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LIFESTYLE

FESTIVAL

Royal Aria, Tlokweng

26th April 2025

1200hrs Till Late

FOOD • ART • FASHION

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'BDP will rise again' - Gare



Gare
KARABO GARE — ONE OF the contestants for the Chairmanship of Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) is optimistic that the party possess immense potential to return to power in 2029 following a humiliating defeat to the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) in 2024, bringing to an end 58 years of state power. The Member of Parliament for Moshupa/Manyana is adamant that the biggest challenge that led to the humiliating loss in 2024 was the chaotic primary elections, which were conducted too late and poorly managed, leaving many democrats frustrated and disillusioned.
 "Moving forward, we need to ensure that primary elections are well-organized, transparent, and held on time to prevent internal divisions and dissatisfaction," he posits.
FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

Boko slams courts

■ Accuse them of abusing Sub-Judice Rule ■ Demand open discussion of court proceedings ■ Says judges cannot and shouldn't be influenced by public opinion

BAKWADI LEKOPANE
 editors@thepatriot.co.bw

PRESIDENT DUMA BOKO HAS publicly criticised the Botswana judiciary's frequent invocation of the sub judice rule, describing it as a misused shield against legitimate scrutiny and public discourse.
 Boko, a seasoned legal mind, said the sub judice principle — which discourages commentary on ongoing legal cases — is increasingly being weaponised to deflect criticism and insulate the courts from necessary public accountability.
 "Every institution should be open to scrutiny — examination, probing, and constant challenge. The judiciary is no exception. When judges are criticized, it's not necessarily an act of disrespect; it is part of a healthy debate," he said while swearing in two newly appointed judicial officers this week.
 Boko continued: "I often hear the refrain that "the matter is sub judice" and therefore cannot be discussed. This is a common misunderstanding. The idea that matters cannot be discussed before they are in court — or even once they are — is not an absolute rule. The restriction applies more strictly in jurisdictions with jury trials, where laypeople on the



President Duma Boko

[PIC: PINO KILANO]

jury might be unduly influenced. But judges are not laypeople."
 According to Boko, "Judges play a composite role as triers of both fact

and law and in that capacity, must summon a depth of interpretation and legal wisdom not readily available to the ordinary lawyer."

"They must be free to exercise their own independent legal judgment, he emphasised.

TO PAGE 5

POWER CRISIS! SA rescues Botswana

■ Kenewendo, Ramakgopa agree long term deal to offset power cuts

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SOUTH AFRICA HAS AGREED IN principle to supply electricity to Botswana under favourable terms to address the ongoing power shortages, that has led to massive load shedding leaving many places in total darkness.
 The deal was struck during high-level talks between Botswana's Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Joy Kenewendo, and South Africa's Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr. Kgosiensho Ramakgopa, held in South Africa on April 3.
 According to the Ministry of Minerals and Energy, the final details of the agreement are expected to be completed within two weeks, ahead of a follow-up meeting between the two ministers. The discussions will focus on long-term energy security, regional infrastructure, and industrialization efforts.
 Botswana has been struggling with intermittent power supply disruptions, leading to increased reliance on imports from neighboring countries. The ministry said the new deal is expected to help stabilize the national grid.
 In addition to the power supply agreement, Botswana's Morupule B Power Station has brought a second unit back into operation, further strengthening the country's electricity generation capacity. The government expects this development to reduce load shedding but has urged the public to use electricity efficiently as efforts to stabilize supply continue.
Load shedding
 Briefing Parliament on Monday regarding power supply challenges and measures to improve security of supply, Kenewendo outlined the situation at Morupule A and Morupule B Power



Kenewendo [PIC: PINO KILANO]

Plants. An excerpt from the presentation is reproduced below.
 Kenewendo said currently Morupule A coal fired Power Station (MAPS) was commissioned in 1986 with an installed capacity of 132MW (4 units X 33MW) and a design life span of 25 - 30 years. In its first years of operation, MAPS contributed around 25% of the country's electricity demand with the balance being imported from South Africa. The contribution of MAPS to local demand gradually decreased with the increase in demand and plant degradation as time progressed resulting in the need for new generation capacity.
Morupule B 600MW
 In 2004, a feasibility study on generation expansion was carried out and updated in 2006 which study recommended the development of new coal fired power plant with an installed capacity of 600MW (4 units X 150MW). Morupule B Project was procured by Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) through a competitive open tender process, compliant with the BPC tender regulations applicable then.
TO PAGE 4

WIN

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World Bank applauds Debswana

DEBSWANA DIAMOND Company's operational prowess and forward-looking initiatives have earned international recognition, as a high-level delegation from the World Bank recently visited the Orapa Mine in Botswana. The visit was hosted by Mr. Mogakolodi Maoketsa, General Manager of the Orapa, Lethakane, and Damtshaa Mines (OLDM), and was aimed at offering the delegation a comprehensive understanding of Botswana's diamond mining industry and its socio-economic impact.

During the tour, Maoketsa presented an overview of Debswana's transformative role in Botswana's national development. He underscored the company's contributions to infrastructure development, community empowerment,

and economic diversification — particularly in the Boteti Region, where the mines serve as critical engines for community development.

A focal point of the discussions was Debswana's flagship initiative, "Orapa Today, Boteti Tomorrow," which aspires to reposition Orapa as a future tourism and heritage destination post mine closure.

The initiative includes the development of a state-of-the-art game park and a mining museum, both designed to celebrate the area's natural and cultural wealth while fostering sustainable economic opportunities beyond mining.

The visiting World Bank delegation, led by Mr. Liang Wang, expressed admiration for the mine's advanced operational



High-level delegation from the World Bank recently visited the Orapa Mine in Botswana. The visit was hosted by Mr. Mogakolodi Maoketsa, General Manager of the Orapa, Lethakane, and Damtshaa Mines (OLDM)

systems, strong safety culture, and responsible mining

practices. Mr. Wang commended Debswana for

its adoption of cutting-edge technology in its mining

operations — a factor he said sets the company apart globally in terms of efficiency and environmental stewardship.

He further reaffirmed the World Bank's ongoing commitment to support Botswana in its journey toward economic diversification, noting that the strategic vision demonstrated by Debswana aligns with global best practices in sustainable resource management.

Debswana, a partnership between the Government of Botswana and De Beers Group, remains central to the country's economic architecture. Its continued investment in both operational excellence and community-centred initiatives exemplifies how natural resources can be harnessed responsibly to drive socio-economic development.

Information session for aspiring Doctors



ST. GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY (SGU) School of Medicine in Grenada, West Indies, recently hosted an information session in Gaborone, Botswana. The event provided prospective students and their parents with insights into SGU's medical program offerings, student support services, and career opportunities.

During the session, Marios Loukas, Dean of the School of Medicine at SGU, delivered a live presentation from Grenada via Zoom. He discussed SGU's medical research and educational approach and shared information about life in Grenada and on campus.

Bradley Wade, Regional Director of Recruitment, Africa at SGU, shared his thoughts on the event: "This session was an opportunity to highlight the benefits of studying medicine at SGU and to provide attendees with detailed information on the four-year MD program and the five- or six-year MD tracks. It was valuable to meet with students and alumni in

Botswana, who offered their experiences and insights. Botswana remains an important part of SGU's international community, given the number of doctors who have completed their training with us."

The session included a panel discussion with current SGU students and alumni, who spoke about academics, clinical training, and their experiences after graduation. SGU alumni also provided guidance on the interview process, including common questions and strategies to prepare for admission.

A question-and-answer segment allowed attendees to engage directly with SGU representatives. Additionally, an interactive session introduced participants to basic suturing techniques under the guidance of an SGU faculty member.

With over 127 SGU graduates from Botswana and 45 current students, SGU continues to support aspiring medical professionals from the region as they pursue careers in healthcare.

Empowering Africa's Green Transition

THE AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank have jointly announced a groundbreaking initiative that promises to reshape Africa's energy landscape and accelerate green industrialisation. With the AfDB committing US\$18.2 billion and the World Bank pledging up to \$40 billion in financing, this ambitious endeavour is poised to unlock new pathways for growth, investment, and green energy innovation.

These substantial commitments are expected to catalyse further investments from private sector stakeholders, including sovereign wealth funds, private equity firms, and venture capitalists. The goal

Financing Bankable Projects to Accelerate Industrialisation and Sustainability

is to establish a solid financial foundation that enables Africa to harness its renewable energy potential while simultaneously fostering economic growth through sustainable industrialisation.

Central to the objectives of the Global African Hydrogen Summit (9 – 11 September 2025, Windhoek, Namibia) is a vision to develop regional synergies among African nations by fostering partnerships and collaboration across borders, to boost economic growth, accelerate infrastructure development, and create robust supply and value chains. This regional integration is essential for overcoming challenges related to energy access,

infrastructure gaps, and market inefficiencies.

The dynamic sequel edition of the Summit will continue to drive partnerships for and critical investments and financing into bankable green energy projects across Africa. At the heart of the Summit, mobilising ambition into action, are the Project Investment Roundtables, which will offer a platform for project developers and global financiers to connect and engage in high-level, deal-making discussions. These Roundtables will address key challenges related to bankability, risk perception, and regulatory compliance, while presenting a curated pipeline of high-potential projects ready for

investment.

As an active participant at the inaugural Project Investment Roundtables in 2024, Benedict Libanda, CEO, Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) commented that "One of the strengths is that the Project Investment Roundtables bring partnerships, and networks, crucial for the development of the Hydrogen sector."

The 2025 Project Investment Roundtables 'Call for Projects' runs until 31 March 2025 and is inviting green energy and industrial project developers from across the continent to submit their projects to assess the feasibility from origination through to bankability to transaction.

Projects can be submitted via the online portal at <https://www.gah2s.com/>.

For project developers, the Roundtables offer access to investors, tailored feedback on business models, and opportunities for collaboration with technical experts, consultancies, and government representatives. For investors, the Roundtables present a unique opportunity to gain access to a diverse array of vetted projects and to engage with African governments and industry leaders shaping the continent's green energy future.

Project profiles span sectors including Hydrogen (inc. Electrolysis, Ammonia, Synth Fuels, Methanol), Renewables

(inc. Wind, Solar, Hydro, Geothermal and Biomass), Power, Infrastructure, Transportation (inc. Road, Rail, Marine, Aviation), Mining, Agriculture, Heavy Industry, Hard To Abate (inc. Oil, Gas, Cement, Steel, Iron, Petrochemical), and Mobility.

Investor profiles span Developments Banks, Hedge Funds, Multilaterals Lenders, Pension Funds, Exim Banks, Corporate Finance and Central Banks. The Global African Hydrogen Summit exemplifies how critical investments in green energy infrastructure can unlock Africa's economic potential, creating a more sustainable, connected, and prosperous future for millions.

TENDER NOTICE

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

Tender Number	Tender Name	Compulsory Site Visit Dates	PPRA Codes	Tender Closing Date
ITT/BDC017-2024/25	Provision of Lease Management Services to Western Industrial Estates and Commercial Holdings on a three-year Contract	Gaborone: 11 th April 2025 @ 10:00hrs Assembly area: The Tower entrance Plot 70667 Gaborone. (BDC Head Office) Lobatse: 14 th April 2025 @ 11:00hrs Assembly area: Delta Automotives entrance Plot 4821 Lobatse. Selibe Phikwe: 16 th April 2025@10:00hrs Assembly area: Spedu offices entrance Plot 11272 Selebi Phikwe. Francistown: 17 th April @11:00hrs Assembly area: Satellite mall entrance Plot 15852/3/4 Francistown.	Code 316-Real Estate Services.	01 st May 2025 1100hrs
ITT/BDC019-2024/25	Provision of Insurance Brokerage Services to Botswana Development Corporation on a Three -Year Contract	No Site Visit	Code 127 Insurance & Pension subcode 06 Brokerage and risk related Services.	25 th April 2025 1100hrs

2. Tender documents will be sent to Bidders after paying a non-refundable fee of **P560.00** from 08:00hrs to 1530hrs on weekdays with effect from **02nd April 2025**. The tenders will be closing for selling on the following dates:
 - ITT/BDC017-2024/25 PPRA CODES-21st April 2025
 - ITT/BDC019-2024/25 PPRA CODES- 16th April 2025
3. Youth registered companies are entitled to pay **50%** of the purchase price subject to the provision of proof of 100% youth ownership. Payments can be deposited on the below account referencing the tender Name.
4. Proof of payment should be emailed to: tenders@bdc.bw.

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

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

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

Botswana Development Corporation
Fairscape Precinct, Plot 70667 | Fairsgrounds Office Park
P/Tag 160, Gaborone
Tel: +267 365 1300 | Fax: +267 390 3114

27 March 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE COMPLIANCE

The Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) reminds all taxpayers of their obligation to remain compliant with their tax affairs even after being issued with a Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC).

Important Information:

1. **Purpose of TCC:** The TCC serves as a compliance requirement for individuals and businesses participating in tenders or other non-tender-related applications.
2. **Eligibility:** A Tax Clearance Certificate is issued only to taxpayers who are fully compliant with their tax obligations (i.e. registration, filing, declaration and payment).
3. **Validity:** The certificate remains valid for 12 months from the date of issuance provided the taxpayer's tax obligations are in order.
4. **Revocation:** BURS reserves the right to revoke a Tax Clearance Certificate at any time if the taxpayer fails to comply with tax obligations.

All taxpayers whose tax obligations are not in order run the risk of their tax clearance certificates revoked by BURS. To rectify your tax obligations visit BURS regional offices or use any of our channels e.g. e-filing, M-Tax App.

For further assistance, please contact our Call Centre at 17649.

Botswana Unified Revenue Service | @theofficialBURS | Botswana Unified Revenue Service
www.burs.org.bw | Private Bag 0013, Gaborone, Botswana

BCP doubts UDC

BAKANG TIRO
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■ Fancy chances of winning 2029 elections

THE MAIN OPPOSITION Botswana Congress Party (BCP) has vowed to keep the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government under immense scrutiny, to deliver only a one term government.

Addressing a press conference in Gaborone on Thursday, the BCP politburo said the UDC must come out of comfort zone and feel the reality of being in government. BCP acting president, Taolo Lucas said they have done fairly well so far in parliament regarding holding the government accountable, adding that they will bring motions or bills that bring change.

Lucas said UDC government promised to be inclusive but that is not the case as BCP was not consulted on many issues including nomination of councilors and lifting ban on importation of vegetables etc. "We expected a lot of changes from the UDC compared to Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). We expected that nomination of Specially Elected Members of Parliament (SEMPs) would be done looking at proportion of



Lucas

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

parties in Parliament. UDC is disappointing and that is very bad," said Lucas.

Lucas noted that BCP will keep the government in check through the Parliamentary Committees, especially those led by their members. He is confident that BCP is doing very well as the main opposition party, adding that it is readying itself to be an alternative government and take over from the UDC during the 2029 general election.

Lucas also said the UDC did not comprehensively account on the achievements

of the 100 days target that was brought forward by president Advocate Duma Boko. He said the 100 days target was broad and difficult to measure but a number of targets were not achieved while some of goals achieved are as a result of pressure put on government by BCP and Botswana at large.

Meanwhile, Opposition Whip in Parliament Caterpillar Hikuama said BCP will ensure that the rule of law and democracy continue to be abided to by new government. He said there is change that must be appreciated under the

UDC government because there is freedom enjoyed by Botswana with regards to petitions or peaceful demonstrations by the citizens. In addition, Hikuama said another appreciation to the government is that the Leader of Opposition (LOO) in Botswana Parliament has been assigned Private Secretary for the first time in the history of Botswana. He said BCP will continue to mount pressure on the government to ensure that there is proper governance across all aspects of government business.

Forensic Audit

For his part, BCP Secretary General (SG) Goretsetse Kekgongile said the forensic audit procurement of government departments is not transparent as it was done on direct appointment with the presidency involved on the process.

He said the tendency of direct appointment was major concern under the past BDP regime but it becoming a norm to the new UDC government. "There is no transparency in this forensic audit. We don't know whether it is a kickback to the company that is engaged. We are having other big projects coming and we are not hearing any transparency in terms of bidding and allocation of projects. We anticipate that there is going to be direct appointments," said Kekgongile.

Kekgongile also said his other major concern is that UDC government doesn't take Parliament more serious as compared to the previous BDP administration. He said this is evidenced by consistent absence of Cabinet Ministers whereby 20 ministers could be missing either engaged on international travel or addressing Kgotla meetings while Parliament is sitting.

Minergy Coal bleeds govt coffers

■ Minergy fails to service govt loans after MDCB, BDC injected millions

BAKANG TIRO
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MINERGY COAL MINE'S operational capacity is near-death despite millions injected into the company by government through Minerals Development Company Botswana (MDCB) and the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC), acting Minister of Minerals & Energy, Wynter Mmolotsi has revealed.

Fielding questions in Parliament on Friday, Mmolotsi said MDCB has loaned a total P636 million to Minergy Coal to date, whilst BDC has given the company a total of P80 million. MP for Mogoditshane East, Lethogonolo Barongwang asked the minister to state if any state-owned entity funded the mine, state the period (s) and amounts and the status of the facility/ loan (if the loan is up to date on repayments etc).

Mmolotsi said these investments are a form of quasi debt instruments and are both convertible to equity at the election of MDCB and BDC. "Due to the fact that Minergy Limited is a company listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) and it is currently in a closed reporting period, kindly note that I am limited on the detail I can provide, outside of what is currently publicly available as per the BSE listing rules," said Mmolotsi.

Mmolotsi said MDCB made its initial investment into Minergy in 2019 following a comprehensive review of the proposed business case from the promoters of the business and approval by MDCB shareholder, the Government of Republic of Botswana (GRB).

He said this funding was undertaken via convertible debenture note of P70 billion known as the Secured Debenture Facility (SDF).

According to Mmolotsi, the facility was amended to include a further P40 million in March 2020 under the Amended and Restated Secured Debenture Facility (ARSDF). He said further in December 2020, an additional facility of P125 million was disbursed into two equal tranches of P62.5 million under the ARSDF, bringing the total facility to P235 million, excluding accrued interest and fees.

In 2023, Mmolotsi said MDCB loaned Minergy a



Mmolotsi

further P90 million to assist Minergy with its working capital challenges which had led to shutdown of mining operations by the mining contractor, Jarcon Opencast Mining (Jarcon).

He said this was funding was provided as a senior secured debenture facility, adding that this investment afforded Minergy Coal the latitude to manage the Mining Contractor exit strategy prudently. "In the same year, there was a subsequent funding of P289 million by MDCB approved by the shareholder, Government of Botswana as part of the wider business stabilization and turnaround plan that saw the exit of the then mining contractor, replacement of the mining contractor with a new citizen owned contractor, resumption of operations and market re-entry," said Mmolotsi.

Meanwhile, Mmolotsi said the company has curtailed production whereby they are feeding the plant from the stockpile. He said there is no active mining of ore at the moment, adding that Minergy Coal has not reached a point of suspending operations as yet.

Mmolotsi said government on the 31st March 2025 put in place a rescue plan for Minergy Coal which aim is to fix its solvency status, by agreeing to a conversion of government debt into equity in order to improve the balance sheet of Minergy Coal.

This, he said, will allow Minergy Coal to raise capital for the medium to the long term

whilst operations continue. Mmolotsi said the company intends to embark on capital raising exercise for the next six months.

Barongwang said it was unsustainable for government to continue funding Minergy Coal whilst there are not tangible returns in terms of coal production as well as repayment of the government loans/ facilities. "Over a billion has been spent on the company by MDCB. There is a lot of operational deficiencies at the mine and even the management of the funds is becoming suspicious. There could be lot of uncovered corruption at the mine. This situation as revealed by Minister is very sad," said Barongwang late Friday.

Loans Status
Mmolotsi said Minergy Coal since commencing operations in 2019, it has made payments of P8.5 million towards the BDC facility over the period whilst no payments have been made on the MDCB facilities.

However, he said interest accrued on the BDC facility. Mmolotsi said since the inception of the mine, Minergy Coal has paid a total of P32 119 782.46 million to the government as royalties. "As noted, government's interest in the business through MDCB and BDC are convertible debt instruments and government does not have any equity interest. Therefore, the government or MDCB and BDC, has not received nor is entitled to any profit sharing or dividends from the business as per the current investment structures," explained Mmolotsi.

'BDP will rise again' - Gare

Karabo Gare –one of the contestants for the Chairmanship of Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)

is optimistic that the former ruling party possess immense potential to return to power in 2029 following a humiliating defeat to the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), bringing to an end 58 years of state power. The Member of Parliament for Moshupa/Manyana speaks to STAFF WRITER BAKANG TIRO about his vision for the BDP, regretting that the chaotic 2024 Bulelwa Ditswe was the main factor that contributed to their loss.

Q: Who is Karabo Gare?

KG: I was born and raised in Moshupa, where I completed my primary, junior secondary, and senior secondary education. I then served Tirelo Sechaba in Mosojane before enrolling at Botswana Accountancy College, where I completed AAT and CIMA qualifications. My professional career included working as an accountant at BNSC and Botswana Railways, followed by a role as a Business Advisor at Local Enterprise Authority (LEA). In 2016, I left formal employment to focus on my business.

Q: Take us through your political journey?

KG: I joined the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) in 2001 but became actively involved in 2016 when I was elected Vice Chairperson of the BDP Southern Region. I held this position until I became a Member of Parliament in June 2018. Over the years, I have served as an Assistant Minister at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Minister of Agriculture, and later as Minister of Entrepreneurship.

Q: What motivated you to contest for BDP Chairman post?

KG: Parliament plays a crucial role in shaping the nation's agenda, and it is



Gare

[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

essential for the opposition to have strong leadership within the party that is also active in Parliament. Additionally, I believe in the need for strategic leadership that can unify and strengthen the party from within.

Q: What key reforms can the BDP expect under your leadership?

KG: My first priority would be to conduct a comprehensive audit of the party's structure—covering management, finances, and communication. Understanding the current state of the party will guide the

necessary reforms to improve its effectiveness and operational efficiency.

Q: What were some of key challenges that affected BDP in the build up to 2024 general election and how could they be avoided in future?

KG: The biggest challenge was the primary elections, which were conducted too late and poorly managed. This left many members frustrated and disillusioned. Moving forward, we need to ensure that primary elections are well-organized, transparent, and held on time to prevent internal divisions and

dissatisfaction

Q: Reflect on the overall performance of BDP in 2024 election? Do you believe BDP can bounce back in 2029?

KG: The BDP performed poorly in 2024, but I strongly believe that we can regain power in 2029.

However, this will require immense effort and strategic decision-making. We must select candidates based on merit and expertise rather than personal connections. Winning back key constituencies, such as Maun, will be crucial to our comeback strategy.

Q: What are key legislative reforms that you believe government should enact to benefit Botswana in general?

KG: That is a matter for Botswana to decide as the new government undertakes a constitutional review process.

Q: What is your view on political party funding?

KG: Political party funding is a positive initiative. It helps level the playing field and reduces the risk of party leadership being unduly influenced by private donors. Proper regulation and transparency in funding will be essential to maintaining the integrity of our democratic system.

Q: What is your plan going forward, do you intend to contest in 2029?

KG: It is too early to make that decision. For now, my focus is on revitalizing the BDP and positioning it as a formidable opposition party capable of reclaiming power.

Q: What more can you tell us.

KG: I urge BDP members to engage in self-reflection. As an opposition party, we must approach this new era with humility, resilience, and a commitment to doing things differently. Our goal should be to build an efficiently run institution that genuinely serves the people of Botswana.

Wildlife dept resolves Khwai-Savuti dispute

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THE DEPARTMENT OF Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) has resolved the longstanding water dispute between the Botswana Guides Association (BOGA) and SKL Group of Camps in the Khwai-Savuti area.

The conflict arose after SKL, which had leased former DWNP campsites including a government-owned borehole began charging tour operators affiliated with BOGA and the Hospitality and Tourism Association of Botswana (HATAB) a monthly fee of P300 to P500 to access water. Previously, tour operators had been allowed to draw water freely from this borehole.

The disagreement escalated after SKL extended its lease with the government under new terms requiring it to manage water infrastructure within the concession. BOGA members opposed the charges, arguing that the borehole was government property and should remain accessible without fees.

At a recent Special General Meeting, BOGA General Manager Lebogang Nxoo confirmed that DWNP had intervened and reached a temporary resolution. He expressed concerns that BOGA members had not been consulted before being asked to pay for water or transport their own, which was costly.

Nxoo welcomed DWNP's decision to allow tour operators to continue accessing water

without charge and announced that SKL had been directed to refund those who had already paid. However, he cautioned that this arrangement was temporary, as a future water management strategy might introduce cost recovery measures.

DWNP Director Moemi Batshabang reaffirmed that mobile tour operators could continue drawing water from the DWNP borehole in Savuti at no cost, as per previous arrangements.

He explained that this decision followed a meeting held on March 6, 2025, and would remain in effect until DWNP develops a water management strategy that may include cost recovery mechanisms. He assured stakeholders that they would be consulted in this process.



Mbulawa

SKL Group of Camps Executive Director Reaboka Mbulawa confirmed that the matter had been fully resolved. He explained that DWNP had decided to set aside Clause 10.8 of SKL's new lease, which had required the company to self-supply water. This decision, he said, prevented

SKL from bearing the financial burden of providing water to all concession users while others accessed it for free.

"Basically, it means SKL Camps, BOGA, and HATAB will get free water for now, but DWNP will eventually introduce a uniform cost-recovery system. The consensus is that water cannot remain a free commodity in the future," Mbulawa stated.

He further announced that SKL had issued a memorandum to both BOGA and HATAB confirming a full refund for all companies that had paid water fees. Refunds are expected to be completed by the end of April 2025. With the matter now settled, all parties have agreed to await DWNP's long-term strategy for managing water access in the region.

Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd.

Applications are invited for the post of:

❖ **CHIEF MANAGER (Credit)**

No of Post 1

The person should be well versed with the comprehensive Credit Management Function of a Bank, the job requires sound and in-depth knowledge of various functions related to Credit Portfolio of Banking/Financial Institutions. The candidate should have the capability of analysing the financial statements and evaluate financial health, processing of loan proposal of retail/SME

ELIGIBILITY:

- **Qualification:** Graduate/Post Graduate Degree from a recognized University.
- **Professional qualification:** Post Graduate Diploma in Banking and Finance (Preferably).
- **Work Experience:** Minimum 10 years' experience of working with reputed Bank with international standard with at least 4 years in credit department.
- **Minimum Age** 35 years and maximum Age 45 years as on 31.12.2024.

Candidates fulfilling the above eligibility criteria may apply with their CV to the following address, within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of the advertisement.

Managing Director
Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd
Po Box No. 216 ADD, Postnet, Kagale View
Gaborone Botswana, Contact- 3992710
Email-hrm.botswana@bankofbaroda.com

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be responded

Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd. is a member of Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

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LAGAGO TAMOCHA*

EDUCATING THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNER



IN RECENT YEARS, BOTSWANA HAS witnessed a concerning escalation in gender-based violence (GBV) and intimate partner violence (IPV). Now is the time that educators and policymakers should be increasingly turning their attention to the classroom as a critical arena for change. The goal: to prepare teenagers for the complexities of modern dating relationships and to equip them with the emotional intelligence and conflict-resolution skills that can steer them away from abusive patterns.

Curriculum Innovation: Educating the Minds and Hearts

At the core of this strategy is the integration of research-backed social and emotional learning (SEL) modules into the school curriculum. Studies from around the globe have proven that early exposure to SEL can lead to improved emotional regulation, empathy, and communication skills. Incorporating topics such as respectful

communication, conflict resolution, and stress management into daily lessons can help students recognize warning signs and triggers of emotional distress. These initiatives not only sharpen cognitive abilities but also fortify the emotional resilience required to navigate complex interpersonal relationships.

Key curricular components might include:

Emotional Intelligence Training: Lessons that teach self-awareness, empathy, and effective emotional management. Such sessions can include role-playing exercises, group discussions, and reflective journaling, allowing students to recognize and manage their own emotions while understanding those of others.

Relationship and Consent Education:

Comprehensive discussions on consent, boundaries, and healthy relationship dynamics, supported by evidence that early education on these topics reduces instances of GBV and IPV later in life.

Mental Health Literacy: Integrating mental health awareness into the curriculum empowers students to seek help when needed. Teaching them to identify stressors and the early signs of emotional imbalance is crucial in preventing the escalation into abusive behaviors.

Extra-Curricular Clubs: Cultivating Model Citizens

Beyond the classroom, mandatory participation in carefully designed extra-curricular clubs can play a pivotal role in molding well-rounded individuals. Proposed clubs include:

Peer Counseling and Support Groups:

These clubs, e.g PACT, can serve as safe havens for students to share their experiences and learn peer-led strategies for coping with emotional stress. Research suggests that peer support systems significantly reduce feelings of isolation and empower young people to seek help.

Debate and Public Speaking Clubs: Such forums encourage critical thinking, self-expression, and the articulation of personal boundaries. They also promote respect for differing opinions, a skill vital in both personal and professional relationships.

Drama and Role-Playing Workshops:

Engaging students in theatrical activities can help them simulate real-life scenarios in a controlled environment, practicing conflict resolution and the recognition of abusive behaviors in a constructive setting.

Sports and Wellness Clubs: Physical activity not only bolsters physical health but also reduces stress and fosters teamwork, contributing to a balanced emotional state.

The Role of Child Welfare in Educational Policy

The recent integration of Child Welfare into the Ministry of Basic Education and Child Welfare presents a timely opportunity to bridge the gap between academic instruction and holistic well-being. With this integration, schools can now access specialized support, resources, and training that emphasize both academic and socio-emotional development. Child welfare professionals can assist in the implementation of tailored programs that address the unique challenges faced by teenagers today, ensuring that interventions are both contextually relevant and culturally

sensitive.

Leveraging the Children's Act for School-Based Interventions

The Children's Act of Botswana provides a robust legal framework that safeguards the rights of young people. By invoking the principles enshrined in the Act, schools can enforce policies that protect students from abuse and ensure access to counseling and support services. This legislation can be instrumental in creating a safe school environment where students feel empowered to report incidents of violence and abuse without fear of stigma or reprisal.

Inter-Ministerial Collaboration: A Holistic National Response

Addressing the multifaceted nature of GBV requires concerted efforts beyond the primary and secondary education sectors. The Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs can collaborate with the Ministry of Higher Education to extend prevention and awareness programs into tertiary institutions. Joint initiatives could include:

Workshops and Seminars: Regular programs that address issues of consent, gender sensitivity, and conflict resolution, aimed at fostering a culture of respect and equality in universities and colleges.

Research and Data Sharing:

Collaborative research projects that track the effectiveness of educational interventions in reducing GBV and IPV, ensuring that policies are continually refined based on evidence and real-world outcomes.

Counseling and Support Services: Establishing accessible, campus-wide counseling centers that provide immediate support to students in distress, reinforcing a proactive approach to mental health and well-being.

A Vision for the Future

By embedding these comprehensive strategies within both the curriculum and extra-curricular activities, Botswana can take a decisive step toward nurturing emotionally intelligent young adults. This proactive approach not only addresses the immediate challenges posed by GBV and IPV but also lays the foundation for a society that values respect, empathy, and mutual support.

As classrooms evolve into spaces that educate both the mind and the heart, the nation can look forward to a future marked by safer, healthier relationships and a more resilient citizenry.

SA rescues Botswana

FROM PAGE 1

In 2008, BPC and China National Electric Engineering Co. Limited and Shenyang Blower Works Electro-Mechanics Import and Export Co. Limited (CNEEC - SBW) here after referred to as CNEEC concluded an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract to design, develop, construct, supply, install, and commission the Morupule B Power Station (MBPS). The project was funded through Government equity and a loan facility amounting to USD 825 million (equivalent to BWP 10.5 billion) provided to BPC by Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) which was disbursed in the year 2010.

The ICBC loan has an outstanding balance of BWP3 billion, as at March 2025. The loan will be fully amortised in March 2030.

MBPS consists 4 X 150MW units based on the circulating fluidized bed (CFB) boiler technology. The boiler basic design is by DOOSAN and Mitsubishi Hitachi, renowned boiler companies, and is in accordance with the American Society for Mechanical Engineers (ASME) standards. The boiler conceptual design is adequate for a baseload coal fired power station. However, the detailed design as well as the construction of the power plant by CNEEC have significant deviations from the basic design which was not complied with hence the challenges being experienced with MBPS performance. The performance of Morupule B 600MW coal fired power station (MBPS) has been erratic since commissioning in 2012/13 due to substandard construction, with significant noncompliance to specifications, poor workmanship, and equipment / material defects.

Given the construction and equipment defects, the plant experiences frequent failures notably on boiler pressure parts thus affecting power generation from time to time. Direct costs (in addition to construction costs) for MBPS (since its inception) amount to BWP5.4 billion, inclusive of operations and maintenance costs.

As the plant experienced reliability and availability challenges from the on-set, the project has incurred indirect costs of BWP18.9 billion in power imports and owner's engineer services. Of the BWP18.9 billion, power imports account for BWP18.1 billion in the 13 years of the plant's existence.

The performance of a coal fired power station is centered on two factors, being: The quality of the plant in terms of technical specifications, equipment, material, and construction.

Standard of operations and maintenance (O&M) of the plant over its operational phase. In the case of MBPS, both factors (quality of the plant and the standard of O&M) needed to be addressed to turnaround performance of the plant. In this regard Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) carried out two interventions to improve and sustain operation of the plant as outlined below.

Intervention 1: MBPS Remedial Works

Project: A plant technical audit (Gap Analysis) was carried out in 2014 with the assistance of the boiler designers (DOOSAN and Mitsubishi Hitachi) to identify plant construction and equipment defects and measures to address the gaps. This intervention culminated in the ongoing defects remedial works project which is being done at CNEEC's cost, the contractor who constructed the plant. The status of the project is discussed in Section 4 of the Statement.

Intervention 2: O&M Performance

Improvement Strategy: At takeover of the plant from CNEEC in 2014, BPC engaged Steag Energy Services (a coal fired plant O&M company) to support BPC staff to operate the plant and to undertake skills transfer to enable BPC to operate the plant after the term of the contract.

In 2019 BPC took over operations of the plant from Steag. Due to challenges experienced by BPC in plant O&M, in 2021 BPC implemented an O&M Performance Improvement Strategy which entailed engagement of external resources which include outsourcing plant management, engaging limited resource persons from Steag and CNEEC to support BPC in operation and maintenance of the plant.

This intervention has assisted in improving the performance of the plant. The performance trend of the plant is elaborated in Section 5 of the Statement.

Due to construction and equipment defects from implementation of the Morupule B project, the operations and maintenance of the plant is problematic hence the need for support to

BPC staff till the remedial works have been completed. If this support is not provided, the plant production would be adversely affected resulting in compromised security of supply and increased expenditure on imports to meet demand.

Status of Remedial works

The Morupule B Remedial Works project which is aimed at improving plant Reliability, Availability, and Maintainability (RAM) was commenced in 2019. The project, which should have been completed in 2022, is in significant delay due to challenges encountered which include technical challenges experienced with a replacement design of one of the boiler components (the fluidized bed heat exchanger (FBHE)) and the Covid 19 global pandemic.

Remedial works on the first unit (Unit 4) to be remedied have since been completed. However, the unit still experiences failures on the replaced FBHE. A root cause analysis is being undertaken to determine the cause of failure. Given the fact that the replacement design which was expected to address failures on the original FBHE design has not addressed the defect, this design will not be replicated on the other units (Units 1, 2 and 3) which are still to be remedied. Instead, the original FBHE design will be maintained with some enhancements as opposed to a total replacement with a new design.

It should be noted that save for the highlighted FBHE challenge, all other remedial works on the unit which include, refractory failure, airduct failure, boiler fans / blowers, boiler thermal expansion and high noise levels have been adequately remedied and are performing up to standard. This means, should the FBHE issue be successfully addressed, the unit will operate reliably.

The second unit (Unit 3) to undergo remedial works was shut down in November 2024. Currently remedial works on this unit are in progress and are 60% complete. The unit is expected to be back in service in November 2025. The remaining units, Unit 1 and Unit 2, are scheduled to be remedied in 2026 and 2027. It is hoped that at the end of the remedial works project by end of 2027, MBPS will be operating reliably with a plant availability factor of around 80%, which is close to industry standard.

Morupule B performance

The EAF of a coal fired power plant is an industry measure of plant performance in terms of availability and reliability based on plant production. The industry standard for a properly built and well maintained and operated plant is circa 85%.

During the period 2014-2019, the plant EAF averaged 57%. The below industry standard performance (57% versus 85%) is largely attributed to construction and equipment defects which are being addressed through the ongoing remedial works project. During the 3-year period, 2020-2022, the average EAF was 33%. The plant performance was low due to two factors, namely (i) construction and equipment defects and (ii) O&M challenges experienced by BPC hence the O&M intervention which increased the EAF to an average of 57% for the period 2023 - 2025.

Notwithstanding the challenges being experienced with achieving reliable operation of MBPS, the plant is significantly contributing to the electricity demand of the country at a unit average cost of around 60 - 70 thebe per kilowatt hour compared to the cost of power imports which are at 226 thebe per kilowatt hour.

Power supply situation

The power supply situation has become precarious on account of two factors:

Factor No 1: Low internal generation precipitated by the cascaded failure of Morupule B Unit 2 (on 14 February 2025) and Unit 4 (on 22nd March 2025) while Unit 3 is on long term planned outage for defects remediation. This leaves only one unit in service (Unit 1) which is operating at a reduced load of 105MW instead of 150MW due to defects which require an outage to remedy.

Factor No 2: There is a shortage of power in the region, and the available electricity in the market, especially during peak periods, is predominantly supplied from emergency/diesel plants, which comes at prohibitive rates.

The supply shortfall has forced BPC to institute rotational cyclic load shedding since Saturday 22nd March 2025 to match supply and demand to avert total system collapse.

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Gaolathe engages Gantsi residents

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BOTSWANA'S VICE PRESIDENT, Ndaba Gaolathe, visited the Gantsi township on Friday (April 4th, 2025), as part of a nationwide tour aimed at engaging citizens on government's development agenda.

The meeting focused on youth empowerment, economic diversification, educational reform, and civil service welfare. Addressing the gathering, Gaolathe stressed the importance of investing in practical skills, fostering a shift in mindset, and leveraging international partnerships to drive sustainable growth. He emphasized that the goal of his visit was to engage residents on how Botswana can best utilize its own resources to fuel development.

Sharing insights from recent international engagements, the Vice President revealed that he had met with mineral beneficiation experts in the UAE, particularly from a region called Bern, who have shown interest in visiting Botswana for potential collaboration. He said the initiative aims to boost local beneficiation and create job opportunities, especially in the Gantsi and Ngamiland districts.

He encouraged Botswana to replicate global practices of refining raw minerals locally to export



Gaolathe

high-value products not only in the mining sector but also in agriculture. He pointed to a local maize miller in Gantsi as a positive example of homegrown value addition.

Gaolathe also spoke of his recent visit to Luxembourg, noting the country's success despite its small

size. He highlighted a new agreement between Botswana and Luxembourg to explore access to international financial markets, including bond markets valued at over €7 billion.

On youth development, he stressed the need to empower young people in technology and innovation,

acknowledging that the older generation may struggle to adapt to digital transformation.

The Vice President also addressed challenges within the education system, advocating for a shift from theory-based learning to practical, hands-on training. He noted that many vocational institutions lack the necessary tools, and the government is working to revamp these facilities.

Turning to civil service issues, Gaolathe acknowledged poor housing and working conditions, especially for teachers, police officers, and soldiers. He assured the community that the government is working with unions to implement meaningful reforms.

On the national budget, Gaolathe explained that despite economic limitations, the government had to make tough decisions, opting for a P1400 allocation instead of the proposed P1800. He said such decisions reflect a commitment to balancing immediate needs with long-term development goals.

He concluded with a call for unity, patience, and dedication, reminding the audience that economic transformation is a process that requires collective effort. Top of Form Bottom of Form

The Vice President also engaged directly with community members

who raised critical concerns. Speaking on behalf of his delegation, Matheatau Salakae from Tshootsha called for Ghanzi to be elevated administratively, citing its growing population and the need for a divisional police headquarters. He also praised the work of Kgari Senwelo and recommended his promotion to oversee both Charles Hill and Gantsi effectively.

In response, the Vice President agreed that Gantsi's rapid development warranted enhanced administrative structures. He acknowledged the district's lack of key infrastructure, including a functional stadium and airport, and assured residents that government would begin addressing these gaps. He also recognized challenges related to law enforcement, border security, and tribal leadership representation, noting that these issues were being addressed through the appropriate government channels.

Another resident, Juliet Setshwantshe, raised concerns over delayed electrification projects, specifically referencing a P450,000 initiative that remains incomplete. Gaolathe confirmed awareness of the issue and explained that the Ministry of Minerals and Energy is exploring alternative off-grid electricity solutions such as localized micro-grids for rural areas, as a way

to reduce reliance on traditional grid connections. He assured that her village and surrounding communities would be considered.

Sock Keadile queried the rumoured salary increases for political leaders. The Vice President dismissed the claims, stating that no such motion had been passed. He emphasized that the government is currently conducting an "Expenditure Analysis" to identify and eliminate non-essential spending, rather than increase public official salaries.

In another concern, Billy Gaorapele raised the issue of a village borehole that had remained non-functional for over five years. Gaolathe promised that technical experts would be deployed to assess and resolve the problem without further delay.

Addressing permit-related grievances, the Vice President assured the public that the responsible Minister was present at the meeting and would follow up on the matter directly. Gaolathe closed the session by thanking the Gantsi community for their candid contributions and active participation in shaping national development. He urged continued engagement with government efforts and proceeded to the next stop of his national tour Gumare.

Boko slams courts

FROM PAGE 1

The Contempt of Courts Act, which serves as the backbone of sub-judice enforcement prohibits publications that prejudice or interfere with court proceedings. But critics argue that judicial overreach under the guise of 'contempt' or 'sub-judice' can erode free speech and suppress dissent. Traditionally, the sub-judice principle is upheld to protect the integrity of legal proceedings, ensuring that external influence — especially media pressure — does not sway the courts.

But Boko argues that the real threat to justice is not public discourse, but judicial fragility.

"Judges should never be swayed by public opinion. Their allegiance must be to the black letter of the law, not to the court of popular sentiment," he said. Boko has been previously warned by legal experts about his tendency to overstep when it comes to the judiciary. The most recent example came during the controversy over the CKGR burial, where he openly criticized the judges for a decision that went against his wishes — refusing to allow the deceased to be buried in his ancestral land. But Boko this week said "judges cannot and shouldn't be influenced, even by the executive."

His remarks reflect wider global discussions where courts in open societies have begun to differentiate between prejudicial interference and constructive civic engagement. In mature democracies, court proceedings — especially in high-profile or politically sensitive cases — are often subject to robust public analysis without necessarily compromising judicial independence.

The two newly appointed judges are expected to play a pivotal role in enhancing service delivery within the judiciary. Given the ongoing concerns regarding heavy workloads and delayed judgments, they are anticipated to prioritize the swift processing of cases. Their appointments come at a crucial time, as there have been increasing complaints about slow case resolutions.

PwC loses to Choppies directors, again

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AN ATTEMPT BY THE professional auditing firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to scuttle a P450 million litigation from the two leading directors of retail giant Choppies suffered a huge blow when Justice Mokwadi Chris Gabanagae ruled against them.

PwC had asked court to quash two previous interlocutory orders against them, by raising complaints against two high court judges – presiding judge Boipuso Makhwe and Justice Dr Zein Kebonang.

Choppies directors – CEO Ramachandran Ottapathu and Farouk Ismail – are suing the audit firm for having delayed the release

of the company's 2018 results which led to its suspension from the Botswana Stock exchange and the Johannesburg Stock Exchange – a development that saw the company's value washed away as the share price tanked.

Justice Gabanagae in his ruling dismissed PwC's application, citing procedural flaws, a failure to prove damages, and insufficient evidence to support the claims. The judge pointed out that judicial officers are immune from any legal proceedings arising from their work.

The applicant did not cite Justice Kebonang and Justice Makhwe but made serious allegations against them and intended to claim costs were the judges to oppose the application.

The two judges joined the

Choppies directors in defending the application. The defendants raised 10 points in their defence, among others declaring that judges enjoy absolute immunity in terms of section 25 of the High Court and the common law; Another High Court judge cannot review and set aside judge Makhwe's decisions as they can only be set aside on appeal.

"The application lacks merit because it is based on inadmissible hearsay evidence. The application is 'scandalous, vexatious and frivolous' and 'intended to disrespect, harass and defame' Judge Makhwe," Judge Gabanagae quoted the defence's stand.

Justice Gabanagae leaned to legal precedents in his ruling, citing among others Sirros v Moore (1975); Stump v Sparkman 435 US

349, 355 (1978) and the Pretoria Portland Cement Co. Ltd and Others v Competition Commission and Others (2003). "I find that the reasoning in Portland Cement finds application in this case. The two judges have been forced to defend themselves against serious allegations leveled against them," said Justice Gabanagae; dismissing the case with costs.

Choppies directors are pursuing litigation against PwC and auditing partner Rudi Binedell to recover some of the losses they incurred when the company was suspended by the BSE and JSE. PwC had refused to sign the company's 2018 financials to allow them to be filed with the BSE.

Ottapathu and Ismail are the company's largest shareholders. It is



Choppies directors – CEO Ramachandran Ottapathu

not clear whether the main trial will finally get underway or PwC will

appeal or file another interlocutory case.

Controversial judge re-appointed

■ Tshosa resigned from bench in 2012 facing traffic offence, assault charges

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PRESIDENT DUMA BOKO HAS made waves with the appointment of Dr Onkemetshe Tshosa to the judiciary, despite his resignation from the bench in 2012 following a road traffic incident and charges of assaulting a police officer, which resulted in his conviction for the offense.

In 2012, then-President Ian Khama set up a tribunal to investigate Tshosa's conduct, but before the tribunal could reconvene to begin its work, Tshosa stepped down, effectively dissolving the investigation. This resignation followed his conviction and a sentence for assault following a widely publicized altercation with a police officer during an interrogation at Molepolole Police Station.

Before his return to the bench under President Boko's appointment, Dr. Tshosa had pursued an academic career. He holds a Bachelor of Laws degree, a Master of Laws from the University of Lund in Sweden, and a



Dr Onkemetshe Tshosa

Doctor of Laws from the University of Edinburgh. Prior to his judicial career, Tshosa was a Law Lecturer at the University of Botswana.

Tshosa is no stranger to the judiciary. He served as a Judge of the High Court from 2010 to 2012 before stepping down following the assault charges. His sentencing in 2012 by Broadhurst Regional Magistrate Barnabas Nyamadzabo saw Tshosa receive an 18-month sentence, wholly suspended. This came after he

was convicted on two charges: failure to provide a breath specimen and assaulting a police officer. A third charge, driving under the influence of alcohol, was dismissed due to insufficient evidence presented by the state.

The charges stemmed from a May 2009 incident in which Tshosa's vehicle collided with another along the Gaborone-Molepolole road. Magistrate Nyamadzabo ruled that the state had proven its case

beyond a reasonable doubt. He cited evidence from police officers, which indicated that Tshosa had delayed providing a breath specimen and was uncooperative during his arrest. The magistrate also criticized Tshosa for fabricating charges against the police, pointing to witness testimony that described Tshosa as violent, vulgar, and evasive during the incident.

Despite the conviction, Magistrate Nyamadzabo opted for a suspended sentence, taking into account Tshosa's status as a first-time offender and his professional standing as a judge. He argued that sending Tshosa to jail would not serve the best interests of society, considering his cooperation throughout the trial.

Tshosa's defense team, led by Batlhalefi Moeletsi and Omphemetse Motumisi, had vowed to appeal the conviction and sentence, citing alleged misdirection by the magistrate and issues with missing evidence from the Molepolole Police Records. Dr. Tshosa's return to the bench has sparked public debate, with some questioning his integrity as a judicial officer. However, others view his appointment positively, praising his experience as a judge and believing that he will play a key role in alleviating the judicial system's workload and speeding up case resolutions.

Botswana To Host African Astronomical Society (AfAS) Conference 2026

BOTSWANA INTERNATIONAL University of Science and Technology (BIUST) and its AVN/SKA Botswana department are proud to announce that it has been selected to host the African Astronomical Society (AfAS) Conference 2026. This prestigious event will take place in the scenic town of Kasane and will bring together leading astronomers, researchers, industry experts, and policymakers from across Africa and beyond.

The successful bid is a significant achievement for Botswana and underscores BIUST's commitment to establishing the country as a hub for cutting-edge research and collaboration in astronomy and space science. This milestone strengthens Botswana's role in international partnerships such as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project and the African Very Long Baseline Interferometry Network (AVN), both of which contribute to the advancement of space science on the continent.

The AfAS Conference serves as a vital platform for discussing Africa's contributions to global astronomy, technological advancements, and



future collaborations. Hosting this conference aligns with Botswana's vision to leverage astronomy for national development, scientific research, and educational growth. The event will also provide opportunities for knowledge exchange, networking, and capacity-building for emerging African astronomers.

The African Astronomical Society (AfAS) is the leading professional organization dedicated to the advancement of astronomy on the African continent. AfAS provides a unifying platform for astronomers,

students, and researchers, promoting collaboration in scientific research, education, and outreach. The society supports initiatives such as the SKA, AVN, and national astronomy programs aimed at expanding Africa's participation in space science.

As preparations for the conference begin, BIUST and its partners will share further details regarding dates, speakers, and agenda highlights. Stay tuned for more updates as Botswana gears up to host this landmark event.

Mr Kgomo Tsho
AVN/SKA Botswana, Director

Policy on cannabis, industrial hemp developed

PRESIDENT ADVOCATE DUMA Boko has underscored the importance of ongoing discussions on cannabis and industrial hemp regulation. He emphasized that the meeting was particularly timely, as Botswana is currently developing a comprehensive framework for the cultivation, production, and distribution of these industries.

President Boko was giving a keynote address at the Eastern & Southern Africa Commission on Drugs where Expert gathered for the Cannabis Policy Draft Agenda under the theme "Supporting the

development of policy and regulatory framework for the implementation of cannabis for medical and scientific purposes in Eastern and Southern Africa", in Gaborone this morning.

Acknowledging the complexity of the issue, President Boko noted that while cannabis regulation has been a topic of extensive debate, his government remains committed to making informed and strategic policy decisions.

"This meeting comes at a critical juncture for Botswana. We are in the process of designing a structured regulatory framework to govern the cannabis and hemp industry. Through rigorous



Boko

debate, deliberation, and expert consultations, we are ensuring that our approach is both well-informed and strategic," he stated.

The Eastern and Southern Africa Commission, which supports the development of policy and regulatory frameworks for the legalization of cannabis for medical and scientific purposes, is expected to provide valuable insights that will help shape the region's future policies. President Boko reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to engaging with experts and crafting regulations that balance economic opportunities with public health and safety considerations.

International Forum of Journalists

THE ALPHA-DIALOGUE Centre for Additional Professional Education (Saint Petersburg, Russia), with support of the Alexander Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund will host the upcoming International Forum of Journalists "Russia-Africa. The Way of Friendship and Cooperation".

The Forum will take place in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, from April 22 to 23, 2025. The International Forum aims to create a broad platform for facilitating interaction between Russian and African media outlets and, most importantly, for fostering new connections.

The event will bring together leading journalists from Russia and African countries.

The Forum will feature representatives from prominent Russian media outlets and news agencies, as well as the Russian Embassy in Ethiopia.

Participating African media will include representatives from Botswana, Ghana, Guinea, Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, and Ethiopia.

The Forum program includes analytical reports, a round table for exchanging experiences, and a discussion platform.

In addition to the in-person events, the Forum will also feature online sessions, including the opening project – a teleconference "The Way of Friendship and Cooperation," as well as four lectures focusing on Russian Africa interactions.

To submit applications, please email: center@alfa-dialog.ru

To participate in the online sessions (free of charge), please register at: https://alfa-dialog.ru/forum/en

About The Alpha-Dialogue Centre:

The Alpha-Dialogue Centre is a socially-oriented non-profit organization that implements educational, cultural, and cognitive projects, additional professional development programs, as well as general development programs for children and adults.

The Center is based in Saint Petersburg, Russia, and since 2021 has been actively fostering stronger Russia-Africa relations through various initiatives related to media, education, and diplomacy.

PART 1

*Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's interview with Channel One, Moscow, March 25, 2025

CHANNEL ONE: CAN THE United States and the Trump administration influence Europe today? Why is nothing happening?

Sergey Lavrov: Both President Trump and his team made it clear that certain issues were off-limits. Territorial matters must be discussed – not just as a question of land, but because they involve the people who live there and who have chosen to link their future with Russia. It was also stated that no weapons should be supplied there.

On all three points, President Zelensky himself acted defiantly. After insulting Donald Trump at the White House, he went to London, where he was warmly received. Upon returning to Kiev, he made a series of bold statements, rejecting both neutral status and any discussion of territorial issues. His stance was essentially: "Give us everything."

And what does that mean? It means banning everything Russian – outlawing the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which is a sister church of the Russian Orthodox Church, suppressing Russian media and education. Now, the Rada is even considering a bill to forbid speaking Russian during school breaks – it was already banned in lessons. And yet, they expect to reintegrate people who, in a referendum, declared that they are Russian.

These people say: If we had been granted our rights, we would have remained Russian citizens of Ukraine. But instead, you are trying to eradicate us – both physically and legally.

In this situation, Europe is not only disregarding Donald Trump and his team's assessment that territorial issues must be resolved outside NATO's influence – it is actively encouraging Zelensky's stance.

When European leaders speak of "peacekeeping forces" or "security forces," they are essentially seeking to secure control over the territories Kiev currently holds, or will hold by the time any agreement is reached, placing them under British or French oversight.

No one acknowledges that in the regions that have returned or are in the process of returning to Russia, linguistic, educational and cultural rights are fully protected for Russians as well as for national minorities. Meanwhile, if what remains of Ukraine falls under the control of NATO-backed security forces, regardless of the flag they operate under, no one is talking about strengthening democracy there. No one is calling for the repeal of racist, Russophobic laws that seek to erase Russian identity.

If that's the case, then these so-called security forces will only serve to perpetuate a Nazi regime, one that bans anything reminiscent of Ukraine's Russian heritage, despite the fact that the country itself was created by Russians.

Channel One: What is the worth of such agreements, if an oil depot in Kuban was attacked immediately after President Putin accepted President Trump's proposal to halt attacks on energy infrastructure for 30 days, which we were not doing anyway? It looks like a vicious circle. How much can we take? The attack took place a day after the presidents' conversation.

Sergey Lavrov: There are many more examples of this kind. I used to say that the Kiev regime does not honour agreements. More than that, these "characters" do not just disregard agreements but have demonstrated a new quality, complementing a desire to cheat with the intention to openly, publicly and



Lavrov

spitefully play nasty tricks in direct contravention to what they have been asked and seemingly agreed to do.

On March 11, 2025, the Kiev regime stated in Jeddah for the first time that it accepted a 30-day ceasefire. It immediately shifted responsibility to Russia, saying that we must accept the initiative immediately and implicitly. People like Macron, Starmer and von der Leyen shouted that the ball was in President Putin's court, although three days before that they had rejected a ceasefire deal, saying that weapons should be pumped into Ukraine before any negotiations

so that it can act from positions of strength. But they have changed their stance as soon as the wind shifted.

On March 11, when the Ukrainians and Zelensky said they were ready for a ceasefire and the task was to force President Putin to do the same, they sent a record large number of drones (about 340) into central Russia, including Moscow and the Moscow Region. It was the largest drone attack ever, but the West has swallowed the insult. Nobody expressed shock at the Ukrainians doing that after publicly expressing readiness for a ceasefire. Did they wait for Russia to respond in kind? All the 340 drones were

launched at civilian facilities, but our air defence system neutralised them.

The same is happening now. When the meeting in Riyadh was prepared, we agreed with the Americans, based on the arrangements made by Putin and Trump, that it would be attended by Russian and US experts. But it looks like some "active guys" in Washington are eager to put something on paper as soon as possible, and so they have invited the Ukrainians to Riyadh as well. The Ukrainians arrived a day before the meeting and stayed after our experts have left. Just between ourselves, even

though I don't think it's a big secret, we sensed before the Riyadh meeting that the Americans wanted to place Russians and Ukrainians in adjacent rooms, engaging in shuttle diplomacy to ultimately produce a coordinated document. However, we have reiterated what our presidents discussed – our unequivocal stance, which has been agreed by our presidents, is that progress must be reliable and there must not be any unsubstantiated documents. Even if some documents are adopted under "guarantees," our American colleagues are to ensure that the Kiev regime complies these guarantees.

That is the point. Europe is trying to undermine Washington's role in the Ukrainian settlement. It does not want to settle it by removing the root causes of the crisis. I have already mentioned these root causes: NATO, and the legal and physical destruction of the Russian speakers' rights and everything associated with Russia.

Channel One: At the same time, Steve Witkoff has stated optimistically that a ceasefire could be agreed by Easter, that is, within a month, although he previously said that it could be achieved within two weeks. Do you share his optimism? I know that you are not paid to be optimistic.

Sergey Lavrov: Some people often compare Soviet customs and traditions with the current developments in some Western countries, like fulfilling five-year plans in four years. After we abandoned atheism, the deadline has been set for Easter (it could have been Christmas, with the same result). That is not how I would formulate the question. I understand Steve Witkoff.

He is a clever and energetic person who thinks that everyone should be aware of the things he regards as obvious. Judging by the statements he made during his conversation with Tucker Carlson, the essence of this conflict is clear to him. But he overestimates the European elites who want to prevent Zelensky from showing "weakness."

Zelensky does not want to show weakness either. He knows that his days are numbered, and that his positive image he has been cultivating among the people has long since faded, with the exception of those (quite numerous) who hold radical, far-right and revenge-seeking Bandera views.



BANK OF BOTSWANA

1 April 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

The Bank invites Companies to tender for supply and delivery of Point of Sale devices to Bank of Botswana including support and maintenance for a period of five (5) years, Tender Reference No: BOB/2025/03/08

- The Procurement Method is, Open Domestic Bidding.
- The Evaluation method is, Least cost selection for supplies.
- Tenderers must, in order to be considered for award of this contract, be registered with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) under Codes: 120, ICT Technical Support Services, Sub code(s): 01, Systems Development services and maintenance services and Code 203, Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical and ICT Supplies, Sub code (s) 01: Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Spares and Accessories (include ICT, photographic equipment and others).
- Interested companies may purchase the tender documents for a non-refundable fee of P350.00 (Three Hundred and Fifty Pula, VAT inclusive). The payment can be done by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or cash at the Bank's Banking Hall in Gaborone, or at Francistown Branch Banking Hall, from 1 - 24 April 2025, Monday to Friday at 0900 to 1400 hours in Gaborone and from 0900 to 1245 hours in Francistown Branch during weekdays. The 50% price discount for purchase of the tender document will be applied to companies owned by youth, women and people living with disability who should provide proof of the same to qualify.
- Companies are advised to email proof of payment to Marovu-TanagoM@bob.bw who shall send the complete tender documents by electronically.

Bank Details for EFT payments

Bank : Bank of Botswana
 Account Name : Accpac Sundry Receipts
 Account Number : 0000110900001
 Branch Code : 910167
 Branch Name : Gaborone
 SWIFT Code : BBOTBWGX
 Please include reference (Company Name)

- Enquiries and clarifications relating to this tender may be addressed to enquiries20250308@bob.bw.
- The tender will be closed on 25 April 2025, at 1000 hours and submissions will be opened at 1400 hours or later as the Bank of Botswana may advise.

Choppies Botswana embarked on a year-long training exercise that saw recently graduated candidates vigorously train to be leaders in the FMCG trade. This training is conducted annually and is an initiative that commenced in 2017 with an objective to present retail opportunities to fresh graduates and assist in combating the unemployment rate in Botswana.

On an annual basis, Choppies offers unparalleled training to fresh graduates in an effort to stimulate and propel work experience and opportunities for them. This is done to produce work ready candidates that will excel in the corporate sector, specifically in retail with proper skills and knowledge that they would have attained from the graduate training program.

The Choppies Trainee program systematically exposes the graduates to all areas of the (FMCG) fast moving consumer goods retail business. This is conducted to assist graduates experience retail in its wholeness in order to make concise decisions on which department to pursue in the retail field. This is facilitated to earth not only talent but skill, therefore leading to career passionate individuals who will not only excel at their work, but love and enjoy it as well.

The training Program ran from April 2024- March 2025 (1 year) where 50 graduates enrolled and successfully completed the program. Amongst those that enrolled, some completed the program satisfactorily and have since been absorbed and promoted to the position of Assistant manager in Gaborone, Molepolole, Mochudi, Kanye and Francistown.

The Choppies Trainee program endeavours to be the hub of excellence by offering top tier training for graduates that will enable them to actively and positively participate in the competitive business world and contribute to the economy of Botswana. The program runs annually and has since seen a new batch of 50 graduates enrol from various disciplines to commence training in April 2025.



Opinions, Reviews & Analysis

President Duma Boko: A reformist's first six months

COMMENT

PRESIDENT DUMA GIDEON Boko's early presidency has been defined by an ambitious start, tempered by the realities of the complex landscape he inherited. While the 100-day plan garnered attention, governance experts often recommend a six-month window for new administrations to set their agenda effectively. This period would have allowed Boko to unite a politically divided nation and build confidence within a civil service concerned about job security and change.

Boko's electoral victory, achieved with just 37% of the vote, presented a fragile mandate. With nearly twice as many citizens voting against him, national divisions deepened. The civil service, a backbone of government operations, faced uncertainties, which Minister Moeti Caesar Mohwasa sought to address with calming reassurances. Actually the appointment of Mohwasa at State Presidency

was a masterstroke, especially for a government pursuing a reconciliatory approach critical to fostering unity.

Compounding these challenges was the dire financial situation Boko inherited. Despite crafting an elaborate manifesto as an outsider, his administration was confronted with a severely depressed economy and a national treasury as empty as the head of national intelligence, a scenario reminiscent of Greece's financial crisis in 2010. The administration discovered an Atlantic crater left by the previous regime, requiring time and strategic planning to navigate.

Undeterred, Boko's administration moved forward with significant initiatives. His first State of the Nation Address outlined bold aspirations for economic revitalization, job creation, and anti-corruption reforms. The commitment to increasing old-age pensions to P1,800, a key campaign pledge, faced delays due to

sluggish diamond sales and record-low national reserves. Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe's announcement of an incremental increase to P1,400, effective April 2025, exemplified the administration's pragmatic adaptation to financial constraints - echoing similar approaches seen in reformist administrations such as Rwanda's post-genocide recovery.

The Forensic Audit to be conducted by Alvarez & Marsal and valued at P62 million, the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the 2016 closure of BCL and its subsidiaries, and the recent completion of the review of the Developmental Manager Model procurement framework demonstrate the administration's commitment to transparency. Involving international experts, the audit and commission aim to restore public trust, though its high cost and resistance from entrenched gatekeeping interests pose challenges.

Comparisons of Botswana's

and quality. Finland's education reforms focused on equity and innovation to achieve global recognition. Boko's emphasis on child welfare aligns with the administration's broader vision of inclusive development, ensuring that future generations are equipped to contribute to Botswana's growth.

On the global stage, Boko has demonstrated strategic foresight by fostering alliances with key partners. Collaborations with the United States and the SpaceX partnership to launch Botswana's first satellite underscored a vision for innovation-driven development. This parallels efforts in nations like Estonia, which leveraged technology and international cooperation to transform its economy.

Looking ahead, Boko's administration must shift its focus to delivering tangible outcomes in three key areas being the national health insurance, job creation and economic revitalization. Implementing a sustainable

and inclusive health insurance system would address disparities and improve healthcare access. Botswana could draw lessons from Ghana and Singapore, which successfully expanded coverage while ensuring financial sustainability.

Tackling unemployment should remain a priority. Botswana's economy needs to be diversified beyond diamonds by investing in agriculture, technology, and renewable energy. Strategic investments in tourism, manufacturing, and innovation-driven industries can stabilize the economy. Transparent governance and anti-corruption measures will be key to attracting foreign investment, much like Mauritius's economic diversification efforts.

President Duma Boko's administration has seen notable successes, but it hasn't been without its share of criticism. The increase in specially nominated councillors from 119 to 153 sparked debates, critics

questioning the transparency and fairness in a nomination process met with allegations of nepotism and favouritism. Additionally, the emergence of increased ministerial allowances, reportedly dating back to September 2024 has drawn public scrutiny. Many view these allowances as tone-deaf amidst broader economic challenges.

Peter Fana Magosi's continued tenure at the DIS has also been a contentious issue. Despite known interference with other law enforcements agencies, abuse of office and power, corruption investigations and existing court pronouncements, Magosi's position remains secure, raising questions about accountability and governance.

President Boko's first five months in office have revealed complexities of governance, the challenges of leadership to balance and maintain public trust and the potential for

transformative change. While his ambitious start has faced criticism, his administration's ability to implement reforms, foster unity, and balance domestic priorities with international opportunities will determine the legacy he leaves behind. Drawing inspiration from global case studies and adapting them to Botswana's unique context will be crucial for sustained progress and national development.

On the basis of the above, I project an A- scorecard for Duma Boko when appraised at the end of April 2025. This is suggestive of a commendable effort with room for improvement. The grade indicate strong achievements in policy implementation and economic management and a stellar public approval. Timely decision making and decisiveness on certain aspects lowering his score should see an improvement in 12 months.



ADAM PHETLHE ON SUNDAY!

CONSIDERING THE ILL-treatment by Mokgweetsi Masisi at the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), Dr Edwin Dikoloti will have to count his lucky stars how he survived the onslaught and triumphed. Thanks to the huge sympathy vote from some disgruntled BDP members and other sympathisers who ensured that he returns to parliament. As if that was not enough, he received another huge boost from President Advocate Duma Boko who roped him into his cabinet as an Assistant Minister. On these two accounts, Dikoloti was back in the political limelight with a huge political statement. This left a bitter taste on the mouth of Masisi who was desirous of ruining Dikoloti's political career.

Elected as an Independent Member of Parliament, Dikoloti has since become

Will Dikoloti join UDC or contest 2029 as mokoko?



Dikoloti

a member of the executive arm of government involved in implementing policies and programmes of the UDC. Just this past week, he successfully presented a motion for a policy on the licit use of cannabis in Botswana for industrial and medicinal purposes. Two critical questions linger on. Is he going to try to retain his constituency as an independent candidate or, will he join the UDC as a reward for the huge political favour it accorded him?

A pertinent question arises. What motivated Boko to make that most sought out telephone call to Dikoloti? It is said that when cabinet appointments are imminent, Members of Parliament keep their phones fully charged expecting a call from the President to offer them a cabinet post. Dikoloti must have been taken aback to receive such call given that he was not a UDC MP. He had left the ministry of health in a dire state given the many challenges.

To be fair to him, the ministry was on its knees even before he arrived. Did he make meaningful, impactful changes at the ministry? Did Boko mean to spite the BDP? Did Boko believe Dikoloti could add value to his administration? Was he

enticing him to join the UDC? I believe Boko played a political game to lure Dikoloti to join the UDC.

The option of standing as an Independent is implausible. Standing as an independent candidate was a last-ditch effort after he was summarily dismissed by Masisi on the eve of the 2024 general election. Existing political conditions at the time favoured him. Dikoloti's huge win margin demonstrated the power of sympathy vote. The same sympathy votes will not be available for him to ride on in 2029. The disgruntled BDP members who helped him win the constituency will probably have returned to the party. Some of them could very well be uncomfortable with his association with the UDC.

It will not be smooth sailing for him should he formally join the UDC and defend the seat under its ticket. UDC members in the constituency could view him as an outsider. Some UDC members have been complaining about cabinet appointments, particularly for the likes of Dikoloti who did not help the party to win the 2024 elections.

Dikoloti defeated a UDC

candidate in the 2024 general election and that candidate is likely to contest the 2029 elections. If Dikoloti is given free passage to represent the coalition in the constituency in 2029 the decision will pit him against UDC members leading to instability. It will translate into the same situation that was pursued by Masisi where he wanted to impose Peggy Serame on electorates at the expense of Dikoloti. To avert any unintended consequences, an open bulela ditswe process will have to unfold where Dikoloti and other aspiring candidates compete. Even then, chances of him winning in an open contest are not as clear as daylight given complaints from within the coalition about his appointment to cabinet ahead of more deserving comrades.

Like many BDP members, it appears they turned their backs on the party because of Masisi. Now that he will be out of BDP leadership after the Maun elective congress, some disgruntled members may retrace their steps back to the party. It is likely that the new BDP leadership will approach Dikoloti to return.

If he does, he is more likely to win the party bulela ditswe

given his popularity in the constituency. Whether he will win the constituency under these circumstances is hard to tell.

In conclusion, I argue that while Dikoloti has managed to turn his political career around given the more challenging odds he faced, the journey ahead could be as tricky and unpredictable as it gets given the many possible scenarios. Is he going to 'betray' the UDC at the last minute after it came to his rescue after he was dumped by Masisi? Not downplaying the fact that he was already an MP when the UDC embraced him, the fact that he is in cabinet significantly improved his national profile in more ways than one. For example, he is using the privileges of his ministerial position to service the constituency more than he could if he was an ordinary MP. For the time being, he is a UDC member by association owing to his ministerial position. It will be interesting to watch how he will defend his seat in 2029-whether he will do so as an Independent candidate or otherwise. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

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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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CFE condemns treason allegations against Afriforum, Solidarity

THE CAMPAIGN FOR FREE Expression (CFE) notes with alarm recent statements by Police Minister, Senzo Mchunu that the police are taking "very seriously" treason charges against Afriforum; by Hawks head, General Godfrey Lebeba that they are working closely with the National Prosecuting Authority in investigating these treason charges; and by ANC member of parliament, Nomasono Motauang that Afriforum and Solidarity's actions can be termed "treasonous behaviour".

This invocation of the crime of treason with reference to Afriforum and Solidarity, even if only in the sense of a possible prosecution, is improper and irresponsible. There can be no serious thought that the crime of treason, involving the use or threat of violence in order to overthrow the government, coerce it, threaten its existence or security, or force a change in constitutional structure can have any application to Afriforum and Solidarity's recent engagements in the US and public pronouncements.

Statements such as these from law enforcement and



Police Minister, Senzo Mchunu public officials speak to a heavy-handedness entirely inconsistent with our Constitution and its values. With very limited exception, speech - however provocative, unpopular or unfounded - does not earn criminal sanction in our law and even the inference that it may

Africa faces grave challenges, but their subjective position - that white South Africans, and white Afrikaners in particular, suffer an especial prejudice - is not born out by South Africa's reality. The pursuit of treason charges against them ironically may allow for the perception that there is substance to their posture.

Freedom of speech does not mandate fair, reasoned and conscientious dialogue. Its protections extend far beyond. Arguably, however, genuine commitment to our country and its betterment does compel such speech.

About CFE

The Campaign for Free Expression is a non-profit organisation dedicated to protecting and expanding the right to free expression for ALL and enabling EVERYONE to exercise this right to the full, whether it by speaking out, by protesting, by revealing information, by blowing the whistle on wrong doing, by arguing, debating, writing, painting, composing or just by shouting out your opinion.

<https://mailchi.mp/63f379d668fb/cfe-newsletter-101369267e3e74888fd8>

do so by senior law enforcement officials is to be deprecated. As aside, it also seems deeply unstrategic. Afriforum and Solidarity appear intent on pushing a narrative with which we and many other South Africans fiercely disagree. It is unquestionable that South

Implement withdrawal of SABC Bill -SA NGOs

THE SOS COALITION (SOS), Media Monitoring Africa (MMA), the South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF) and the Campaign for Free Expression (CFE) have jointly written letters to the Speaker of the National Assembly, the President as Head of Cabinet, and the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies (PPCCDT). These letters emphasise the critical importance of upholding the separation of powers doctrine and respecting due process.

After months of advocacy for the withdrawal of the SABC Bill, SOS, MMA, SANEF and CFE welcomed the decision by the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Solly Malatsi, to withdraw the Bill. However, they are now deeply disappointed by the prolonged delay on the part of the Speaker of Parliament in gazetting the withdrawal of the Bill and ongoing unlawful, unconstitutional interference by the Cabinet in the withdrawal of the Bill.

According to the Rules of the National Assembly, the Minister has the authority to withdraw



Malatsi a bill before its second reading (Rule 277 read with Rule 334). Minister Malatsi followed due process by formally notifying the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing about his withdrawal of the Bill.

These letters serve as a reminder that:

The Speaker must gazette the withdrawal of the SABC Bill and has no authority to overrule the Minister's decision. Failure to do so constitutes failure to fulfil her constitutional duties and disregards the public interest.

The PPCCDT must respect the separation of powers and remove the SABC Bill from its agenda as it has been lawfully withdrawn by the responsible Minister.

The Cabinet has no authority to overrule the

Minister's decision in withdrawing the Bill and must respect the Rules of the National Assembly and the authority of the Minister to do so.

We urge the Speaker, the Committee and the Cabinet to respect the separation of powers doctrine and proceed with the formal gazetting of the SABC Bill's withdrawal in line with the Constitution and the Rules of the National Assembly as any continued deliberation of the SABC Bill by the Committee and Parliament in general would be unlawful.

Yvanda Siyotula (SOS National Coordinator)
William Bird (MMA Director)
Reggy Moalusi (SANEF Executive Director)
Anton Harber (CFE Director)

SA Civil Society Organisations respond to Trump's threats

WE, SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL Society organisations, looking to protect and promote human rights and democracy in our country, are appalled not only at the threats issued by US President Trump against South Africa but by his dangerous lies.

South Africa's government and executive are frequently deserving of fierce criticism. And we are proud of our record in doing so and of our unrelenting efforts to hold them to account. But the idea that South Africa is "confiscating land and treating certain classes of people very badly" is demonstrably untrue and would be absurd were this lie not now being propounded at the very highest levels of US government.

The recently promulgated Expropriation Act does not look to confiscate land but is an attempt to address the dispossession and removal from land that long characterized South Africa's history and remains a festering sore in our country. It looks to secure a peaceful,

prosperous future for all South Africans while respecting the rights of current property owners.

Moreover, our Constitution and our courts have long been praised globally for their championing and protection of human rights and civil liberties. Such flaws as there may be with the Expropriation Act will be fully scrutinized by our court system, and if found wanting, struck down.

How ironic that Trump in fighting off the various criminal charges he has recently faced should have compared himself to democratic South Africa's first president, Nelson Mandela, when it was Mandela who pointedly observed that democracy in SA must mean addressing centuries of land dispossession and denial, "creating opportunity for the poor to provide for themselves, their families and their communities, and to contribute to the wealth of the country as a whole through productive agricultural enterprise."

In his threat, Trump leaves unstated exactly who the certain classes are who are being treated very badly. Thirty years after democracy,



South Africa remains among the most unequal places on earth with that inequality largely tracking racial lines: the typical Black household

in South Africa owns 5 per cent of the wealth held by the typical White household. For far too many South Africans democracy has yet to allow

an escape from crippling poverty. Another bleak irony of Trump's threat is that the most significant funding contributed by the US to

South Africa at present goes to healthcare-related initiatives. Those most directly impacted by any US funding cut are likely to be already among the most desperate, destitute South Africans. Trump's actions will only make them more so and by potentially fueling tensions between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in South Africa may inadvertently threaten the interests of those "certain classes" for whom Trump ostensibly seeks to act. As South African civil society we will remain engaged, as we have always been, in the search for a more perfect union in our country – in seeking to hold our government to account, protect democracy and human rights, and eradicate poverty and human misery. We are unquestionably saddened that those we once took to be potential partners in this endeavour – to perfect our union as they looked to perfect theirs – should shamefully have abandoned that enterprise. But we are enraged that through thuggery and threat they would now look to deliberately endanger our endeavour.

Save Lesedi Molapise



LEKANG MOKOKOMANI*

KE KWALA JAAKA MORAGO GA dipolelo tsa bobega dikgang ka Motswana ka rona Ms Lesedi Molapise. Ke kile ka kopa puso e e fitileng gore jaaka re tlhola re bona Mahatshe a tshwana le America ba ema ka dinao fa botshelo jwa mongwe wa mo US citizen bo le mo diphatseng, le ya rona puso e tshwanetse go supa jalo fa motswana ope fela a lebagane le semo se se tshwanang sa ga Ms Lesedi. Ke dumela gore Tautona wa

Botswana ebile ele human rights Lawyer o mo semong se ene le puso ya gagwe baka ikopanyang le puso ya Bangladesh go kopela Ms Lesedi Clemency. Ke ikuela mo Mapalamenteng othe a Botswana go bua ka kgang e lego tsaya tshwetso ya go romela a delegation to engage Bangladesh Government and plead for Clemency for this helpless your helpless young Motswana lady. Ke kopa Parliament of Botswana as an Institution to act on the matter.

*Former Mayor of Selebi Phikwe

Trump's message to the world – obey me or pay!

AT THE RECENT WORLD Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland, Trump set the tone for his dealings with the rest of the world: "Join and follow me, or you will pay! I will impose taxes, tariffs and sanctions on you!" Trump sees himself as the saviour of the U.S. and the world and he will 'put everything right' if only other nations follow him! In his inauguration speech, he claimed that the world will now enter a period where 'common sense' will reign, courtesy of Trump who is always absolutely right and everyone else is absolutely wrong. Sadly, since then, he has behaved as a blackmailer, big bully, and bad mouther in his dealings with foreign leaders. And a bigot (someone who is prejudiced and intolerant), big head – too big for his boots!

It's another sunny morning at Mar a Lago, Trump's palatial home in Florida. Trump rubs his eyes, yawns, and stretches his arms and opens the curtains to allow the sun's rays to stream into his bedroom. "Great! Another day at the golf course perfecting my skills at the game." He then glances at the world map on the wall. "But first, I have to decide which of my allies in the world I am going to alienate and punish today. Will my target of the day be



Trump

Canada, the EU, UK, China, South Africa...? No nation can stand up to me; I have formidable weapons at my disposal – tariffs, taxes, sanctions, cutting off aid... And all I have to do is to sign yet another executive order and it's done and dusted." Let us look at some of these countries that are in his sights.

Firstly, South Africa. Here Trump has criticised South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's controversial land reform Expropriation Bill as being 'racist', a violation of human rights, and unfairly targets, and discriminates against, white farmers whose land will be 'stolen.' This is because these laws allow government to seize white farms without compensation; however, this will only be done in exceptional circumstances; for example, if the land is abandoned. That is fair enough! After all, here in Botswana residents may be allocated plots by the Land Board who can later repossess them if no development has taken place on them.

Ramaphosa denies these allegations saying that land reforms are necessary to address historical injustices which stem from the apartheid era (1948-1994). During apartheid, the Afrikaner-run government forced urban blacks into black homelands, or bantustans, which were scattered throughout the country. For example, the Tswana were sent off to Bophuthatswana, the Xhosa to Ciskei and Transkei, the Sotho to QwaQwa, the Venda to Venda, the Zulus to KwaZulu, etc. Some of these bantustans comprised several small separate areas of land between which were areas of white owned land. These bantustans were ruled by puppets chosen by the racist regime and included, for example, Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana. The white government was keen to resettle the blacks in such areas since they were severely overgrazed and eroded with little potential for farming. During apartheid, the government trampled on the rights of the black population, and many anti-apartheid activists were arrested, tortured or assassinated. Remember the Sharpeville massacre in 1960 when police opened fire on peaceful demonstrators killing 69 of them? And in Soweto in 1976, police again opened fire on students who were peacefully protesting against the imposition of Afrikaans as the sole

language of instruction in schools. The death toll – 176.

However, the whites, who make up only some 7% of the population (now about 4.5 million of a total of 62 million), owned some 72% of all private land much of which was pristine and very suitable for large scale commercial farming. And South Africa-U.S. relations flourished during apartheid and trade between the two nations increased since South Africa provided the U.S. with access to valuable minerals such as chromium, manganese, and vanadium which are vital for the American steel industry. But the US took little action against South Africa such as tariffs or sanctions.

Since the first truly democratic elections in South Africa in 1994, the ANC government has tried to undo this historic inequality. And now Trump wants to defend the Afrikaners, the very people who caused so much misery and hardship for blacks during apartheid! And if Ramaphosa does not follow Trump's order to revoke the laws against the whites, then he can expect punishment – the cutting of all U.S. aid to his country. And the possible imposition of tariffs on imports from South Africa will further worsen U.S. - South Africa relations. In 2022, South Africa exported agricultural goods valued at more than US\$600 million (P8400 million) to the U.S.

However, Ramaphosa did not take things lying down. In return he scolded Trump by saying that he has never been to South Africa and he should not meddle in South Africa's internal affairs: "You, Donald Trump – stay in your White House, and I will stay in my South Africa..." Indeed, South Africa is a sovereign nation, and should make decisions itself in the interests of its people.

Trump then offered refugee status to white Afrikaners who make up about 60% of whites and who own most white-owned farms. But why should they be classified as refugees? Now according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a refugee is a person who is 'forced to flee their country and seek safety in another country. This is because of persecution as a result of who they are, what they say or believe, or because of armed conflict, violence or serious public disorder'. Refugees may also be in fear of their lives or they may be fleeing from a country

where there is political repression and the possibility of being a political prisoner. Now this begs the question: Do any of these conditions exist in South Africa? No!

Perhaps Trump has been influenced by the views of his right-hand man in Washington – Elon Musk. Musk was born in South Africa in 1971, and lived there for several years during the apartheid era before moving to Canada in 1989. As a white person he enjoyed a life of privilege in South Africa, and so he probably wants to give something back to the Afrikaner community. Also, Trump's hostile stance towards South Africa might be due to the latter reporting Israel, Trump's main ally in the Middle East, to the International Court of Justice in the Hague, Netherlands, on charges of genocide in Gaza. And Israeli forces have committed genocide there. Also, recently South Africa has recently demanded that Taiwan relocate its representative's office from Pretoria by the end of March. At present, there are two Chinas – the People's Republic of China, and the island of Taiwan. South Africa along with many other nations, supports the One China policy, and does not view Taiwan as a separate Chinese state.

Although some Afrikaners have accepted Trump's offer, many have rejected it. This has probably surprised Trump, but it shows that he is not aware of the mindset of Afrikaners who are descendants of Dutch colonialists who arrived in the Western Cape in 1652.

However, the Cape later came under British control, and in the 1820s, the Afrikaners began to resent the dominance of the British there. This led to many of them leaving the Cape in the 1830s and migrating inland on what is known as the Great Trek during which they occupied large swathes of present-day south Africa. For this reason, many Afrikaners see themselves as the only true 'white Africans', and even though they may dislike the present ANC government, they do not intend to pack up their bags and seek refuge elsewhere anytime soon.

And yet Trump is refusing entry to refugees who are genuinely fleeing for their lives from their countries of origin! And many of these are Latinos – this is racial discrimination! What hypocrisy!

Grahame McLeod

RADIJENG J.

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

CASE NO: CVHGB-000379-24

In the matter between:

MALEBOGO ZILBERMAN
And
PANANA ELVIS BOGATSU

PLAINTIFF
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION


BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE That pursuant to Court Order of this Honourable Court dated 18th September 2024 and stamped on the 10th October 2024 the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff O. Motlhagodi in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE: 9th May 2025
TIME OF SALE: 10:30 Hours
PLACE OF SALE: Piece of land being Tribal Lot 7011, Mmankgodi
TERMS OF SALE: Cash or EFT

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: The defendant's rights, title deed and interest on a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 7011 Mmankgodi, measuring 7444m² (Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Forty-Four Square Metres) held under Lease No. TL 278/2022 dated 17th day of March 2022 made in favour of **PANANA ELVIS BOGATSU**.
• The condition of sale may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriffs' Offices at the addresses below.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 31ST DAY OF MARCH 2025

Deputy Sheriff O. Motlhagodi
71868324 / 73321097
C/o Gobhoza Legal Practice
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 115, Kgale Mews, Unit 19
Gaborone International Finance Park
P O Box 26168, Game City
Gaborone


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

BUSANG J.

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

CASE NO: CVHGB-000378-24

In the matter between:

MALEBOGO ZILBERMAN
And
LEBOGANG KAGISO ANNAH MOTOMA

PLAINTIFF
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION


BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE That pursuant to Judgement of this Honourable Court dated 22nd October 2024 and stamped on the 22nd October 2024 the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff O. Motlhagodi in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE: 10th May 2025
TIME OF SALE: 11:00 Hours
PLACE OF SALE: Piece of land being Tribal Lot 13500, Mochudi
TERMS OF SALE: Cash or EFT

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: The defendant's rights, title deed and interest on a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 13500 Mochudi, measuring 1691m² (One Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety-One Square Metres) held under Title Deed No. TL 1096/2016 dated 4th day of November 2016 made in favour of **LEBOGANG KAGISO ANNAH MOTOMA**.
• The condition of sale may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriffs' Offices at the addresses below.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 31ST DAY OF MARCH 2025

Deputy Sheriff O. Motlhagodi
71868324 / 73321097
C/o Gobhoza Legal Practice
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 115, Kgale Mews, Unit 19
Gaborone International Finance Park
P O Box 26168, Game City
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Business

StanChart posts P478m profit

- Closed 2024 with P1.1 billion operating income
- Wealth & Retail Banking reported P791 million income
- Stanchart grows despite market liquidity challenge



Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mpho Masupe

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK Botswana (SCBB) has recorded an impressive growth of 19% in Profit Before Tax (PBT) to P478 million for the period ended 31 December 2024. Standard Chartered also enjoyed a 2% increase in operating income to P1.1 billion. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mpho

Masupe said the growth has been anchored by proper execution of their strategy. Masupe said the strategy is paying off despite tough trading conditions characterised by low liquidity in the market. He said throughout 2024, they have achieved significant milestones in executing their strategy, as reflected in their robust financial performance for the entire year. Masupe said they made good progress over the past several years

delivering on their three-year strategy and are further strengthening business and growing returns. "We are a global bank connecting corporate, institutional, and affluent clients to a network that offers unique access to sustainable growth opportunities. This distinctive proposition puts us in good stead to help our clients navigate the dynamic and complex conditions we continue to operate in," said Masupe. In addition, Masupe said Stanchart

will remain a force in the market and will fund growth of local businesses to boost the country's economic growth through innovation – which is key to the bank. Chief Finance Officer (CFO) Tapiwa Butale said there was improved income benefiting from solid and efficient balance sheet. She said the bank was able to maintain balance sheet resilience during this period, adding that deposit growth was sustained as the asset book remained resilient.

Butale said household loans remained flat for the past two years – buttressing that in 2024 the main focus was on repositioning the balance sheet as there was a significant decline of liquidity in the market.

WRB

Meanwhile, Masupe said the bank is yet to find a suitable buyer for its Wealth and Retail Banking segment.

He said the segment contributed immensely to the performance of the bank and whoever will buy the book is getting something that is unique. Stanchart said the Wealth and Retail Banking segment remained steadfast on its strategy of being the leading bank for the affluent and emerging market, differentiated by its international footprint and expertise.

The bank said this is well aligned to the growing middle-income base in Botswana which demands differentiated services and offerings.

It said wealth assets under management have grown three times in the same period driven by growing uptake of both local and foreign investment asset classes and underscored by the launch of the Bank's International Banking offering that enables cross-border access to banking solutions through the Bank's international hubs of Jersey, UAE, Singapore and Hongkong.

The segment closed the year with reported income of P791 million – an 11% growth. The Corporate and Investment Banking (CIB) division delivered a resilient performance driven by a diversified product suite and expanded client solutions, amidst challenging macroeconomic conditions.

CIB successfully re-aligned its portfolio to concentrate on specific client segments, including Banks and Non-bank financial institutions, Government and Government Related Enterprises, Multinational Corporates, and Development Organisations.

According to Standard Chartered Bank Botswana, the CIB segment closed the year with reported income growth of 4% (excluding other banking), at P318 million.

Bulb World sees 500% surge in Emergency Bulbs sales ... As load-shedding grips the nation

THE BULB WORLD, AFRICA'S pioneering lighting manufacturer, has reported a remarkable 500% surge in sales of emergency lights, with demand far outpacing supply. Stores across the country are being replenished, yet shelves are cleared within just four to five hours, highlighting the urgent need for lighting solutions. In response, The Bulb World has intensified its production efforts, working around the clock to ensure that retailers remain stocked.



Jacob

The company is also in the process of securing additional capital to import larger quantities of raw materials, ensuring that it can meet the growing demand in future production cycles.

Leading retailers, including Choppies, Fours, RS Electrical, and BPG, have placed bulk orders ahead of the next production run, underscoring the market's confidence in the brand.

To expedite the process, The Bulb World will be flying in raw materials for the first time in its history—an unprecedented move that reflects the company's commitment to delivering high-quality lighting solutions without delay.

Founder Ketshepaone Jacob expressed his gratitude to both the nation and the retail partners for their overwhelming support.

"This level of demand is truly humbling. We are doing everything possible to ensure that no household or business is left in the dark. The trust our customers have placed in us motivates us to push even harder," he said.

As The Bulb World scales up its operations, this milestone marks yet another step toward its vision of becoming one of the largest lighting brands, not just in Botswana, but across Africa.

Business Botswana engages BPC on power outages

BUSINESS BOTSWANA (BB) IS aware of the ongoing electricity loadshedding and its negative effects on businesses across the country. In response, BB has engaged with Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) to discuss the power supply issues and find solutions.

BPC has reassured BB that efforts to resolve the situation are ongoing, with normalcy expected to return gradually. Interventions to address the shortfall, include ongoing negotiations with ESKOM to renew the contract with more added to the grid. Additionally, operations at Morupule B are expected to resume

in the next two weeks. While BPC cautioned that the weekly load Management schedules may change due to the unpredictable nature of the power system, we implored them to ensure more certainty as the inconsistent schedules create challenges for business operations.

BB urges businesses and the public to adopt energy-saving measures, including using electricity efficiently, shifting high-energy activities to off-peak hours, and using energy-saving lighting. Business Botswana remains committed to collaborating with BPC to ensure a reliable power supply and minimize the impact of load management.

Diamonds production in deep contraction

- Production plummets by 30.5 percent
- Overall mining production down by 27%
- Coal, salt do well in the market

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

FIGURES BY STATISTICS Botswana (SB) paint a bleak future for the diamonds sector, with production having fallen by 30 percent during the fourth quarter of 2024. The diamond sector has been a key driver of the economy in the past four decades.

Statistics Botswana said – in its quarterly Index of Mining Production Report – that the Index of Mining Production stood at 74.0 during the fourth quarter of 2024 compared to 101.8 registered in the same quarter of

the previous year, showing a year-on-year decline of 27.3 percent.

The main contributor to the decrease in mining production was diamonds which contributed negative 26.7 percentage points.

The national statistics agency said diamond production declined by 30.5 percent (1,903 thousand carats) from 6,241 thousand carats in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 4,338 thousand carats during the period under review.

Conversely, an analysis of diamond production on a quarter-on-quarter basis, indicates an increase of 5.8 percent (240 thousand carats) during



Debswana Jwaneng Mine

[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

the fourth quarter of 2024 from 4,098 thousand carats recorded during the third quarter of 2024.

Moreover, the agency said Copper in Concentrates production decreased by 5.1 percent (652 tonnes) from 12,759 tonnes registered in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 12,107 tonnes during the period under review.

Similarly, quarter-on-quarter analysis shows that production decreased by 16.9 percent (894 tonnes) during the fourth quarter of 2024 from 13,001 tonnes produced during the third quarter of 2024. Coal and Salt contributed positively to the mining production, contributing 0.2 and 0.1 of a percentage point respectively.

The quarter-on-quarter analysis indicates an increase of 3.5 percent from the index of 71.5 registered in the third quarter of 2024 to 74.0 observed during the period under review.

"On an annual basis, the total mining production index stood at 77.5 in 2024, reflecting a significant decline of 24.9 percent from the 103.1 recorded in 2023."

Statistics Botswana buttressed: "This decrease follows a 4.3 percent increase in mining production in 2023, which was preceded by a more substantial growth of 14.9 percent in 2022. The decline in the overall mining production was attributable to the reduction in diamond production, which contributed 23.4 percentage points of the total mining production growth."

Gold production recorded zero production during the period under

review while Soda Ash production increased by 3.4 percent (2,702 tonnes) from 79,780 tonnes during the fourth quarter of 2023 to 82,482 tonnes produced during the period under review. It also said conversely, quarter-on-quarter analysis shows that production decreased by 3.5 percent (2,989 tonnes) during the fourth quarter of 2024, from 85,471 tonnes registered during the third quarter of 2024. "Salt production increased by 20.0 percent (13,647 tonnes), from 68,186 tonnes recorded during the fourth quarter of 2023 to 81,833 tonnes during the quarter under review. Conversely, an analysis comparing consecutive quarters indicates that salt production exhibited a decrease of 19.1 percent (19,303 tonnes), declining from 101,136 tonnes registered in the third quarter of 2024," said the statistics agency.

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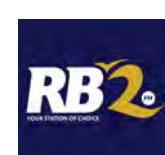


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Premiums are back for large De Beers diamonds

JOSHUA FREEDMAN

SHORTAGES OF LARGER DE BEERS goods are driving premiums of around 5% on the secondary market after a long period in which sightholders were unable to resell for a profit, insiders told Rapaport News.

Companies that bought 5- to 10-carat goods at this week's sight, which began on Monday, received bids from manufacturers ranging from 3% to 7% over the De Beers list price, market sources said Tuesday.

The "select makeable" category in that size — which produces 1.5- to 3-carat polished with an average color of I and an average clarity of SI — attracted premiums at the higher end of that range. It's unclear whether sightholders agreed to sell at that price.

De Beers customers that buy boxes of rough diamonds at sights can resell them, but weak demand has limited their ability to generate margins from this during the industry downturn. These margins are called premiums and refer to the price at

which they trade the merchandise relative to the miner's list price.

Recent production declines in India have led to shortages of polished as well as a modest improvement in rough demand as factories look to fill orders from the US and the Indian domestic market.

"There's a shortage of goods — you have less stock in India and less production," said a sight broker who received an offer of 7% above the list price for 5- to 10-carat "select" goods on behalf of a client. (The deal never went through.) "People are starting to [buy] more and more goods."

The broker estimates premiums of 3% to 4% for "commercial" 5- to 10-carat. These goods tend to have a higher yield than select makeables in size terms, and also typically yield SI goods, but more of the resulting polished has black inclusions than with select makeables.

Shortfalls in bigger rough sizes were already visible at the previous sight in February. Market sources were unsure if this reflected production cuts, De Beers



attempts to withhold supply, better demand for 2-carat and larger polished, or a mixture of all three. "There's no 'select' right now on the market," said a second market source. "Everybody is talking about it because, for a long time, there weren't any premiums. But we're talking about very few boxes."

Auction relaunch

De Beers is also resuming its auction sales after a one-year pause. The company will hold an auction during the current sales cycle in Gaborone, having moved the business from Singapore to the Botswana capital. It announced this shift last April,

when it also suspended the unit's operations and sales until the transition was complete.

Unlike in the past, the first relaunched auction will be only for sightholders, a De Beers spokesperson said Tuesday. The company has renamed the business De Beers Auctions Botswana, and it will be part of the miner's global diamond-trading business, which has been based in the southern African country since 2013.

At least for the first sale, the format will change from an auction with open bids to a tender with closed bids, meaning participants will not know the prices others are offering, sources told Rapaport News. Goods at this event will focus on larger stones rather than the usual full range, sources said.

The spokesperson did not confirm these two points but said tender-style sales with closed bids were "not a new approach," as the company had held these in 2023 through its "offer channel" format.

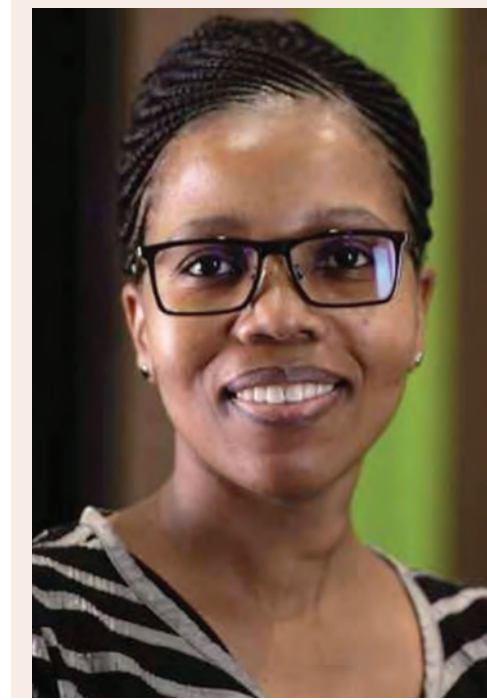
"As we look to reestablish regular sales events for auctions, we will initially run a

small-scale event in cycle 3 for sightholder customers with a relatively small amount of product enabling the testing of the platform," the spokesperson said. "We will subsequently look to develop a longer-term plan for future events, including the timeline and commercial approach."

The suspension and later resumption of auctions reflect the market downturn and the current slight improvement, according to a third source.

"While we are encouraged by recent signs of improvements in the rough-diamond trading sector, we will continue to adopt a prudent and watchful approach to supply," De Beers added.

Prices and flexibility terms at the sight were stable, dealers said. The session ends on Friday. Sources said it was too early to estimate the sales value, but they expected a slight improvement in demand compared with the first two sales of the year, as the market had picked up and sightholders had deferred purchases from the January and February sights. [rapaport.com]



Know Your Corporate Leader

Full Name: Maungo Sebonego
Position: Head of Treasury
Institution: Botswana Savings Bank
Date Started: April 2025
Nature of business: Banking

Stanbic, GIZ partner to accelerate solar energy uptake

STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA HAS partnered with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to boost the adoption of onsite solar photovoltaic (PV) and energy efficiency projects in Botswana's commercial and industrial sectors. The landmark union comes as part of yet another move from Stanbic Bank Botswana to support sustainable energy initiatives, creating value for businesses and communities whilst supporting greater environmental care and reduced carbon footprints.

Designed to help businesses lower their energy costs, strengthen their energy reliability, and support Botswana's broader sustainability agenda, the effort forms part of the Project Development Programme (PDP), an initiative commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. Implemented by GIZ in selected countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, South, and South-East Asia, the PDP focuses on developing bankable renewable energy projects by providing targeted technical support and expert advisory services. Botswana is one of the key markets in which this will be rolled out, aligned to Botswana's transition to a more sustainable energy future.

"Stanbic Bank Botswana is proud to play a role in supporting this sustainable energy transition. Our union with GIZ is part of the ongoing efforts to empower businesses with the right tools and financial solutions to invest in renewable energy. By enabling access to clean energy, we are not only helping businesses improve efficiency and reduce costs, but also actively contributing to Botswana's economic growth and energy resilience. As a bank rooted in our purpose



Gosata Kgari, Head of Vehicle and Asset Finance at Stanbic Bank Botswana

- Botswana is our home, we drive her growth - we are committed to supporting initiatives that deliver long-term value for our clients and the nation," said Gosata Kgari, Head of Vehicle and Asset Finance at Stanbic Bank Botswana.

Eligible Stanbic Bank Botswana clients will access GIZ's independent technical expertise, including feasibility assessments, energy cost analysis, and guidance on project development and implementation. Stanbic Bank Botswana will complement this support with tailored financing options to ensure viable projects can move swiftly from concept to execution. By bringing together GIZ's technical capabilities and Stanbic Bank's financial expertise, the partnership bridges a critical gap between advisory and implementation, offering businesses a clear and practical pathway to sustainability.

"The transition to renewable energy is no longer a choice; it is a necessity for ensuring

long-term energy security, environmental sustainability, and economic resilience. Our partnership with Stanbic Bank Botswana strengthens our ability to support businesses with practical, informed, and scalable solutions. By combining technical expertise with access to finance, we are helping to remove key barriers that often hinder progress. This collaboration is about turning intent into action, empowering businesses to take confident steps toward cleaner energy and contributing meaningfully to Botswana's sustainable development goals," said Taboka Motlhabane, Technical Advisor at GIZ Botswana.

Set to run until 31 December 2025, the partnership reflects a shared vision to unlock Botswana's renewable energy potential through impactful, solutions-driven collaboration that supports long-term economic and environmental sustainability.

Choppies' ESG and sustainability journey

Vidya Sanooj, Choppies Group's head of Corporate Affairs, delivered a keynote address at the London School of Economic (LSE) Africa Summit last week under the topic 'The Impact of ESG: Costs and Opportunities on Stewardship in the FMCG and Retail Sectors in Botswana'. This is part of her speech:



Sanooj

AT CHOPPIES, ESG HAS ALWAYS BEEN part of our DNA—long before it became a global priority. We have always strived to create shared value, balancing profitability with societal and environmental impact. While we initially did not formalise our ESG efforts, we have evolved alongside global ESG expectations. Our early ESG reporting focused on Gender diversity, (we have around 55% women); Employee training, (with approximately 10 to 15% of unskilled employees receiving formal training every year); and local supplier development. We later expanded our reporting to energy and water consumption and are now preparing to disclose our carbon footprint and track emissions across our supply chain. I am proud to say that Choppies is recognised as the ESG leader in Botswana's retail sector. But to us, ESG is not just about reporting—it's about action and results. We provide guidance to the entire team to live these values in everything they do. Our ESG achievements are supported by our commitment to develop local businesses, upskilling the population, caring for the environment and providing the population access to retail and financial services. Our business model is built on ESG principles in our supply chain ensuring we have the flexibility to create value in different regions. Our in-house logistics and distribution network is the key driver of providing the best value for money for customers. The efficiency of our distribution centres allows us to provide customers with a large range of products as well as a consistent supply of fresh, high-quality products.

This has been further boosted by the recent acquisition. By having our own manufacturing process, we can avoid the middleman and ensure reduced costs and better stock level management. And by controlling larger parts of the supply chain, we can ensure they adhere to our ESG principles. Our ESG approach is underpinned by the principle of shared value and our commitment to society and communities is part of our DNA. The vast distribution network I have mentioned ensures we can provide access to retail even in remote areas. Not only providing access to groceries but also to various financial services. We transact over 400 million pula/5 billion Pula annually mainly to the unbanked, which provides true support for an inclusive

economic system. We also operate 22 branches of money exchange and offer electronic payments systems in Botswana, which we have also recently launched in Zambia. We don't just sell products, we build economies. Through our presence in local communities, we are also well positioned to engage in shared value projects. We believe business should be a force for good, and we invest in various comprehensive corporate social investment programmes. This includes sports and wellness initiatives, education and health awareness. We invest approximately 4 million Pula or 1.5% of EBITDA annually.

As part of our CSR, we incentivised and rewarded our successful Botswana Olympic Medallists at Paris in 2024 led by Tebogolo Let Sile who won Botswana's first gold medal in the two hundred metre. Last year Choppies Botswana also signed a 3-year agreement with the Botswana Football Association to support the under 15 and under 18 national soccer teams. The sponsorship is worth 5 million pula and will help with the developmental stage of football in Botswana by providing resources for the young national team members. In support of the Government's national housing appeal initiative for the less privileged and disabled, Choppies has donated over 100 houses from inception in various villages of Botswana to date. Another beneficiary is Airborne Lifeline Foundation, which uses the Choppies aircraft at a reduced cost to transport health professionals conducting outreach healthcare visits to remote parts of the country. As of now 281 medical specialists have travelled to treat a total of more than 4 100 patients across the country in 46 flights. We are particularly proud of our close collaboration with suppliers and farmers. In Botswana 85 percent of our suppliers are local. By working with local suppliers, we provide smaller suppliers with the opportunity to formalise their business by providing them a route to market through our vast network across all countries. We support over 5 000 farmers across Botswana, Namibia and Zambia and over 100 local farmers supply butchery products to our stores (valued at P8 million pula a month equivalent to 600 000 US dollars.) We also provide temporary advances to local farmers to develop their crop as a part of a crop buying agreement. This encourages the renewed interest in farming activity and

food security for the nation, and aligns with our shared value approach, benefiting the farmers and customers as well as Choppies and our investors. We advance around 40 million pula in Botswana annually. By supporting local farmers and small businesses we fuel industrialisation, create jobs and drive economic growth in Botswana and beyond. Turning to the environment - we recognise our environmental impact and are actively working to reduce our footprint in five key areas - water usage, energy efficiency, waste reduction, sustainable packaging and logistics. In doing so we have aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals specifically those on clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, responsible consumption and production, and climate action.

In the year ahead we will look to start tracking the emissions of our distribution fleet. We currently operate a fleet of over 680 vehicles providing us with more control of our environmental impact. We also make use of cross loads and backloads by ensuring trucks are full when delivering between countries and stores to reduce costs and our impact. Over the past year we have made a number of advancements in our environmental tracking and performance. We have installed solar power at 16 stores in Namibia with the rest underway. We also installed solar power at our fruit and vegetable and beverages distribution centres in Botswana with the remainder in the pipeline. Since May 2023, our solar system in Botswana has generated over 1 300 megawatt hours of electricity, reducing carbon emissions by over 660 tonnes and saving more than 500 tonnes of coal. This is equivalent to planting 900 trees. In addition, we are piloting a water recovery system in Botswana stores to reclaim and recycle water from multiple sources. This innovation helps to conserve this vital resource in the water-scarce regions in which we operate. Through our energy-efficient refrigeration initiative, 99% of our island freezers have been converted into self-contained, low-energy units, drastically cutting electricity consumption. Comprehensive waste segregation is also in place in all stores, ensuring responsible disposal and recycling of paper, plastic, biodegradable, and hazardous materials. In line with our zero-waste ambitions, we have introduced biodegradable checkout bags and innovative inventory management systems to minimise food waste. For some, ESG is a compliance exercise. For us, it is a strategic advantage. ESG enhances: Cost efficiency by reducing waste and optimising energy use; It improves supply chain resilience by strengthening local supplier networks; It enhances customer trust by meeting the expectations of ethically-conscious consumers and it supports: Long-term business sustainability by ensuring resilience in an evolving world.

At Choppies we recognise that we can always do more. But we are proud to be setting the standard for responsible retail in Botswana.

The future of retail in Africa is ESG-driven - Consumers are demanding it; Investors are prioritising it; Regulators are enforcing it. Companies that embrace ESG will not only survive—they will lead. At Choppies, we are committed to leading the way for responsible retail in Africa.

Lucara terminates Karowe contractor

... shifts to owner-managed operations for site-based activities

LUCARA DIAMOND CORP. HAS announced a strategic change in the management of its Karowe underground project in Botswana. The Company has terminated its Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management contract with JDS Energy & Mining Inc. for the development of the UGP, effective March 31, 2025. The Company has entered into a Master Service Agreement with JDS to complete specific engineering components of the project, while all site-based contracts and activities will transition to owner-managed operations.

This decision aligns with Lucara's commitment to optimizing project execution and maximising shareholder value. The shift to owner-managed operations for site-based activities is expected to provide several benefits, including: Enhanced cost control and operational efficiency; Improved flexibility in decision-making and resource allocation; Direct oversight of critical project milestones and timelines; and leveraging Lucara's extensive in-house



Lamb

expertise and knowledge of the Karowe mine

The UGP continues to make significant progress. The production shaft has now reached over 720 meters below surface and the ventilation shaft has now reached over 680 meters below surface. Substantial advancements have been made on the production man and materials winder building, with the majority of the required surface infrastructure already in place. This includes the installation of permanent bulk

air coolers and other critical components, positioning the project for continued success as it moves forward under the new management structure.

William Lamb, President and CEO of Lucara, commented on the transition: "We are confident that this strategic shift in project management will allow us to better leverage our team's deep understanding of the Karowe mine and its unique characteristics. By taking direct control of site-based activities, we are positioning ourselves to respond more rapidly to project needs and challenges. This approach will enable us to drive the UGP forward with greater efficiency and precision, ultimately delivering enhanced value to our shareholders and stakeholders."

The Company appreciates the contributions made by JDS to date and looks forward to their continued involvement under the MSA in specific engineering aspects of the project. Lucara remains committed to the successful development of the UGP, which will extend the life of mine at Karowe and secure its position as a leading producer of large, high-quality diamonds. [PRESS RELEASE]

Kwa Nokeng Oil reaffirms commitment to local transporters

KWA NOKENG OIL STANDS BY ITS longstanding and unblemished record of working with citizen-owned enterprises. Over the years, the company has successfully partnered with dozens of citizen suppliers and other stakeholders, maintaining transparent, fair, and mutually beneficial relationships without incident. This strong track record reflects the company's commitment to empowering local businesses and supporting national economic growth.

"We have always believed in fostering

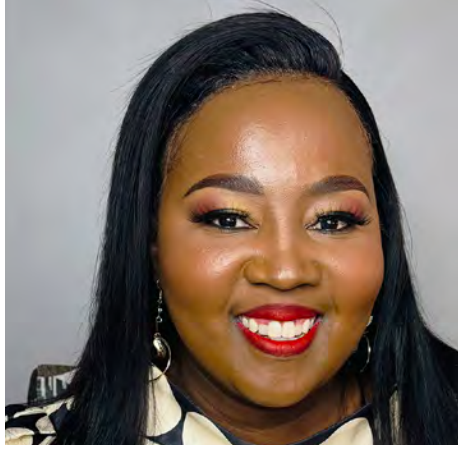
sustainable partnerships with citizen-owned enterprises, and our history speaks for itself," said Mahube Mpugwa the CEO Kwa Nokeng Oil. "While we will present our case in court, we remain confident that the facts will prevail."

Kwa Nokeng Oil would also like to reassure the public, its customers, and all stakeholders that its fuel supply remains stable and uninterrupted. The company continues to operate at full capacity, ensuring the reliable delivery of petroleum products to all its depots across the country.



Mahube

The Dark Factories Armageddon



DR DIMAKATSO POLOKELO

SOMETHING UNSETTLING IS unfolding in China's industrial zones, a quiet revolution that could redefine the future of labour itself. The factory floors, once pulsating with the rhythmic clatter of machinery and the murmurs of workers, have fallen eerily silent. The overhead lights, which once illuminated rows of assembly lines manned by human hands, are now switched off. The only glow comes from the dim indicators of machines, self-sufficient, relentless and utterly indifferent to the absence of people.

This is the era of "dark factories", fully automated manufacturing facilities where robots, governed by artificial intelligence, assemble smartphones, automotive parts and consumer electronics with unnerving precision. There are no lunch breaks, no shift changes, no tired eyes straining under fluorescent lights. The production lines never stop. They hum along in near-total darkness because there is no need for illumination, no human workers to see and no supervisors to oversee operations. Just autonomous machines, communicating in a language of data, recalibrating their movements in real time to eliminate inefficiencies.

China, long hailed as the "world's factory," has fully embraced this revolution. Companies like Changying Precision Technology and Midea Group now operate factories where production is entirely automated. In one facility, 90% of the workforce has been replaced by robots, slashing human labour costs while

increasing output by 250%. A dark factory is a fully automated production facility that operates without human intervention, relying instead on advanced robotics, artificial intelligence, and interconnected systems (IoT) to manufacture goods. These facilities are called "dark" because they require no lighting, with no workers present, the production lines run autonomously in near-total darkness. Equipped with self-monitoring sensors, machine learning algorithms, and robotic arms, these factories can operate 24/7 with minimal downtime, adjusting processes in real-time for maximum efficiency. While they promise unprecedented productivity and precision, their rise also raises critical questions about the future of labour, economic equity and industrial self-sufficiency particularly for regions where manufacturing jobs employ a larger part of the population or were manufacturing the pathway for governments to increase the employment rate considerably. They come along with higher productivity, lower costs and near-perfect consistency. But at what cost to the millions who once depended on these jobs? Should Africa follow suit?

These highly automated facilities offer irrefutable efficiencies. Where human hands might falter after hours of repetitive tasks, mechanical arms perform with micron-level precision indefinitely, their error rates plummeting to near-zero while output scales exponentially. The financial calculus becomes indubitable when production that once required hundreds of workers now needs only a handful of technicians monitoring systems that never unionize, never take maternity leave, never demand cost-of-living adjustments and never get retire. The flexibility of these systems allows for astonishing adaptability - an AI-coordinated factory can reconfigure its entire production line between different products in the time it takes to upload new programming, enabling mass customization at scales previously unimaginable. Hazardous production environments that once endangered workers now operate safely in complete darkness, the machines unaffected by toxic fumes or extreme temperatures that would threaten human

survival.

Industrial revolutions have always displaced workers while creating new opportunities, the 19th century's textile machines erased artisan weavers but birthed factory jobs. Today's automation differs in pace and selectivity. Where steam power required more workers to tend machines, AI-driven production needs exponentially fewer. For African nations still industrializing, this poses a unique dilemma: how to leverage Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies while still completing the job creation tasks of the Third. The challenge isn't just adopting new systems, but doing so while mid-stride in development.

What does this dark factory revolution mean for a continent where 60% of the population is under 25, and unemployment is a ticking time bomb? If Africa adopts dark factories, will we leapfrog into a new era of industrial competitiveness? Or will we sacrifice our greatest asset, our people, at the altar of efficiency? Emerging technologies hint at possible

compromises. 'Cobots' (collaborative robots) work alongside humans in Ethiopian pharmaceutical plants, handling dangerous chemical mixing while workers focus on quality control. Digital twinning in South African mines lets engineers simulate upgrades before implementation, preserving jobs while improving safety. These innovations suggest automation could enhance rather than replace human labour, if deliberately guided by policy.

While dark factories represent the most extreme form of automation, they're part of a broader industrial evolution already underway. Across African manufacturing hubs, from textile plants to automotive factories, partial automation is quietly transforming workflows. Sensors monitor equipment health and while robotic welders operate alongside human counterparts. This gradual shift makes the dark factory debate not speculative but urgent, the technologies enabling fully unmanned production are already being adopted piecemeal across the continent, often without coordinated workforce strategies. deliberate.

These automation-driven changes extend their impact far beyond production floors. The transformation of manufacturing work inevitably affects the surrounding ecosystem - from small businesses serving worker needs to service providers depending on their wages. This interdependence highlights a critical challenge: Africa must develop new economic strategies that account for both technological modernization and human welfare. The continent's current economic models, still largely dependent on labour-intensive industries, now face a global shift toward automated production. This presents a strategic dilemma with no simple solutions. Avoiding automation risks losing competitive ground in global markets, while unplanned adoption could exacerbate inequality if benefits concentrate among few beneficiaries.

Three potential pathways emerge: full adoption which prioritizes competitiveness but risks workforce displacement, resistance protects existing jobs at the cost of long-term relevance and managed transition seeks to balance efficiency

gains with inclusive growth. As global manufacturers accelerate automation, African policymakers face complex calculations: how to modernize industries while creating alternative opportunities, how to develop technical skills at scale, and how to ensure automation complements rather than replaces human potential. This will require unprecedented coordination between educators, policymakers and industry leaders to turn industrial transformation into broad-based opportunity.

Some nations are testing hybrid approaches that might inform African strategies. Germany's 'Industry 4.0' maintains high employment by pairing automation with vocational training, while Vietnam negotiates technology transfer agreements requiring local workforce upskilling. These models suggest automation needn't be all-or-nothing, but their success depends on educational infrastructure and corporate partnerships Africa is still building. Whether such middle paths can work at continental scale remains untested.

BDIH hosts Techstars Founder Catalyst Africa Botswana Launch

TECHSTARS, A GLOBAL STARTUP accelerator and venture capital firm based in New York, USA, officiated its expansion to Africa with the launch of its Startup Community Catalyst Africa Botswana initiative at the Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH), Icon Building, on Wednesday 26 March 2025. Set to impact the African startup ecosystem, the launch of this initiative brought together an array of attendees comprising entrepreneurs, investors, corporate leaders, and policy makers for a pivotal evening unpacking the entrance of the start-up accelerator firm and its significance to the broader African region.

The Startup Community Catalyst Africa Botswana initiative holds immense significance as it aligns with BDIH as per a shared objective to catalyse and shape the future of Africa's startup ecosystem. Particularly, it seeks to accelerate growth

for early-stage entrepreneurs in the ideation stage by enabling them to scale and ultimately drive long-term impact in start-up communities. Signifying Botswana's latent potential towards becoming an emerging innovation hub, Botswana is amongst four other African countries where access to the resources offered by this initiative are available. These countries include: Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and South Africa.

During the next two years, this initiative will be flighting a series of three programmes designed to derive long term start-up community impact: Techstars Community Development Lab: A two-day program designed to cultivate workshop and discussion. This equips participants with the knowledge and tactics to build stronger startup communities; Techstars Startup Weekend: A fifty-four-hour (three-day) event not only provides

entrepreneurs with a unique opportunity to not only participate in a team-based start-up building competition but grants them with access to workshops spearheaded by industry experts as well; Techstars Founder Catalyst: A 10-week pre-seed entrepreneurial programme available in three facets namely: Non-Equity, Hybrid, and Part-Time. It is designed to take entrepreneurs through a sequential process that ultimately enables them to seamlessly pitch their ideas to stakeholders.

The launch featured a spectrum of dynamic activities, one of which contained a panel discussion titled "How To Build A Thriving Start-up Ecosystem In Botswana". A was held discussion between four panelists namely: Ms. Bonolo Tabona, Mr. Vikash Ponangi, Ms. Sithembile Dinkgake, and Ms. Emilie Vallauri. In a shared tone, one of the key takeaways shared was of the need to foster a platform for shared

collaboration amongst entrepreneurs by facilitating eased tariff barriers and facilitating a regional start-up ecosystem.

In a quest to encourage Botswana to augment their entrepreneurial perspective to that of outside Botswana, Ms. Tabona highlighted, "entrepreneurs and innovators need to expand their perspective to building for Africa rather than limiting it to only Botswana as there is a lot of product building and little uptake. The startup community is growing and we must strive to position Botswana as the Headquarter of such development."

Through a comprehensive approach combining mentorship, funding, and networking, Techstars has provided support to Botswana's emerging startup ecosystem, offering participants extraordinary opportunities to engage with industry experts and gain global insights into potential breakthrough innovations.



BANK OF BOTSWANA

1 April 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

The Bank invites Companies to tender for supply and delivery of Point of Sale devices to Bank of Botswana including support and maintenance for a period of five (5) years, Tender Reference No: BOB/2025/03/08

1. The Procurement Method is, Open Domestic Bidding.
2. The Evaluation method is, Least cost selection for supplies.
3. Tenderers must, in order to be considered for award of this contract, be registered with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) under Codes: 120, ICT Technical Support Services, Sub code(s): 01, Systems Development services and maintenance services and Code 203, Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical and ICT Supplies, Sub code (s) 01: Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Spares and Accessories (include ICT, photographic equipment and others).
4. Interested companies may purchase the tender documents for a non-refundable fee of P350.00 (Three Hundred and Fifty Pula, VAT inclusive). The payment can be done by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or cash at the Bank's Banking Hall in Gaborone, or at Francistown Branch Banking Hall, from 1 - 24 April 2025, Monday to Friday at 0900 to 1400 hours in Gaborone and from 0900 to 1245 hours in Francistown Branch during weekdays. The 50% price discount for purchase of the tender document will be applied to companies owned by youth, women and people living with disability who should provide proof of the same to qualify.
5. Companies are advised to email proof of payment to Marovu-TanagoM@bob.bw who shall send the complete tender documents by electronically.

Bank Details for EFT payments

Bank : Bank of Botswana
 Account Name : Accpac Sundry Receipts
 Account Number : 0000110900001
 Branch Code : 910167
 Branch Name : Gaborone
 SWIFT Code : BBOTBWGX
 Please include reference (Company Name)

6. Enquiries and clarifications relating to this tender may be addressed to enquiries20250308@bob.bw.
7. The tender will be closed on 25 April 2025, at 1000 hours and submissions will be opened at 1400 hours or later as the Bank of Botswana may advise.



VACANCY: SENIOR BUYER

Are you a strategic thinker with passion for procurement and strong background in ensuring cost-effectiveness, and alignment with market trends? we want to hear from you! We are seeking a dedicated and experienced **Senior Buyer** to join our dynamic team.

Key Responsibilities:

- Develop and implement effective buying strategies for appliances, electronics, electrical and hardware products to meet the company's goals and business growth.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with suppliers and manufacturers, negotiating favorable terms and prices.
- Stay updated on industry trends, market pricing, and emerging technologies to drive purchasing decisions.
- Manage inventory levels to ensure optimal stock levels are maintained while reducing excess inventory.
- Work closely with the logistics, marketing, and sales teams to align purchasing activities
- Ensure all purchasing activities comply with company policies and industry regulations.

Key Requirements:

- A degree in Business Management, Supply Chain Management, or a related field.
- Proven 15 years of experience as a Senior Buyer or in a similar role within the industry.
- In-depth knowledge of the appliance and electronics distribution market, trends, and key suppliers.
- Excellent analytical skills and the ability to make data-driven decisions.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment, managing multiple priorities.

Please submit your resume, qualification and cover letter to hr@distron.co.bw not later than 22 April 2025.

LOADSHEDDING

Kenewendo thrown to the deep end

When Bogolo Kenewendo accepted her appointment as Minister of Minerals and Energy she could not have imagined the mine field she was throwing herself into. On face value it was the luxury and power of ministerial perks that stood out – many envied her. She knew that there was stalemate on negotiations between Botswana and De Beers. She was well aware that the sales of diamonds had declined significantly and possibly had her game plan well at hand. It is highly possible that she knew little of the depth of Botswana's power supply challenges – at the time BPC had somehow kept the lights on. That cover was blown away two weeks ago when suddenly the country endured the worst load shedding in decades. By the end of this week, she had come clean about the seriousness of the problem when addressing Parliament and not stopped there. She immediately left for South Africa where she negotiated with her equal to help ease supply issues and negotiate better prices. As things stand it will take years to restore and ensure reliable power supply – already she is streaming ahead to place extra costs on the consumers with a looming tariff increase. Below is her speech at the National Assembly:

THE UPDATE

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF Botswana, through the Ministry of Minerals and Energy, wishes to inform the public on the current status of electricity supply and the measures being undertaken to ensure continued energy security, reliability, and system integrity.

In the past week, Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) commenced rotational load management to align national demand with available supply. This decision, though regrettable, is a necessary operational response to preserve the stability of

the national grid and prevent the risk of a wider system disturbance.

The Ministry acknowledges the inconvenience caused to citizens, businesses, and institutions and extends its appreciation to members of the public for their understanding and cooperation. Government remains fully engaged in efforts to restore optimal power supply as swiftly and sustainably as possible.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

The power supply situation has become precarious on account of five (5) factors:

Factor No.1: Morupule B Units suffer intermittent boiler tube failures from time to

time due to construction and equipment defects. To remedy the defects, units must be shut down in sequency for remedial works, which take approximately eleven (11) months to complete. Since the commencement of commercial operation of the plant in 2013, Morupule B has not achieved the international standard of an Energy Availability Factor (EAF) of 85% due to substandard construction. During the initial operation phase of the plant (2014-2019), the EAF was an average of 57%. The variance in plant availability compared to standard was due to frequent boiler tube failures arising from construction defects. This availability

level dropped further to an average of 33% in the period 2020 – 2022 due to operational challenges encountered by BPC, in addition to boiler tube failures. To address the operational challenges, BPC implemented a plant operation and maintenance strategy in 2021 which restored the plant EAF to an average of 57% in the period 2023 – 2025. Currently, the country is experiencing low internal generation precipitated by the cascaded failure of Morupule B Unit 2 (on 14 February 2025) and Unit 4 (on 22nd March 2025) while Unit 3 is on long term planned outage for defects remediation. This leaves only one unit in service (Unit 1) which is operating at



Kenewendo

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

INVITATION TO TENDER

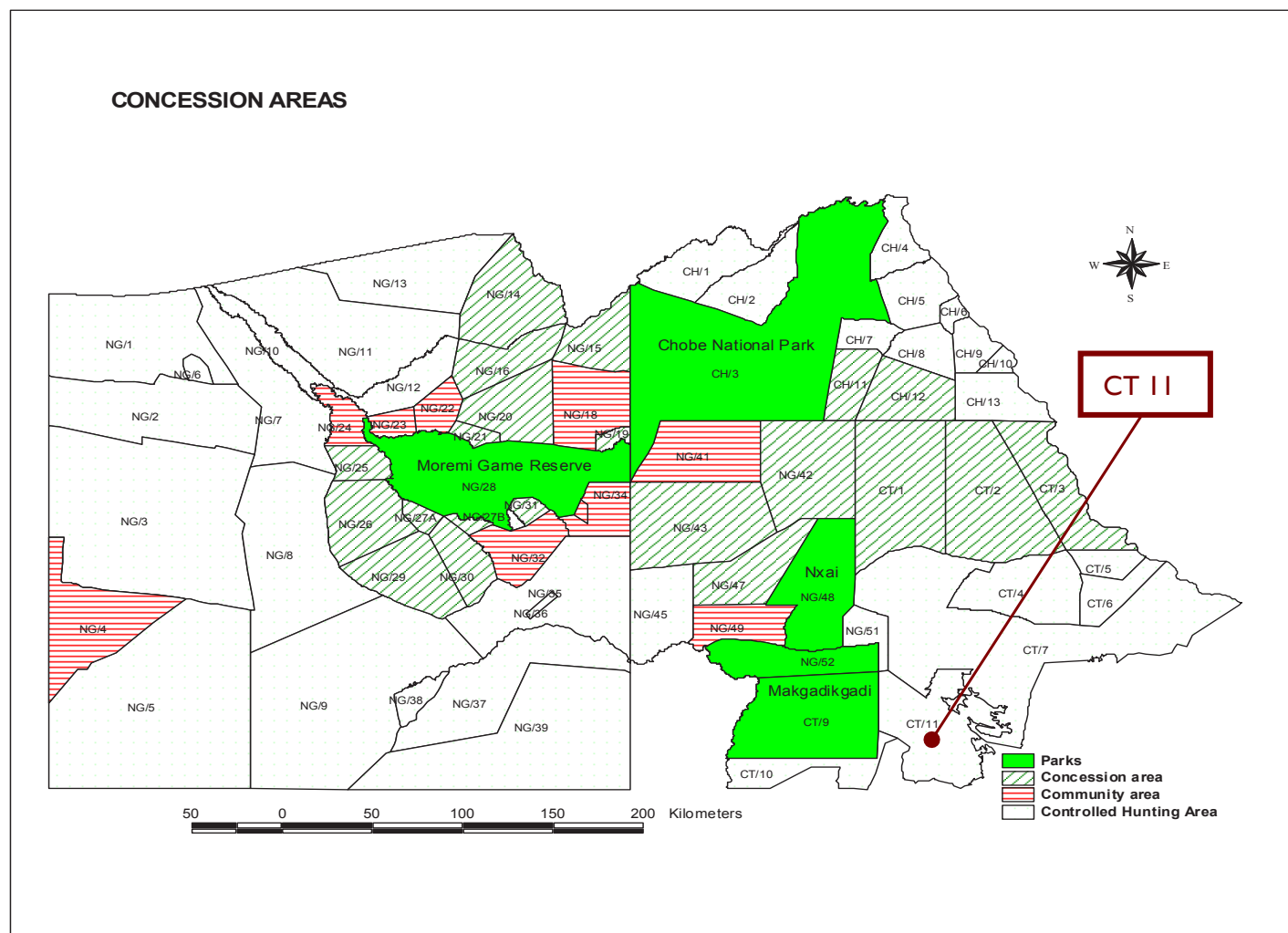
Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) is a body corporate established through an Act of Parliament with the mandate to: Market and promote Botswana's tourism; grade and classify tourist facilities; and to promote investment in the tourism sector as well as grade and classify tourist facilities.

BTO is mandated to develop and improve existing tourism opportunities and diversify the sector into the other forms of tourism. In an endeavour to grow the tourism base and accelerate the development of the tourism sector, the organisation has undertaken to develop land use and management plans for concession areas to advise optimum tourism land utilisation.

BTO is desirous of producing a Land Use and Management Plan for Controlled Hunting Area (CHA) CT11 on behalf of Gwezotshaa Natural Resources Conservation Trust.

The area is designated for non consumptive tourism.

Location MAP



In light of this, BTO invites Botswana registered Companies, Partnerships and Consortia to consider and submit offers for the below listed tender in a sealed referenced envelope clearly marked;

1. INVITATION TO TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE REVIEW OF THE LAND USE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF CONCESSION AREA CT11
Tender Reference: BTO026/0205-24-25/CT11 MANAGEMENT PLAN
PPRA CODE 320: Town and Regional Planning, Sub-Code 01: Urban & Regional Planning and PPRA CODE 313: Environmental Services,
Sub-Code 05: Natural Resource Planning and Management

2. The closing date for submissions is 05th May 2025 @ 1000hrs

3. COMPULSORY SITE VISIT

- BTO will facilitate and coordinate a compulsory self-sponsored site visit on **16th April 2025**. Assembly Area: Gweta Village Kgotla at 0900hrs.
- Please note that you are expected to make your own travel arrangements and other related costs. BTO will not fund any part of the site visits.
 - You are also advised to bring a company resolution authorizing the respective representative (s) for the site visit should the Company Director (s) not be present to represent themselves.
 - Please note that due to the conditions of the roads, the site visit will require a four-wheel drive vehicle with adequate ground clearance

4. The Physical address for submission of proposal documents is:

Botswana Tourism Organisation
Fairscape Precinct, Plot 70667
Fairgrounds Office Park, Building 1A & 1B (East Wing) - Gaborone, Botswana

5. The tender documents are available for purchase from Thursday **03rd April 2025** at a non-refundable fee of BWP 1000.00 (One Thousand Pula Only) made in favour of BTO. Youth Owned Companies will purchase the tender document at a non-refundable fee of BWP 500.00 (Five Hundred Pula Only) Purchase of tender documents shall be made through electronic transfer or deposit at the following banking details:

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

5. Once the payment has been made, the deposit slip should be attached and a request for the tender sent via email at procurement@botswanaturism.co.bw.

6. Tender offers submitted late and after the closing date shall not be accepted. Facsimile, telex, or e-mail Bid tenders shall also not be accepted.

Any substantive queries regarding this tenders should be reduced to writing addressed to the;
Procurement Manager Email: procurement@botswanaturism.co.bw. Telephone : +267 3913111

www.botswanaturism.co.bw

a reduced load of 105MW instead of 150MW due to defects, which require an outage to remedy.

Factor No. 2: Lack of a clear plan of mitigation and urgent production of electricity given the 13 years of failed installed capacity at Morupule B. This coupled with the significant delays in successfully carrying out the Morupule B remedial works to improve plant availability hence continued reliance on power imports exacerbates the compromised security of supply.

Factor No. 3: There is a shortage of power in the region, and the available electricity in the market, especially during peak periods, is predominantly supplied from emergency/diesel plants, which comes at prohibitive rates.

Factor No. 4: The increasing cost of importing electricity from South Africa especially at emergency rates that have increased from increased by 166% (85 thebe to 226 thebe and most recently an increase to 550 thebe.

Factor No. 5: The stressed financial position of BPC and its inability to meet its liabilities. The supply shortfall has forced BPC to institute rotational cyclic load shedding since Saturday 22nd March 2025 to match supply and demand to avert total system collapse. As of 31st January 2025, the Corporation's creditor balances stood at P2,609,218,966.61.

It should be noted that BPC's tariffs currently at P1.27 per kilowatt-hour are significantly low compared to neighbouring countries such as South Africa and Namibia whose tariffs average P2.78 per kilowatt-hour and P2.06 per kilowatt-hour respectively. In the recent past, BPC imported emergency power from Eskom at tariffs as high as P4.65 per kWh, and sold the same to its customers for an average of P1.27 per kWh resulting in an immediately realised deficit of P3.38 per kWh. The end result was that BPC resorted to importing exorbitant power to meet local demand without recovering same from its consumers, inclusive of those who could afford to pay. In addition, BPC has in the last 13 years spent more than 33 billion Pula on Morupule; 5.7 billion pula on O&M, 18 billion pula of imports while it continues to service its loan to ICBC of 10Billion Pula, a payment of 700 million per annum and 140 million pula to service its loan to BPOPF. This is all against electricity sales revenues are P430 million.

INTERVENTIONS AND MITIGATING ACTIONS

BPC is financially stressed and we are putting together a rescue plan and debt restructuring. Key to this plan is: Adjusting tariffs in the short to medium term; Renegotiating a better priced and stable guaranteed supply from Eskom; Unbundling of BPC; Diplomatic engagement of our creditors on Morupule B especially the Chinese government.

We have a power crisis reflecting various unsustainable decisions and failure to future plan at both production and the utility company. That said, the Government remains resolute in its commitment to providing secure, affordable, and reliable power supply for all. To that end, significant investments and policy reforms are underway, including:

BPC is in the process of recovering Unit 2 and

Unit 4 at Morupule B power station. Unit 4 is expected to be back in service by end of today (1st of April 2025) while Unit 2 is scheduled to back in service on 17th April 2025. The supply situation is expected to gradually improve with recovery of Morupule B units and barring the unforeseen, it is expected that the supply constrains will ease by mid-June 2025.

We are re-negotiating with South Africa for a stable guaranteed supply at reasonable rates. We will meet the South African Minister of Electricity and his team on the 3rd April 2025 to finalize our agreement.

The Government endeavours to expedite securing of new coal fired base load generation towards our energy security objective. In this regard, Government is in discussions towards the procurement of a 615MW base load coal fired power station, which is expected to take 18-24 months to deliver. While maintaining the tendered 600MW Mmamabula power project by Jindal.

The government has upgraded and expedited the renewable energy yield to 1.5GW (1500 MW) through distributed solar projects. On April 4th, the RFPs of these projects will be published on the Government gazette. These include; 500MW in Maun, 500MW in Lethakane and 400MW in Isang and 100MW in Jwaneng. These projects will help us work on our energy mix and be responsive to the demand in the short-medium term.

It should however be noted that the security of supply will only be at the desired level post 2027 when new coal fired base load generation would be fully on the grid.

LOOKING AHEAD

We should be able to stabilize supply this weekend based on 1) Morupule A continuing to generate 42 MW, Morupule B Units 1 & 4 coming online this evening with 182MW, and a negotiated stable supply of 200MW from South Africa. While Morupule B unit 2 is scheduled to be back online April 17th with 150MW.

Government will continue to support BPC through provision of resources to secure power imports and alleviate the prevailing power shortage while new generation projects are being implemented. We are fast tracking local production as stated above, infrastructure upgrading and maintenance and grid stabilization.

We remain committed to our targets of "Affordable all access by 2030", "Energy security and exports by 2030", and "Energy mix 50/50 by 2030".

The Ministry of Minerals and Energy will continue to work in close collaboration with BPC and all relevant stakeholders to manage the current situation and implement solutions that ensure long-term system resilience. The public is encouraged to continue supporting national energy-saving efforts, and to use electricity responsibly during this period. Government remains confident that the current interventions will stabilise the power supply in the short term and build the foundation for a secure and sustainable energy future.

AGOA trade programme under threat from Trump tariffs

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP HAS moved to impose sweeping tariffs on most goods imported to the US, including from African countries that benefit from a US flagship trade programme for the continent.

Analysts say the new tariffs suggest that the renewal of the initiative, known as the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa), is extremely unlikely.

Here are some key facts about the trade accord:

WHAT IS AGOA?

Agoa is a US trade initiative passed in 2000 under former president Bill Clinton to deepen trade ties with sub-Saharan Africa and help African countries develop their economies.

It provides duty-free access to the US market for thousands of products including motor vehicles and parts, textiles and clothing, minerals and metals, agricultural products and chemicals exported by eligible African countries.

It has been renewed twice and is due to expire in September 2025.

WHO BENEFITS?

About 35 African countries are currently eligible. Countries can lose and regain eligibility based on criteria including economic policies and protection of human rights.

A number of countries including South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho,

Madagascar and Ethiopia have successfully used Agoa to boost exports to the US, drive industrialisation and create jobs, especially in textiles, automobiles and minerals including crude oil.

The US benefits by furthering its interests on the continent. It also gains access to critical minerals and investment opportunities.

Countries that undermine US national security or foreign policy interests are not eligible for Agoa.

US lawmakers view it as an important soft power tool, particularly as a counter to Chinese influence.

Sectors such as South Africa's automotive industry as well as Kenya and Lesotho's clothing sectors would be hit hardest from a sudden rise in tariffs or non-renewal of Agoa.

WHAT DO CRITICS SAY?

Many analysts have said that Agoa is underutilised. Only about half of eligible countries have developed national Agoa utilization strategies, and the majority of exports come from just a few of them.

While the apparel sector and automotive industry have been the programme's biggest success stories, other industries have lagged. US imports from Agoa beneficiaries peaked in 2008 at \$82bn (R1.56-trillion) and had fallen to \$29.1bn (R552.91bn) in 2024, according to the Agoa website.

Some analysts say Agoa has had a positive

impact but that it needs to be updated and improved to include newer industries such as technology and digital services.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

African countries want a 10-year extension, but economists say that the Trump administration's protectionist trade policies mean Agoa's renewal is unlikely.

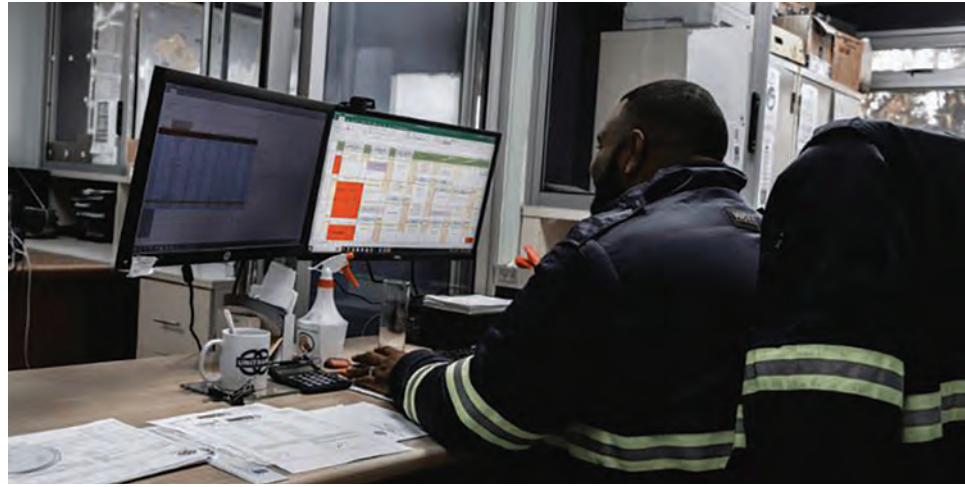
The new tariffs have heightened the risk that Agoa may be scrapped altogether even before it expires, unless the region presents strong bargaining chips to keep it in place, analysts say.

Government officials from South Africa and Madagascar said they were waiting for clarity on whether the reciprocal tariffs announced by Trump will be applied to goods that are exported under Agoa.

Agoa's extension requires a decision of the US Congress and is thereafter signed into law by the US president. [timeslive.co.za]



Unitrans leading innovation in logistics



Staying ahead, delivering excellence- Unitrans leads the way in supply chain solutions

THE SUPPLY CHAIN LANDSCAPE IS transforming rapidly, driven by technological advancements, shifting market demands and the growing need for more resilient and sustainable competitive solutions.

Unitrans, a leading end-to-end supply chain and operations services business, continues redefining regional logistics by investing and leveraging cutting-edge technologies and staying ahead of emerging trends.

Key trends shaping logistics in 2025

According to industry analysts, key trends for 2025 include the growing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to predict demand fluctuations, optimise routing and enhance inventory management. Meanwhile, the Internet of Things (IoT) will continue to improve supply chain operations by providing unprecedented visibility of goods and vehicles.

Additionally, Robotic Process Automation (RPA) is expected to streamline supply chain operations by automating repetitive tasks, increasing efficiency and reducing costs across the value chain.

Analysts also foresee continued growth in last-mile delivery solutions, despite prevailing constraints in the logistics sector. With high mobile penetration rates across Sub-Saharan Africa, mobile money integration will remain a key enabler of seamless transactions within supply chains, though its corporate adoption may vary based on financial feasibility.

Experts highlight that infrastructure development, particularly in cross-border transportation, is expected to remain a priority, driven by increased public-private partnerships to bridge logistical gaps. Additionally, a rise in localised manufacturing and distribution hubs is anticipated, reducing reliance on long-distance supply chains and supporting regional economic growth.

As climate change concerns grow, experts predict that demand for sustainable logistics solutions is set to rise. Furthermore, simplified, localised digital models will become more prevalent, allowing businesses to test scenarios and optimise operations without disrupting real-world processes.

Unitrans: adopting innovation and digital transformation

"The future of logistics in Sub-Saharan Africa will be defined by innovation, agility and a customer-centric approach," says Edwin Hewitt, Unitrans CEO. "At Unitrans, we are committed to driving innovation, with technology and industry specific expertise forming the backbone of our operations, enabling us to deliver value to our clients."

In response to industry shifts, Unitrans

has made strategic investments in digital transformation. The company has designed its Enterprise Architecture technology stack to adapt and evolve with the unique challenges of the African and customer landscape.

"The growth of business lies in the seamless integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) with operational excellence," says Hewitt. "By embracing innovation and leveraging the combined power of these disciplines, Unitrans delivers the necessary solutions and remains ahead of the curve."

This commitment to innovation can be seen in the agriculture sector, where Unitrans uses drones, autonomous machinery and Variable Rate Technology (VRT), to enhance efficiency and sustainability across the agricultural logistics value chain.

Drones provide real-time data on crop health and field conditions, allowing farmers to make informed decisions on irrigation and pest management, ultimately enhancing crop yields. Self-driving tractors and harvesters optimise field operations with precise GPS navigation, reducing labour costs and soil compaction. Meanwhile VRT ensures the targeted application of fertilisers and herbicides, minimising waste and maximising resource efficiency.

"By integrating these advanced technologies, Unitrans not only boosts productivity, but also significantly reduces costs in the sugarcane growing process," says Hewitt.

A customer-centric approach Customers remain at the core of Unitrans' innovation efforts. "We continuously engage and collaborate with our customers to understand their evolving requirements and develop tailored solutions that address their specific challenges," says Hewitt.

To support this, Unitrans has implemented RPA to streamline internal operations. By reducing manual workloads and improving efficiency, teams have gained valuable time and capacity to focus on customer-centric innovation. This allows Unitrans to respond more quickly to customer needs and co-develop solutions that drive measurable value.

The company has also adopted an agile implementation strategy to test, learn and iterate on new solutions rapidly. This approach ensures adaptability to changing needs and technologies, delivering value quicker and more efficiently.

"Our commitment is to remain a trusted partner for our customers, shaping the future of logistics through tailored solutions that address the unique challenges and opportunities of Sub-Saharan Africa," says Hewitt.

IN STORES NOW

THE BSE'S LEADING LADIES

The local bourse has stepped up its inclusion efforts with 65 per cent of employees being ladies

The Patriot woman

lifestyle

Ker & Downey's Maxa opens

KER & DOWNEY BOTSWANA, a trailblazer in luxury safari adventures since 1968, proudly welcomed Maxa into its expanding portfolio, welcoming the camp's first guests on the 22nd of March 2025. This innovative and charming camp, which aims to redefine the classic Okavango Delta safari experience, is located in the remote Northeast and offers a rare opportunity to explore one of the region's lesser-known wilderness areas.

Located beneath a canopy of majestic ebony, marula, and leadwood trees, Maxa overlooks the vibrant Maxa Lagoon. The dynamic surroundings are sure to entice any guest—whether it's observing birds in the treetops, spotting hippos wallowing in the lagoon, or watching elephants meander to the water's edge for a refreshing drink. Walter Smith, Sales Director of Ker & Downey Botswana, highlighted the potential for the area's diverse wildlife: "This is an incredibly diverse ecosystem, and during the past year of construction and exploration, we have observed an array of wildlife, including seasonal movements of large herds like zebra and elephant across the floodplains."



The Maxa area is fed by strong waters coming from the Okavango panhandle, and these clear waterways promise exceptional mokoro (dugout canoe) excursions and countless clear, safe, and shallow swim spots. Maxa embodies sustainable luxury and authentic safari experiences. The camp showcases locally sourced and handcrafted furniture, celebrating Botswana's

artisanal expertise in woodwork, weaving, pottery, and more. Walter Smith added, "Maxa represents a breakthrough in responsible luxury travel, blending high-end safari hospitality with cultural immersion and conservation. It's a model for the future of African eco-tourism."

Design highlights include a suspended net for relaxing with a good book or drink, suspended high

in the cool breeze and shade of the forest canopy, elevated decks for uninterrupted views of the lagoon and vast flood plains beyond, and a main area with a wood-fired oven where the camp chef prepares fresh bread, roasts, and pizzas, creating a warm, interactive dining experience. The innovative natural pool, purified by water plants from the surrounding lagoon, acts as biological filters,

exemplifying Maxa's harmony with its environment.

These innovative features, along with the camp's careful integration into the natural environment, underscores Ker & Downey Botswana's commitment to minimally invasive, high-impact experiences that enhance rather than disrupt the pristine surroundings. Maxa accommodates just 12

guests in five tents, which includes a family tent. The camp provides a range of activities, all led by highly experienced guides, including walking safaris, day and night nature drives, and mokoro excursions (dugout canoe). Maxa sets a bold new standard in Botswana's tourism, promising unforgettable memories in one of Africa's most breathtaking ecosystems.

Ntwa ya Puo poetry preserves culture



Motshegwa

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL Government and Traditional Affairs, Kethalefile Motshegwa says poetry can be used to educate society about gender based violence and other social ills. Motshegwa was speaking during the Ntwa ya Puo poetry session held at Thapong Visual Art Center.

AI-driven cybercrime exploits human error



Allan Juma

“AI ITSELF IS NEITHER inherently good nor bad – but it has the potential to be both. In the hands of defenders, it can offer powerful protection from cyberattacks; in the hands of cybercriminals, it can be used to exploit human vulnerabilities on a massive scale. It all depends on who is behind the keyboard,” – Allan Juma, Cyber Security Engineer at ESET East Africa.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming cybersecurity – for better and for worse. Cybercriminals are leveraging AI advances to coordinate more sophisticated

attacks, while security teams deploy improved defence mechanisms, using the same technology. For businesses across Africa, who have prioritised digitisation over the past decade, this creates new vulnerabilities that need to be addressed, not just at a tech level – but a human one.

“Advanced social engineering is one of the top AI-enhanced cyber threats on our radar. Generative AI and large language models – ChatGPT, for example – make it easier for cybercriminals to craft convincing phishing emails that imitate executives or colleagues really well. These models are also skilled

with translation, allowing attackers to target new regions and smaller countries with niche dialects,” says Juma.

Using AI, attackers can automate vulnerability scanning – increasing the speed and scale at which they exploit weaknesses in a business's security. This includes identifying compromised internal accounts, which they in turn use to send phishing emails or deepfake impersonations (audio or video generated by AI to depict real people, including managers, CEOs, and finance officers). As the technology improves, it becomes increasingly

difficult for employees to discern legitimate communications from fraudulent ones.

“This is where the human element comes in. A significant percentage of data breaches are the result of human error. Cybersecurity awareness training is essential to combatting AI-driven cybercrime. A lack of knowledge is the greatest threat to cybersecurity in any business – and cybercriminals know that, and they're going to take advantage of it,” says Juma.

Research conducted by the Google Threat Intelligence Group (GTIG) found that cybercriminals are using

Google's AI model Gemini for research and content generation. According to GTIG's Adversarial Misuse of Generative AI report, released in early 2025, this includes developing target personas and messaging, as well as translation, localization and finding ways to increase their reach.

Where training and vigilance fail, AI driven defence mechanisms may be the key to protecting business operations from cyberthreats. Security teams can use AI to analyse patterns and predict cyber threats before they happen – as well as automate responses to detected

threats, reducing reaction times and mitigating potential damages more effectively. “Actually, AI has been part of cybersecurity approaches and software for a long time – way before it became a big talking point for the general public. This gives us something of an advantage, because we've been able to spend more time with it and integrate it into our systems,” says Juma. “The danger with AI becoming such a pervasive topic is that we have forgotten how dangerous it can be. Businesses need to keep it top of mind and be aware of the risks – so that they can address them.”

Ngamiland Property Expo returns

■ ‘Renewable Energy for Sustainable Infrastructure’



THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED Ngamiland Property* Expo 2nd Edition is set to take place in Maun from 11th to 12th April hosted by Mall of Maun under the thought-provoking theme: “Investing in Renewable Energy for Sustainable Infrastructure by the Year 2036.” This premier event will bring together key stakeholders in real estate, construction, energy, and policymaking to explore innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

Following the success of its inaugural edition, the Ngamiland Property Expo continues to serve as a catalyst for progressive development in Botswana's property and infrastructure sectors. This year's focus on renewable energy aligns with Vision 2036, emphasizing the country's commitment to sustainable and resilient infrastructure development. Having seen what happened with the floods, we intend to spread awareness and educate the public on the importance of green building as a way of decarbonization while helping climate change decline.

Expo Highlights

Industry Insights: Experts will discuss the latest trends in renewable energy and its integration into real estate and infrastructure projects.

Exhibitions: Leading companies and service providers will showcase sustainable construction materials, smart energy solutions, and green building technologies.

Networking Opportunities: Investors, developers, policymakers, and entrepreneurs will connect to drive partnerships and investment in renewable energy-driven infrastructure. Workshops & Panel Discussions: Engaging discussions on financing sustainable projects, regulatory frameworks, and innovations in green construction.

Why Attend?

The Ngamiland Property Expo which will be free to the public to attend provides a unique platform to learn about sustainable investment opportunities, explore cutting-edge technologies, and be part of shaping Botswana's infrastructure landscape for a greener tomorrow.

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Sport

P300 000 windfall

SunBet sponsor Maun Horse Race

NANCY RAMOKHUA
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SUNBET ON THURSDAY officially launched sponsorship amounting to P300 000 for the upcoming MASA Easter Cup Horse Racing slated for 19th April 2025 at Samedupe in Maun.

The collaboration represents a new era in Botswana's sports betting landscape, as Sunbet is the first-ever operator to offer local punters a chance to participate in horse racing events. Last year Sunbet sponsored the Motokwe Champions Cup with P150, 000 and were unveiled as the official sports betting partner for the event. Country Manager Tsholofelo Mosa Makgoeng shared that such events are in alignment with Sunbet's commitment towards contributing to the growth of sports in Botswana. "We have a lot to offer in the community social responsibility space. We are not only committed to developing the sports industry in Botswana, but also positively contributing to the communities within which we operate. Therefore, our relationship is still in its infancy, as we will sit down to develop a long term, sustainable strategy after the horse racing event," she said.

The sponsorship comes with benefits including exclusive branding across all event materials, including tickets, digital media, banners, and on-stage backdrops. Sunbet will also enjoy exclusive betting rights for the event and avail a prominent booth for live betting activations at



SunBet Botswana Country Manager Tsholofelo Makgoeng shakes hands with MASA Easter Cup Horse Racing Project Manager Otukile Moruakgomo to seal the sponsorship as the team mates look on

the event. In addition, attendants will enjoy reliable internet access throughout the event, while betters receive racing information such as betting sheets and race information (jockey and horse data) seven (7)

days before the event to place bets on the day. Otukile Moruakgomo - Project Manager of Easter Cup Horse Racing event, who is also the spokesperson of Botswana Horse Racing Association said the

sponsorship will go a long way in not only ensuring that the event is a success, but also benefitting the Maun community. "Youth vendors, jockeys and everyone involved in the horse racing value chain is going to benefit

from this sponsorship. The event will feature four races within the Tswana breed category and six races in the thorough breed category. Prices for the winners will be announced in the near future," he said.

Coventry leads IOC

'Time for female IOC president. I want members to believe in me' - Coventry

KIRSTY COVENTRY HAS BEEN elected the new International Olympic Committee President. The Zimbabwean is a two-time Olympic swimming champion and the first woman as well as the first African to hold the post. At 41, she's also the youngest ever IOC president.

Ahead of the vote, Coventry reiterated that it is time the IOC was led by a woman, saying she wanted members "to have confidence in me that I'm the right person". The 41-year-old former swimmer also became the youngest - and the first from outside Europe or North America - to lead the organisation in its 130-year history when she beat her six male rivals.

"I don't think it's just about gender, the same way that I don't think it's just about being the only African candidate. It really is about, 'what does the movement need today?' I think being a double Olympic champion and having the experiences that I've had within our movement and outside, all bring a lot of value to ensuring I could lead this organisation," the Zimbabwean sports minister told BBC Sport.

Coventry, who won the 200m backstroke at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics and is Africa's most-decorated Olympian, is "very positive" about her becoming sport's most powerful figure.

When asked how she felt about being seen as the preferred choice of outgoing president Thomas Bach after his 12-year tenure, Coventry added: "He's allowed the candidates to do what we need to do and talk to the members and it's [their] decision. He's been fair to all of the candidates."

Coventry wants to "try to challenge the status quo and to bring change". "Being able to showcase the biggest and most wonderful sports event in the world, where you have athletes from all different backgrounds coming together... that for me is what the world needs right now," she added.

"We have to make very good decisions so that this movement can remain relevant for generations to come. And, for me, being a mum of two young girls, I feel the weight on my shoulders is maybe a little bit more than that of the other candidates because I'm going to have a constant reminder that I need to not mess this up."

Protecting the females
The IOC currently allows each international federation (IF) to set its own gender eligibility rules, and in recent years a number have barred athletes who have undergone male puberty from competing in elite female competition, amid concerns inclusion may come at the expense of fairness and safety.

Coventry has been an IOC



Coventry

executive board member since 2023, but confirmed that - as with rival presidential candidate Lord Coe - she is now backing a blanket ban of transgender women from competing in female Olympic sport. "I believe with the work that has been done with the IFs, the rules they have put in place, you can see there has been research done where it's showing a disadvantage to women, to the female category" she said.

"From the conversations that I've had now, a lot of the international federations want the IOC to take a more leadership role. We have more facts, there's more science and medical research being done.

"We need to protect the female category and I think it's time right now for the IOC to take that leading role."

The IOC was engulfed in controversy at the Paris Games last summer when Algeria's Imane Khelif won the women's welterweight boxing gold medal - a year after being disqualified from the World Championships for reportedly failing a gender eligibility test.

The IOC cleared the 25-year-old to compete - along with Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting, who was also banned by the suspended International Boxing Association (IBA). Both fighters have insisted they are women, and there is no suggestion they are transgender.

When asked if she and her IOC colleagues could have avoided the episode, Coventry added: "There are always lessons we can learn. There are always going to be things we can't foresee, but we should do the best to ensure something like that doesn't play out again at an Olympic Games."

The other six candidates for the IOC presidency are France's David Lappartient, Japan's Morinari Watanabe, Prince Feisal al Hussein of Jordan, Spaniard Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr, Swede Johan Eliasch and the UK's Lord Sebastian Coe.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/BBCnewsafrika>

Orapa Classic returns



ORAPA CYCLING CLUB (OCC) WILL hold Orapa Classic in Orapa on the 11th May 2025. This is an annual event organised to promote cycling and raise funds to support underprivileged members of the community. The theme for the 2025 event is "Support a school - Cycle2School".

The Cycle2School programme aims to enhance students' academic performance by addressing challenges arising from lengthy daily commutes. The bicycles will be procured and distributed to underprivileged students who on daily basis walk long distances to and fro school thus empowering them to overcome transportation challenges. This initiative supports our cycling philosophy as the Orapa Cycling Club with respect to youth development which focuses on the need to increase youth participation in cycling by introducing them to this sport at a young age.

2026 World Athletics Relays Botswana wins hosting bid



SEBASTIAN COE has awarded the hosting rights for the World Athletics Relays 2026. The World Athletics President Lord Sebastian Coe announced on Tuesday. It will be the first time that a country in Africa has hosted the event ever since it was founded back in 2014.

Source: Botswana Athletics Association

Modutlwa joins World Bowls Commission

MAREA MODUTLWA HAS made history as the first-ever African athlete to be appointed to the World Bowls Athletes Commission! This prestigious appointment places Modutlwa among an elite group of eight athlete representatives from around the world who will serve as the voice of players in the global transformation of bowls. The commission is dedicated to ensuring that athletes' perspectives shape key policies, innovations, and decisions that drive the future of the sport.

With World Bowls recently restructuring for 2025-2026, Modutlwa's inclusion marks a significant step forward for African representation at the highest levels of international sports governance. Her journey from Botswana to the world stage is an inspiration, proving that African athletes belong in global leadership spaces. This appointment is a moment of immense national pride and a milestone for sports development in Botswana and the



Modutlwa continent at large. Source: Botswana National Olympic Committee



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