 rooms combined and screen wall measuring 450m² with developments thereon being 2, held under deed of Transfer No. **1161/2004** dated 24th day of July, 1998 made in favour of **GOTHATA MOTSONANE**.

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.

KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence Avenue, Extension 11, P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/14822) 71694303

RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS



BAKANG PHUTHEGO
BUSINESS WITH BK

“From Diamonds to Disruption: Can Botswana write Its Future Through Innovation?”

IN THE 1960S, SILICON VALLEY WAS A quiet expanse of orchards and farmland. Today, it is the epicenter of global innovation, home to trillion-dollar companies that have reshaped industries and redefined the modern economy. Across Africa, countries like Kenya, Nigeria, and Rwanda are carving out their own versions of this success story, leveraging technology to drive economic transformation. But where does Botswana stand?

For decades, Botswana has been celebrated for its diamond wealth, political stability, and prudent economic management. However, in a world where technology is the new

currency of power, natural resources alone are no longer sufficient to secure long-term prosperity. Botswana's economic future hinges on its ability to pivot boldly towards innovation, entrepreneurship, and a digital-first economy.

The Current Landscape: A Foundation in Need of Reinvention

According to the Statistical Business Register (November 2022), Botswana is home to 23,414 small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs), with nearly half classified as small businesses employing between 5 and 25 people. Yet, despite government interventions, few of these

businesses scale beyond survival mode. The missing ingredients? Patient capital, integrated policy action, a high-risk investment culture, and a startup ecosystem that rewards bold ideas.

Lessons from Silicon Valley: A Blueprint for Botswana—Contrasting Challenges and Opportunities

Silicon Valley's rise to global tech dominance is a story of bold vision, risk-taking, and ecosystem-building. Botswana, with its stable governance and entrepreneurial spirit, has the potential to replicate aspects of this success. However, the challenges it faces are starkly different,

Country	Key Strengths	What Botswana Can Learn
Kenya	"Silicon Savannah" - thriving startup ecosystem, mobile money innovation (M-Pesa), strong investor presence.	Invest in FinTech & AgriTech, simplify regulatory processes for startups, attract global venture capital.
Nigeria	Africa's largest startup ecosystem, strong VC networks, unicorns like Flutterwave & Paystack, government-backed tech funds.	Prioritize government-backed venture funding, create scalable startup support programs, improve ease of doing business.
South Africa	Well-developed infrastructure, top-tier universities, strong enterprise R&D investments.	Strengthen research commercialization, invest in smart infrastructure, and create tech-focused industrial zones.
Rwanda	Government-driven digital economy, paperless governance, strategic foreign investments in AI and blockchain.	Implement digital-first governance, enhance policy agility, and attract tech-focused FDI.



PUBLIC NOTICE

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FUND REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025

All eligible Organizations are informed that the training season for the 2024/2025 financial year will end on the 31st March 2025. The deadline for submission of reimbursement claims for the same will be the 30th June 2025.

Clients are advised to take note of the following;

1. To source training from Education and Training Providers (ETPs) with valid accreditation credentials.
2. The courses on offer should also be either BQA accredited or HRDC recognised.
3. **You have the right to request for valid documents from an ETP before engaging them.**
4. You are reminded to request for Pre-approval from HRDC for product related and externally outsourced training.

Report any suspicious offers to:

Ethics Hotline Landline/mobile: 16136

Email: HRDC@tip-offs.com

Website: www.tip-offs.com

P.O.Box 448, Gaborone

For more information on the claims process and any other matter relating to the HRDF, contact HRDC at: -

Contact Centre Direct line: +267 3162169

Contact Centre extensions: +2673646361/67/73/6293

Email: hrdfclaims@hrdc.org.bw



Physical Address: Plot 60113, Block 7, Sekoma Road, Ext 48, Gaborone, Botswana
 Postal Address: Private Bag BR 108, Gaborone, Botswana
 Email: marketingcomms@hrdc.org.bw
 Tel: +267 3930741
www.hrdc.org.bw



particularly when it comes to rural poverty, limited infrastructure, and a reliance on traditional industries. Here's a thought-provoking contrast between Silicon Valley's blueprint and Botswana's realities, along with actionable solutions tailored to Botswana's unique context.

Supercharging Research & Innovation

Silicon Valley's Model:

Stanford University and other academic institutions acted as innovation pipelines, turning cutting-edge research into world-changing startups. The ecosystem thrived on deep-tech research, AI, and FinTech innovation.

Botswana's Challenge:

While institutions like the University of Botswana (UB), Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), and Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI) exist, they lack the funding, infrastructure, and industry collaboration needed to drive commercialization. Research often remains confined to academic papers rather than being translated into marketable solutions.

Reimagining Government as a Venture Capitalist: Backing Venture Capitalists for a Return

The traditional role of government in supporting startups and innovation has often been limited to grants, loans, and subsidies. While these mechanisms are helpful, they are not sufficient to catalyze high-growth, tech-driven ventures that require patient capital and a high-risk tolerance. To truly unlock Botswana's innovation potential, the government must reimagine its role—not as a direct funder of startups, but as a backer of venture capital (VC) funds that can deliver both financial returns and economic impact.

Silicon Valley's Model: Government as a Catalyst

In Silicon Valley, the U.S. government played a pivotal role in laying the foundation for private-sector growth. Key initiatives included:

Funding Early-Stage Innovations: Programs like ARPANET (the precursor to the internet) and investments in microchip technology were funded by government agencies such as DARPA and NASA.

Creating an Enabling Environment: The government provided tax incentives, R&D grants, and policies that encouraged risk-taking and innovation.

Indirect Support: Rather than directly funding startups, the government invested in research institutions and infrastructure that enabled private-sector innovation to flourish.

This model allowed the private sector to take the lead in scaling innovations while the government acted as a catalyst, de-risking early-stage investments and creating an ecosystem where venture capital could thrive.

Case Study: The Yozma Model (Israel)

Israel's Yozma Program is a prime example of how government can successfully back venture capital funds. In the 1990s, the Israeli government established the Yozma Fund, which invested in private VC funds and provided matching capital for international investors. Key features of the Yozma model included:

Co-Investment: The government co-invested with private investors, sharing both the risks and rewards.

Exit Mechanism: Investors were given the option to buy out the government's stake at a predetermined price, incentivizing private sector participation.

Focus on High-Tech: The program targeted high-tech startups, helping to establish Israel as a global leader in innovation.

The Yozma Program was instrumental in creating Israel's thriving VC ecosystem, which today boasts one of the highest concentrations of startups and venture capital per capita in the world.

Key Features of the Yozma Program:

1. Government as a Catalyst: The government established a \$100 million fund to invest in private VC funds. It co-invested with international investors, sharing both the risks and rewards.

2. Focus on High-Tech Startups:

The program targeted high-growth sectors like software, telecommunications, and biotechnology, aligning with Israel's strengths in technology and innovation.

3. Incentives for Private Investors:

Investors were given the option to buy out the government's stake at a predetermined

price after five years, ensuring that the private sector had skin in the game.

4. Building a VC Ecosystem:

Yozma helped establish 10 private VC funds, attracting international investors and creating a thriving ecosystem of startups, mentors, and accelerators.

Results of the Yozma Program:

Explosion of Startups: Israel became a global leader in innovation, with thousands of startups launching in the years following Yozma's inception.

Venture Capital Growth: The program catalyzed the growth of Israel's VC industry, which today is one of the most active in the world.

Economic Transformation: High-tech exports now account for a significant portion of Israel's GDP, and the country is home to numerous "unicorns" (startups valued at over \$1 billion).

Botswana vs. Africa's Leading Innovation Hubs

While Botswana is starting to make moves, countries like Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Rwanda have already positioned themselves as tech-driven economies. Here's what Botswana can learn from these regional leaders:

Country Key Strengths What Botswana Can Learn

Kenya "Silicon Savannah": - thriving startup ecosystem, mobile money innovation (M-Pesa), strong investor presence.

Invest in FinTech & AgriTech, simplify regulatory processes for startups, attract global venture capital.

Nigeria Africa's largest startup ecosystem, strong VC networks, unicorns like Flutterwave & Paystack, government-backed tech funds.

Prioritize government-backed venture funding, create scalable startup support programs, improve ease of doing business.

A Crossroads of Opportunity—Will Botswana Rise to the Challenge?

The success story of government-backed venture capital is not just a theoretical possibility—it has been proven in countries like Israel, and it can be replicated in Botswana. By reimagining its role as a backer of VC funds, the government can unlock the full potential of its innovation ecosystem, creating a future where Botswana is not just a land of diamonds, but a land of ideas, innovation, and opportunity. This is not merely an economic imperative; it is a moral one. In a world where technology is reshaping economies and societies, Botswana stands at a crossroads. Will it cling to the comfort of its resource-driven past, or will it embrace the uncertainty—and boundless potential—of an innovation-driven future?

The question is not whether Botswana can do this, but whether it will. The tools are there: a stable government, a young and dynamic population, and a growing appetite for entrepreneurship. What's missing is the audacity to take risks, the patience to nurture long-term growth, and the vision to see beyond the horizon of traditional industries. The time for half-measures and incremental change is over. Botswana needs a bold, transformative leap—one that redefines its economy, empowers its people, and secures its place in the global innovation race.

Imagine a Botswana where rural farmers use AgriTech to boost yields and access global markets, where FinTech startups drive financial inclusion for the unbanked, and where HealthTech innovations bring life-saving care to remote communities. Imagine a Botswana that exports not just diamonds, but cutting-edge technologies and world-class talent. This is not a pipe dream—it is a tangible possibility, but only if the government, private sector, and citizens come together to make it happen.

The stakes are high. If Botswana fails to act, it risks being left behind in a world where innovation is the new currency of power. But if it seizes this moment, it can become a beacon of hope and progress, not just for its own people, but for the entire African continent. The choice is clear: stagnation or transformation, complacency or courage, the past or the future.

The question is: Will Botswana rise to the challenge? The time to act is now. The world is watching.

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



The FaR Property Company Limited

("The Company" or "FPC") Company No. BW00000942235

Incorporated in the Republic of Botswana on 29 June 2010 BSE share code: FPC

ABRIDGED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

PROFIT BEFORE TAX
5%

NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS
9%

REVENUE
5%

LOAN TO ASSET VALUE
23%

RENT YIELD
11%

Abridged Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

	(Unaudited) 6 months ended 31 December, 2024 P' 000	(Unaudited) 6 months ended 31 December, 2023 P' 000	Audited 12 months ended 30 June, 2024 P' 000
Revenue	87,565	83,096	168,592
Other income	13,953	9,446	21,459
Operating expenses	(19,277)	(17,664)	(38,668)
Operating profit	82,241	74,878	151,383
Finance income	280	319	1,476
Finance costs	(15,792)	(14,103)	(29,972)
Net income from operations	66,729	61,094	122,887
Foreign Exchange gain/(loss)	(2,079)	338	3,732
Investment property fair value adjustment	-	-	47,001
Profit before income tax	64,650	61,432	173,620
Income tax expense	(5,071)	(4,878)	(14,883)
Profit for the year attributable to linked unitholders	59,579	56,554	159,437
Other Comprehensive income	-	-	-
Items that may be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss	-	-	-
Exchange differences on translating foreign operations	(1,681)	(5,120)	(3,822)
Other Comprehensive income, net of tax items	(1,681)	(5,120)	(3,822)
Total comprehensive income for the year	57,898	51,434	155,615
Weighted average Linked units in issue	476,116,449	474,103,503	474,103,503
Basic earnings per linked unit attributable to linked unitholders (thebe)	25.03	23.86	33.63
Distribution per linked units (thebe)	-	-	11.80
Headline earnings per linked unit attributable to linked unitholders (thebe)	25.19	23.89	33.73

Abridged Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

	Linked Units P' 000	Foreign currency translation reserve P' 000	Retained Income P' 000	Total Equity P' 000
Balance at 1 July 2023	570,146	(29,878)	602,734	1,143,002
Profit for the Six Months	-	-	159,437	159,437
Other comprehensive income	-	(3,822)	-	(3,822)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	(3,822)	159,437	155,615
Issue of linked Units	-	-	-	-
Distribution declared	-	-	(58,789)	(58,789)
Balance at 30 June 2024 (Audited)	570,146	(33,700)	703,382	1,239,828
Balance at 1 July 2024	570,146	(33,700)	703,382	1,239,828
Profit for the Six Months	-	-	59,579	59,579
Other comprehensive income	-	(1,681)	-	(1,681)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	(1,681)	59,579	57,898
Issue of linked Units	26,990	-	-	26,990
Distribution declared	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st December 2024 (Unaudited)	597,136	(35,381)	762,961	1,324,716

Performance Trend and Commentary on Results

- Profit before income tax increased by 5%
- Rent yield remained at a stable level of 11%
- Revenue increased by 5%
- Very healthy loan to asset value of 23%

Highlights for the six months ended 31 December 2024

Net income from operation increased by 9% from P 61,094 (P'000) for the six months to December 2023 to P66,729 (P'000) for six months to December 2024.

Basis of Preparation and Accounting Policies

The abridged financial information is prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") and in the manner required by the Companies Act 2003 (No. 32 of 2004) of Botswana, except the investment property fair value adjustments and deferred tax are only accounted at the year end.

The financial information is presented in Botswana Pula, which is considered the functional currency.

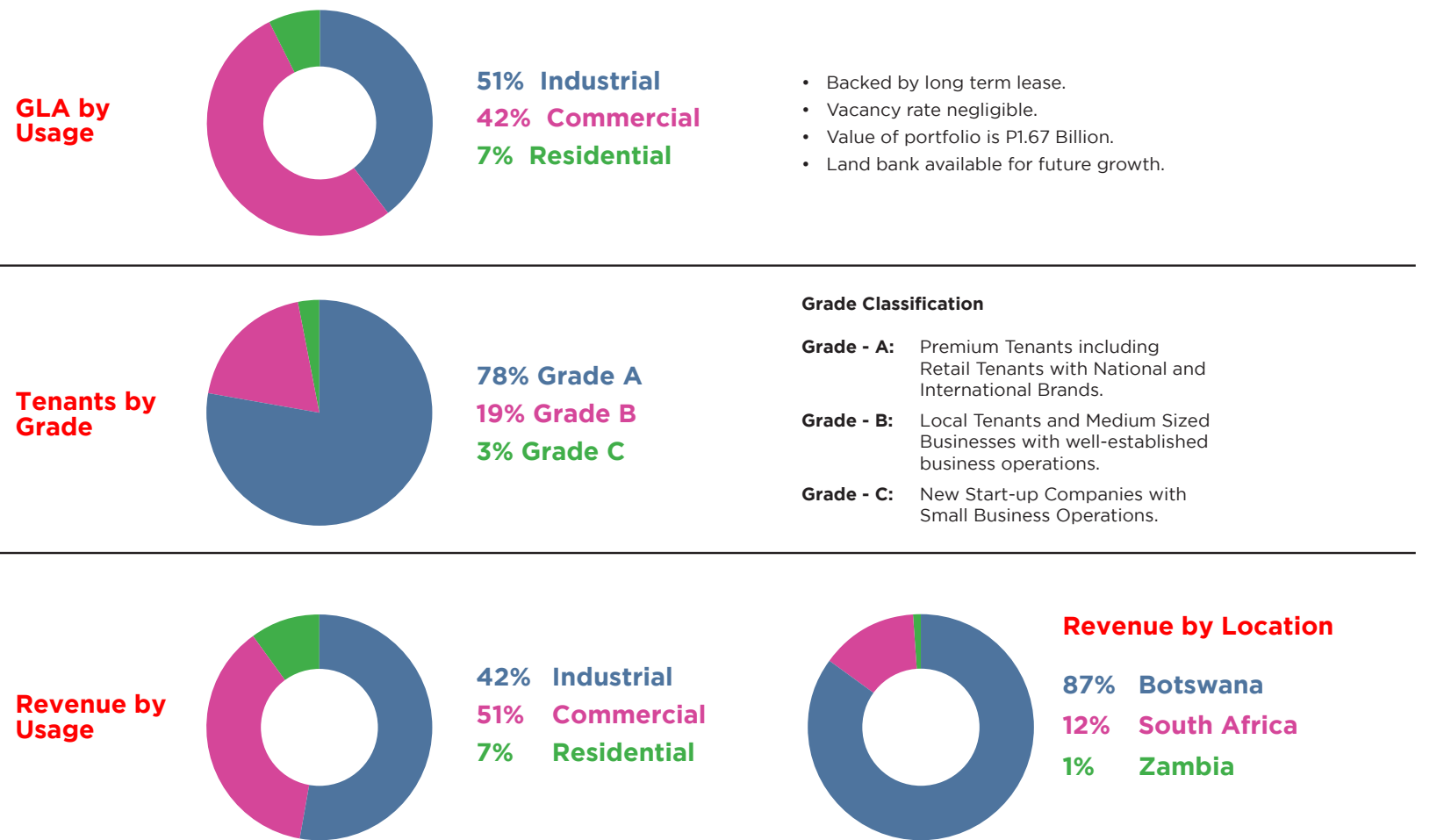
Prospects

- Three new projects with better rent yields are expected to be added to the portfolio before end of the current financial year
- Four additional developments are expected to be completed in the ensuing financial year (2026), which will enhance the prospects for future growth and yields
- Continued focus on better and stable yield through entering into new market and diversification of portfolio
- New strategic properties are still in the pipeline in Zambia
- In Botswana there are better yielding properties that are still in project stage which will improve the yields in the future
- Our Land bank continues to grow to sustain future

Abridged Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	(Unaudited) 6 months ended 31 December, 2024 P' 000	(Unaudited) 6 months ended 31 December, 2023 P' 000	Audited As at 30 June 2024 P' 000
Assets			
Non-current Assets			
Investment property	1,674,974	1,500,065	1,622,581
Property, plant and equipment	5,298	5,254	5,304
Other receivables	3,151	3,257	3,279
Operating lease asset	47,267	41,258	45,121
Deferred income tax assets	11,267	10,389	11,268
	1,741,957	1,560,223	1,687,553
Current Assets			
Related party receivables	4,492	3,758	3,692
Operating lease asset	5,275	4,316	4,509
Trade and other receivables	19,094	16,562	16,965
Advance towards Asset Purchase	28,213	25,241	29,802
Cash and cash equivalents	78,648	4,648	19,825
	135,722	54,525	74,793
Total Assets	1,877,679	1,614,748	1,762,346
Equity and Liabilities			
Equity Attributable to Equity Holders of Parent			
Stated capital	597,136	570,146	570,146
Foreign currency translation reserve	(35,381)	(34,998)	(33,700)
Retained income	762,961	659,288	703,382
	1,324,716	1,194,436	1,239,828
Liabilities			
Non-Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	399,123	283,867	308,022
Deferred income tax liabilities	69,733	60,814	69,733
Lease Liability	5,610	5,547	5,572
	474,466	350,228	383,327
Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	40,633	37,563	44,282
Trade and other payables	32,967	27,628	35,208
Distribution payable	-	-	58,789
Current tax payable	4,787	4,769	792
Lease Liability	110	124	120
	78,497	70,084	139,191
Total Liabilities	552,963	420,312	522,518
Total Equity and Liabilities	1,877,679	1,614,748	1,762,346

Property Portfolio Well balanced portfolio by Gross Lettable Area (GLA)



The segment information provided to the Board for the reportable segments for the six months ended 31 December 2024 is as follows:

Group	Botswana				South Africa				Zambia				Total
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Other	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Other	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Other	
	P' 000	P' 000	P' 000	P' 000	P' 000	P' 000	P' 000	P' 000	P' 000	P' 000	P' 000	P' 000	
Revenue	6,361	35,626	31,379	2,626	58	7,457	2,396	341	-	1,337	-	(16)	87,565
Other income	487	3,724	6,127	497	-	3,222	388	(495)	-	3	-	-	13,953
Operating expenses	(1,020)	(4,300)	(3,257)	(6,287)	(33)	(2,603)	(757)	(885)	-	(135)	-	-	(19,277)
Finance income	-	-	-	7123	-	-	-	(6,096)	-	-	-	(747)	280
Finance costs	-	-	-	(14,075)	-	-	-	(1,684)	-	-	-	(33)	(15,792)
Foreign exchange gain/(loss)	-	-	-	(1,242)	-	-	-	(97)	-	-	-	(740)	(2,079)
Income tax	-	-	-	(4,920)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(151)	(5,071)
	5,828	35,050	34,249	(16,278)	25	8,076	2,027	(8,916)	-	1,205	-	(1,687)	59,579
Segment assets	163,040	720,714	622,106	107,973	1,670	116,672	73,419	20,470	-	51,615	-	-	1,877,679
Reconciliation to total assets as reported in the statement of financial position													
Property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	5,215	-	-	-	83	-	-	-	-	5,298
Investment property	162,612	678,591	596,419	-	1,670	114,795	73,320	-	-	47,567	-	-	1,674,974
Related party receivables	-	-	-	4,492	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,492
Operating lease asset	428	32,478	17,270	-	-	1,877	99	-	-	390	-	-	52,542
Trade and other receivables	-	-	-	13,896	-	-	-	4,993	-	3,356	-	-	22,245
Advance towards asset Purchase	-	9,645	8,417	-	-	-	-	-	-	173	-	-	28,213
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-	-	72,879	-	-	-	5,640	-	129	-	-	78,648
Deferred income tax assets	-	-	-	1,513	-	-	-	9,754	-	-	-	-	11,267
Total assets as reported in the statement of financial position	163,040	720,714	622,106	107,973	1,670	116,672	73,419	20,470	-	51,615	-	-	1,877,679
Total liabilities	-	-	-	468,186	-	-	83,752	-	-	-	-	1,025	552,963

For and on behalf of the board

Vidya Sanooj
 Director

Ranjith Priyalal De Silva
 Director

21 February 2025

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lifestyle

SKY Girls BW @ 10

■ Celebrate years of impact with a smoke free festival

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF existence and impact, SKY Girls BW hosted a vibrant event that brought together over 2,000 teenage girls for a fun filled day without smoking or alcohol. SKY Girls BW is dedicated to reducing smoking uptake among teenage girls through a behavioral change model that includes events, school talks, social media activations, podcasts, and radio shows. The event provided free transportation for 2,000 girls from Railpark Mall to Ba Isago University, where the celebration took place. The lineup featured top artists such as Dato Seiko, Lioness Ratang, and South Africa's DJ Zinhle. Also in attendance was popular youth podcaster from South Africa, Zilewizzy. Rising local artist Raii performed, and a teenage duo, Elisa and Ella, took the stage on the day as well. Attendees enjoyed dancing, making new friends, and engaging in meaningful activities such as a refusal skills booth where they learned how to handle peer pressure, and a pledge booth where they pledged to staying true to



themselves. As part of their corporate social responsibility, Legends Barbershop joined as a sponsor, offering free haircuts to the girls. "Girls and children in general are not always safe, and the need to protect them has created barriers to genuine connection. We wanted to challenge

this by bringing girls from different backgrounds together in a safe and fun space where they could be reminded of the joy of being young and forming meaningful friendships. We also aimed to platform aspirational role models who live smoke free lives while celebrating



SKY Girls BW's ten year journey of fostering smoke free spaces for girls," said Mmapula Sedie, the Programs Manager at The Dialogue Group, who oversees SKY Girls in both Botswana and Zambia. Since its success in Botswana, the SKY Girls program has expanded

to six other countries, namely Zambia, Nigeria, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana, with Senegal having launched in 2025. SKY Girls BW continues to create impactful experiences for teenage girls, reinforcing positive choices and a smoke free lifestyle.

KFC turns up flavour



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.

Paratus Botswana launches Internet Safety Awareness Initiative

PARATUS BOTSWANA HAS launched its online safety initiative for a second consecutive year, following its initial rollout in 2024. The initiative empowers parents, guardians, and children with essential knowledge and practical guidance to navigate the digital world responsibly. By addressing key issues such as online scams, cyberbullying, privacy and digital responsibility, the campaign aims to create a safer online environment for children. While technical measures, such as parental control tools, play a crucial role in protection, educating families and raising awareness are equally important to fostering digital resilience. The initiative equips parents and caregivers with the tools to support their children's internet use while encouraging responsible online behaviour. As part of the campaign, a series of social media tips are shared to guide parents and guardians through the challenges of raising children in today's digital landscape. A key component of the Paratus Botswana Internet Safety campaign is its sponsorship of the



Just Kidding feature on Yarona FM. This interactive radio segment, aimed at children aged 7-12, delivers on-air safety tips through engaging discussions and quizzes, making internet safety concepts accessible and relatable for young audiences.

These efforts will culminate in an in-person presentation on online safety, where Paratus Botswana will

host an industry expert to provide parents and stakeholders with critical insights. The session will cover:

- International legal frameworks for child protection online
- The legal age of criminal and civil responsibility
- Criminal offences related to image-based abuse and cyberbullying

• Privacy rights and the risks of defamation

The initiative also aligns with global Safer Internet Day. This year, Paratus Botswana has pledged BWP 10,000 in support of the Ministry of Communications and Innovation's commemoration event on 11 February 2025 in Tšhebe. Managing Director of Paratus

Botswana, Shawn Bruwer, reaffirmed the company's commitment: "As an internet service provider, we recognise our responsibility in promoting online safety. Children, as some of the most vulnerable internet users, need the right safeguards alongside digital access. That is why we are dedicated to equipping parents and caregivers with the knowledge needed to guide their children responsibly, contributing to a secure digital environment for all."

In line with the ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines, Paratus Botswana has made a corporate commitment to children's rights in the digital world. These guidelines take a comprehensive approach to online child protection, focusing on digital education, safety, and responsible online behaviour. By aligning with these principles, Paratus is helping to shape a more secure digital future for children in Botswana and beyond.

We commend the Ministry and industry stakeholders for their continued dedication to advancing online protection and promoting digital safety."

African Bush Camps' lasting impact

FOUNDED IN 2006 BY LOCAL Zimbabwean guide Beks Ndlovu, African Bush Camps (ABC) is home to the authentic African safari experience. With 18 distinct Experiences across Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, we promote and influence African safari travel on a global scale.

African Bush Camps Foundation (ABCF) is our non-profit organization that has been working alongside us since 2006. ABCF works within the communities and wildlife areas surrounding our Experiences. Through proactively partnering with local communities, ABCF strives to improve quality of life and foster long-term preservation through its programs focused on Community, Conservation, and Sustainability.

In Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, ABCF tackles critical challenges related to unemployment, food scarcity, limited access to education and healthcare, financial empowerment, wildlife poaching, and the preservation of natural resources.

A SPOTLIGHT ON BOTSWANA In Botswana, ABCF's initiatives have made remarkable strides in education and community



development. Its key achievements include: Khwai Pre-School: ABCF has constructed a second classroom, built ablutions, repaired the school fence, upgraded the jungle gym, and

installed a solar system. It continues to support the school by employing a chef and a cleaner, providing nutritional meals twice daily, and supplying additional monthly meals

to Khwai Primary School.

Female Guides Program: In 2021, ABCF helped launch the Female Guides Program, with the aim of spearheading change in the safari

industry by empowering women and championing gender equality. Currently, 15 women in Botswana and Zambia are advancing through the program. This initiative earned the 2023 Regenerative Travel Impact Award in the Education category.

Annual Stationery Donation Event: Since 2022, ABCF has partnered with Mosha Wellness

Spa to donate stationery to Khwai Pre-School and Khwai Primary School. On January 15, 2025, the event grew into a fun-filled day of sports and games for 150 children from both schools. Each child received a school bag with books, pencils, pens, and notebooks. The celebration brought the community together for a memorable day.

Vuche Vuche Basket Weaving Project: ABCF empowers women by supporting this initiative that transforms traditional basket weaving into meaningful employment opportunities. Our guests can purchase these beautiful creations from the women directly, or from our in-camp Trading Posts. They can also participate in basket-weaving workshops that teach them about Botswana's rich cultural heritage.

Ker & Downey open Maxa

THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH the Mmagamka Trust and members of the Bukakwe tribe within the community of Gudigwa Village, Ker & Downey Botswana's new Okavango Delta property will open on the 20th March 2025.

Nestled under a perennial canopy of towering African Ebony trees, Maxa overlooks the permanent Maxa Lagoon, and is located upon the South-Eastern Panhandle within Botswana's Okavango Delta. Ideally situated where the nutrient rich clear headwaters of the Okavango meet the snaking channels of the Selinda Spillway, an expansive network of seldomly explored seasonal floodplains and enchanting waterways await the traveler.

Ker & Downey Botswana wishes to express our excitement with Maxa's build progress and our location within this beautiful corner of the Northeastern Okavango Delta. We are well on schedule for our opening on 20 March 2025.

"We are grateful for all the support from our trade partners entrusting their guests travel to the camp before we are even open. Bookings have been surprisingly positive ahead of our Maxa opening and we eagerly anticipate the dream of hosting guests in this wilderness as it promises to be an exciting year, made more special by the life-giving rains we've enjoyed at Maxa since December," commented Walter Smith, Ker & Downey Botswana Sales Director.

All five rooms (four standard twin/double ensuite rooms and one family room) are complete, and the family room features a charming treehouse deck for family picnics or dining. The main area, our Maxa Piazza, comprises large freestanding structures that seamlessly integrate into the space without diminishing the towering canopy of Jackalberry and marula trees overhead. Maxa's custom hand-made furniture, which are mostly being made in camp, is nearing the end of production and will carefully be placed by the end of February. Of the final touches being made to camp and before the camp's interiors installations, a group of local artisans from Beetsha (a village about 11 km/ 6.8 miles away from camp) will assist in the construction of reed or letaka walls

for the outdoor shower of each room.

Natural pathways which wind through the dappled forest lit floor of Maxa Lagoon's Eastern shore connect each of the guest tents. These also lead into the main guest area, a river sand base set beneath a canopy of Ebony trees.

The lounge, dining and library areas are covered by stretch tent canvas roofs, and a central key feature of a termite mound oven in which the daily breads and roasts will be prepared.

JM Gibson | K Ledimo | L Odumetse Maxa boasts a natural swimming pool, combining the Okavango's natural filtration systems with state-of-the-art environmental water treatment technology. A welcome spot to cool off and relax while taking in the sounds and smells of the bush. The Jackalberry and Sundowner decks offer differing vantage points over the lagoon from within the canopy above. With this combination of private decks, pool, cosy hideaways, and spacious tents, Maxa is a perfect place for curling up with a good book, having a drink and watching the world pass by until the daylight fades away. Truly a camp that you will not want to leave!

Our guiding team is complete with the addition of Jack and KT as our resident guides. These gentlemen have years of lodge and mobile guiding experience, and together with being walking qualified guides, their enthusiasm for the Maxa approach of exploratory based activities made them a perfect fit. KT grew up in the Eastern Panhandle, fishing in the lagoons around Maxa and is excited to share his knowledge of his ancestral lands. Jack has guided throughout Botswana and brings a very broad knowledge which will complement the wildlife and wilderness areas around Maxa perfectly. Beyond the constant Maxa Island chatter from the rich avian diversity, the wildlife has impressed us of late with encounters of our resident coalition of 4 male lions, sable antelope, warthog, roan, zebra, impala, tsessebe and as always, plenty of elephant. Activities for guests include guided game drives (day and night), walking safaris, mokoro excursions and cultural insights, ensuring an exceptional safari expedition exclusive to Maxa.

Access to Maxa will be by helicopter using Shinde Airstrip as a transit point.

Sport



Jwaneng Galaxy players celebrating after winning the Orange FA cup trophy at the Obed Itani Chilume Stadium in Francistown on 15 June 2024. Galaxy beats Orapa United 2-1 in the final

2026 WAFCON

Mares limp to DRC



BOTSWANA SENIOR WOMEN'S national team, the Mares will have a mountain to climb in the second leg of the 2026 WAFCON qualifiers after being beaten 2-0 by Democratic Republic of Congo in the first leg encounter played at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium on Thursday afternoon.

A first minute own goal by Lone Gaofetoge put the Botswana senior women's national team, the Mares 1-0 behind at halftime against the Leopards dames of Democratic Republic of Congo in a 2026 WAFCON qualifiers encounter played at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium in Francistown. The Leopards then sealed victory in the seventh minute of stoppage time through Gloria Mabomba.

Although the Obed Itani Chilume

Stadium general manager, Gopalamang Macheto had assured that the stadium was ready, ahead of the game on Thursday afternoon severe flooding in Francistown cast doubt on spectators attendance at the crucial 2026 WAFCON qualifier between the Mares of Botswana and the Leopards dames of Democratic Republic of Congo at 3pm this afternoon.

Ahead of this week's clash, Mares head coach Alex Maletse said they were prepared to face the Leopards dames of Democratic Republic of Congo in WAFCON 2026 qualifier at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium.

He said they had assembled an experienced squad and expressed confidence in their ability to compete. He emphasised their determination to win tomorrow's match and appealed to supporters to rally behind the team.

FNB Kazungula Marathon returns



THE FOURTH EDITION OF FNB Kazungula Bridge Marathon (KBM) will go ahead as planned on February 22 despite heavy rains in some parts of the country. CEO and founder of the marathon, Obert Morgan told The Daily News that the weather was pleasant in Chobe District with normal rain during the week, adding that clear skies were expected on Saturday. He said the marathon was internationally

accredited and the race director providing technical expertise for the competition, had approved that it should proceed as planned. Morgan stated that they were working closely with all key stakeholders in Chobe District, including local authorities and the Department of Meteorology for weather forecasts and alert in case the situation changed. He said a total of 3 500 runners had registered to compete in the marathon which was a decline from 4 000 participants

last year. He attributed the decline to government departments and council's non participation having cited lack of funds from their respective entities. He said they were expecting participants from SADC countries, including Kenya, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa as well as from USA, Asia and Europe. The CEO said 70 slots were reserved for young and upcoming athletes in Chobe, an initiative that was introduced last year to

unearth and nurture talent in Chobe. Morgan highlighted that they were well prepared to ensure the marathon went smoothly to avoid last year's confusion where the 42.2 km men's race did not produce a winner as runners used two different routes.

He admitted that this was an error on the organisers' part, which they took as a learning curve to tighten up any loose ends this year. He indicated that they had engaged Gaborone Striders Runners Club to offer technical support on Saturday by ensuring routes were marked correctly with hydration stations installed appropriately. Furthermore, he emphasised the importance of proper marshalling so that runners were directed accordingly more especially that Kazungula and Kasane were wildlife habitats.

Morgan said changes had been made to the start-off point of the 42.2 km race with take off being the same spot as the finish point unlike in the past where it commenced at kwa Nokeng Junction or Engen station. He said the 42.2 km champion would pocket P75 000 from both men and women's categories, while 21km champions would receive P25 000 each. The 10km, 5km and disabilities wheelchair winners will pocket P10 000, P5 000, P5 000 respectively.

World Athletics inspect Botswana

BOTSWANA HAS SUBMITTED A BID TO host the 2026 World Athletics Relays. As part of the assessment process a delegation from World Athletics arrived in the country on Friday and stay until Sunday.

Botswana Athletics Association vice president Oabona Theetso says the delegation will inspect facilities around the country, touring the National Stadium, hospitals, ports of entry, hotels and airport to assess the country's readiness to host the world. "We confidently submitted the bid. Remember, it is part of government's desire to diversify the economy and we believe that as sport people, we can do our part with sport tourism," Theetso said in an interview today.

Theetso was happy that the National Stadium is being renovated, saying therefore that it would be ideal if the University of Botswana Stadium could also be attended to so that it could be used as a warmup track. He expressed confidence that the country has what it takes to successfully host the World Athletics Relays.

Furthermore, he said it was cheaper to host the World Athletics Relays compared to competitions such as the World Championships, also pointing that the relays were a two-day event. He therefore was confident that World Athletics would consider giving Botswana the bid, adding that the peace and tranquility in Botswana was an added advantage for the country. "Look at the political stability that we have in our country, everyone would want to come here, and I think everyone wants to appreciate where the 200 metres champion, Letsile Tebogo comes from," he said.

After successfully meeting the May 10, 2024 pre-qualification form submission, Theetso said the association was now left with meeting the bid application form submission deadline of February 21, 2025.

Meanwhile, in the last edition of the World Relays in Bahamas 2024, the Botswana quartet of Collen Kebinatshipi, Letsile Tebogo, Leungo Scotch and Bayapo Ndori were crowned the 4x 400 men's champions with a world leading (WL) time of 2:59.11.



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