



# The Patriot

on Sunday

'BALANCED & FAIR'



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APRIL 20, 2025 | ISSUE 622

P13.00

## MUSIC - N - LIFESTYLE FESTIVAL

### Royal Aria, Tlokweng

26<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
1200hrs Till Late

FOOD • ART • FASHION

Stanbic Bank Botswana is a member of The Standard Bank Group, an authorised financial services and registered credit provider. Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana.

## Doctors fed up

- Down tools on Easter, abandon emergency services
- To report govt to ILO over emergency call allowances
- 'Nurses are not substitutes for doctors' -BONU



Dr Selema

### BAKANG TIRO

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**B**OTSWANA DOCTORS Union (BDU) has instructed its members not to report to duty during the Easter holidays amidst a standoff with the employer - the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) over call to duty allowance.

Further, the union has threatened to report the government of Botswana to International Labour Organisation (ILO) if the standoff is not resolved any time soon.

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# BDP Make or Break!

- Maun to yield redemption or hell as democrats reject some candidates
- Balopi lead the contest but Tsogwane, Molefhi lurking in shadows

### STAFF WRITERS

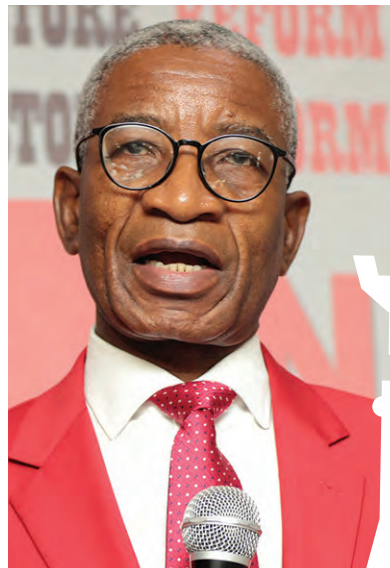
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**D**RAMA CONTINUES TO unfold ahead of the much anticipated Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) elective congress, which gets underway in Maun in two weeks. Last week, in different congresses held by BDP regions, some candidates aspiring to contest positions in the national executive committee were rejected during the selection of delegates who will form the voting block in Maun on May 10.

Those rejected will only attend the congress as tourists, with zero voting rights when elections are called.

Only four candidates remain battling for the party presidency after several others fell out of favour and faded away. Now, candidates aspiring to succeed Mokgweetsi Masisi include the front runner- Mpho Balopi, the former BDP Secretary General who has been trading subtle salvos with his nemesis, the former president since the launch of his campaign in Gaborone. Parallel campaigns have been ongoing around the country, with Masisi claiming to be visiting regions in his capacity as party president while inside revealed that in fact he was endorsing candidates that he supports, among them former Vice President Slumber Tsogwane. Nonofa Molefhi and Ame Makoba are also sticking it out to the last whistle. Last week, another presidential candidate Dr Maxwell Nhlato announced his withdrawal from the race.

The jury is still out on who will succeed the outgoing BDP president, Mokgweetsi Masisi but many



Molefhi



Balopi



Makoba



Tsogwane

democrats have thrown their weight behind Balopi who resigned from the party leadership under a cloud.

Political analyst, Kitsa Morekisi said the contest is very interesting as BDP members continue to share their views on who should lead

the party to replace the embattled Masisi. He said the most important area of focus ahead of the congress is the contest for presidency as the individual who will emerge victorious will be tasked with a huge task to revive the fortunes of BDP.

According to Morekisi, Masisi would be afraid to publicly endorse his favourite as that would spark divisions and backlash towards him from the members. "The writing is in the wall. Masisi is no longer commanding respect and loyalty from vast majority of BDP members. He is sitting now on a red-hot seat and whoever replaces him will also feel the heat. The BDP is going through difficult times and the congress could make or break before 2029 election," he said.

In addition, Morekisi said it is important for BDP to start preparations for 2029 elections just after the congress as that could help the party to be in a better shape when election approaches.

### Balopi

Balopi has been considered by many to be the favourite to win as he commands lot of support from the members being former Members of Parliament (MPs) and councillors. He is also enjoying the backing of BDP elders such as the veteran Daniel Kwelagobe who had been publicly seen attending Balopi's consultative meetings in his bid canvass votes from the Democrats.

Balopi said he is focus is to unite the BDP and smoke peace pipe with all former BDP members who left the party such as former president Ian Khama after they had been tormented by past BDP leadership.

### Makoba

The youthful Makoba is considered to be a dark horse on the race but believes that he has all what it takes to lead the party. Makoba is the former Executive Secretary of the party and could be banking on

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# More taxes coming

- BURS targets informal sector, to tax online businesses
- We are losing a lot to Amazon and others - BURS



Makgolo

businesses. He said while they await formal communication from BURS regarding its proposals, it must be known that informal sector traders are already paying taxes in the form of Value Added Tax (VAT) and customs duty at the border posts.

Also, government in the past considered to introduce carbon and digital taxes targeting the multinational businesses that are doing business in Botswana while their accounts are held in different countries where they pay taxes.

According to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, under a carbon tax the government set a price that emitters must pay for each ton of the greenhouse gas emissions that they emit. They said businesses and consumers will take steps, such as switching fuels or adopting new technologies, to reduce their emissions to avoid paying the tax.

A carbon tax can raise significant revenue. How that revenue is used will ultimately be a political choice.

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# WIN BOTTOMLESS BUCKETS

FROM **149<sup>90</sup>** EACH



**KFC**

# Dr Tau is UB Council Chairperson

**T**HE MINISTER OF Higher Education, Mr. Prince Maele, has announced the appointment of Dr Daniel Tau as Chairperson of the University of Botswana (UB) Council, effective 14th April 2025. Dr Tau brings with him a wealth of experience and proven leadership to the helm of the University Council. His appointment marks a significant milestone in strengthening governance and strategic oversight at the University of Botswana, the country's premier institution of higher learning.

Dr Tau succeeds Mr Lokwalo Mosinyane, who served as Interim Chairperson of the UB Council for approximately two (2) years. The Minister extends his sincere gratitude to Mr Mosinyane for his dedicated service and steady leadership during the interim period. Mr Maele expressed confidence that under Dr Tau's stewardship, the University of Botswana Council will continue to promote governance, excellence in higher education, research, innovation and institutional growth in line with national development goals.

Dr Tau is a seasoned academic and administrator



Dr Daniel Tau, Chairperson of the University of Botswana (UB) Council with Vice Chancellor of UB, Prof. David Norris

with a distinguished career in the higher education sector. He previously served as Vice Chancellor of Botswana Open University (BOU), where he provided visionary leadership and played an instrumental role in advancing open and

distance learning in the country. His professional background includes various senior roles across the education sector, underscoring his strong commitment to academic excellence, institutional development and expanding

access to quality education. His appointment is expected to further enhance the governance and strategic direction of the University of Botswana in line with national priorities in higher education, research and innovation.

# Expert lectures on BIUST patents

**B**OTSWANA International University of Science & Technology (BIUST) through the Technology Transfer Directorate hosted a thought-provoking public lecture by Prof. Murtala Adamu Zungeru, an esteemed professor of Electrical, Computer, and Telecommunications Engineering. Themed "Intellectual

Property Rights – A Case of the BIUST Patents," the lecture highlighted BIUST's innovations, including Method and System for Sorting of Diamonds; Electrical Switching System for a Building or Installation; Farmyard Access Control System and Method. Prof. Zungeru delivered an enlightening overview of intellectual property (IP) rights, focusing on patents and their significance in protecting

inventions. He shared real-life examples of patents he holds from the USA, China, and Botswana, and walked the audience through the costs, application processes, and the importance of patenting both locally and internationally. He also provided updates on BIUST's innovations, including the X-Ray Diamond Sorter—designed and built by BIUST, and now ready for commercial sale—and the

Smart Switching System, which is fully operational and can be controlled remotely. The session served as a catalyst for innovation and underscored the importance of intellectual property in driving Botswana toward a knowledge-based economy. #Innovation #TechnologyTransfer #IntellectualProperty #Patents #MadeInBotswana

# Zambia seeks Botswana support

■ Delegation on AfDB candidature meets President Boko

**P**RESIDENT DUMA BOKO on Monday received a letter from Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema, seeking his support for the SADC and COMESA-endorsed candidate, Dr. Samuel Munzele Maimbo, for the Presidency of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in 2025.

Receiving the Zambian delegation presenting Dr. Maimbo's candidature, Boko acknowledged the enduring relations between Botswana and Zambia, highlighting the mutual commitment to deepening bilateral ties. He noted the continuous engagement and open communication between himself and President Hichilema as a key pillar of this



President Boko with the Zambian delegation

strong relationship. "We have spoken, engaged, and addressed various challenges in relation to events that have occurred. Our relationship remains strong and continues to grow," said Boko, emphasizing that the bond between the two countries extends beyond bilateral

relations, encompassing broader regional cooperation under SADC and the African Union. Boko confirmed that he had already held preliminary discussions with President Hichilema regarding the candidature and expressed his appreciation for the delegation's visit. He further noted that Dr.

Maimbo's vision aligns well with the aspirations of the continent. Leading the delegation was former Zambian Vice President, Mr. Enock Kavindele, who expressed gratitude to President Boko for taking the time to receive them and consider their candidate's vision for the African Development Bank.

# De Beers, National Geographic launch Nkashi Knowledge Centre

**D**E BEERS GROUP AND National Geographic Society have launched the Nkashi Knowledge Centre in Beetshe, a gem of the Delta's Eastern Panhandle. Nkashi Knowledge Centre - a beacon of community, conservation, and culture, stands proud - a structure shaped not just by design, but by community consultation, guided through the traditional kgotla system.

Kgosi Bonang Karundu welcomed the launch of the centre with the wisdom of generations: "This Centre will provide resources, skills and opportunities to support the growth and development of our

people. It is an asset that will create lasting impact," he said. De Beers' role was both symbolic and substantial - nearly 100 jobs were created in the Centre's development. Over 1.25 million hectares have been conserved under the Okavango Eternal initiative. "The beauty of the Okavango Delta is beyond measure. We hope the centre will unite people to drive change for communities and biodiversity alike," said Sandrine Conseiller, CEO of De Beers Brands. Inside the centre, potential radiates from every corner. Youth can explore cameras and books while elderly women can display

their various crafts. From conservation education to ICT training to mobile libraries like the Nkashi Bus - the Centre is a heartbeat, a home, a hub. The pride was tangible. Dr. Steve Boyes, National Geographic Explorer, and founder of the Okavango Wilderness Project shared: "What started as the Nkashi Classic and a film, Nkashi: Race for the Okavango, has evolved into a social movement. This Centre celebrates deep knowledge and the critical role of communities in protecting one of the planet's most precious ecosystems." The Minister of Local

Government and Traditional Affairs, Kethlalefile Motshegwa, added: "Just like nkashi propels mokoro through the waters, this facility will propel the community forward." National Geographic Society CEO, Jill Tiefenthaler, said it best: "Education is at the heart of our mission. The Nkashi Knowledge Centre is a catalyst for discovery, innovation and vibrant exchange." The event was not just a ribbon cutting launch. It was a homecoming. A reckoning. A new chapter - written in community spirit, powered by knowledge, and propelled - as always - by nkashi. Source: Botswana Unplugged

# Wild Entrust wins \$100,000

**SOLOMON TJINYEKA**  
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**W**ILD ENTRUST, A conservation initiative under Botswana Predator Conservation, has emerged as the winner of the \$100,000 Wilderness Impact Challenge, an innovative competition aimed at advancing wildlife conservation and rural development.

The Wilderness Impact Challenge, led by ecotourism company Wilderness, supports creative solutions that promote human-wildlife coexistence while enhancing wildlife security.

The initiative is anchored in three pillars: Educate, Empower, and Protect, and seeks to address pressing conservation issues across Africa. Wild Entrust won the award for its Bioboundary Project, a groundbreaking approach to mitigating human-wildlife conflict. The project uses synthesized predator scent signals to deter carnivores—such as leopards—from entering livestock areas, where they often prey on domestic animals and create tensions between rural communities and wildlife. Senior researcher at Wild Entrust, Dr. Peter Apps,



Dr. Peter Apps

welcomed the recognition and funding, noting that the project offers a humane and effective

method to reduce conflict without harming predators. Human-wildlife conflict remains one of the leading conservation challenges in Botswana and across southern Africa, particularly in rural areas where livestock farming is a primary livelihood. Conservationists say projects like Bioboundary offer scalable, science-based solutions that benefit both people and ecosystems. Wild Entrust plans to use the funding to expand the project's reach, conduct further field trials, and work closely with local communities to ensure sustainable implementation.

# Boteti Councillors tour Orapa mine

**T**HE ASSISTANT GENERAL Manager of Debswana's Orapa, Letlhakane, and Damtshaa Mines (OLDM), Ditiro Lentswe, recently hosted Boteti District Councillors on a guided tour of the Orapa Mine. The visit aimed to provide the Councillors with firsthand insight into diamond mining operations and to deepen their understanding of the processes involved in extracting this valuable resource.

In his welcome address, Lentswe shared the rich history of the Orapa Mine, highlighting OLDLM's substantial contributions to Botswana's economic



Boteti Councillors touring the Orapa mine

development. He emphasized the mine's pivotal role in nation-building, particularly through its socio-economic impact on

the Boteti region. He reiterated OLDLM's commitment to "Making Life Brilliant," underscoring its dedication to sustainability and

regional economic growth. Speaking on behalf of the visiting delegation, Boteti District Council Chairman, Onkhuaparete Monnawatsie, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity. He noted that the tour was especially valuable for newly elected Councillors, allowing them to gain a deeper appreciation of the mining industry and its significance to the community and the country. During the tour, the Councillors observed key mining operations, including ore extraction and processing.

# Wits University visits UB

**A** UNIVERSITY OF Witwatersrand delegation visited University of Botswana (UB) Department of Architecture and planning on the 14th of April 2025 on a collaborative study excursion for supplementing classroom learning with real-world experience and fostering a deeper understanding of the built environment.

The excursions provide opportunities to observe, analyse and engage with various architectural styles, design philosophies and urban

planning practices to enrich students' knowledge and spark creativity. They help translate theoretical concepts into practical applications, making learning more concrete and relatable especially in the case of architectural heritage.

Furthermore, they provide students with first-hand experience on how buildings and urban spaces function in context, something that is difficult to replicate in a classroom setting. The delegation also toured various areas in Gaborone and its surroundings such



A University of Witwatersrand delegation visited University of Botswana (UB) Department of Architecture and planning

as Kopong, Metsimothabe, Mmopane, Mogoditshane, Gaborone SIZA Park, Gaborone

North, Phakalane, Gaborone Commence Park and Gaborone Central Business District.

## TENDER NOTICE

### BOTSWANA PUBLIC OFFICERS PENSION FUND

#### TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF LAPTOPS & ACCESSORIES TENDER NO: BPOPF/IT/001/ 2025-2026

The Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (the Fund) invites companies to tender for the procurement of laptops and accessories for the Fund.

- Bidders are required to provide proof of payment of the non-refundable deposit and their preferred email address where the Invitation to Tender ("ITT") document will be sent. Alternatively, the ITT can be collected from the BPOPF head office located at Plot 54366, Unit 3, Second Floor, Peelo Place, Central Business District, Gaborone.
- The Tender is open to 100% citizen owned companies **ONLY**.
- Submissions must be received no later than **12 noon on Wednesday 28 May 2025**.
- A non-refundable deposit of **BWP 1, 000.00** must be made via EFT in favor of the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund.

#### Banking details:

**Account Name:** Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund  
**Bank name:** FNBB  
**Branch:** Corporate  
**Account Number:** 62098584967  
**Branch code:** 282267

- Proof of payment should be emailed: [tenders@bpopf.co.bw](mailto:tenders@bpopf.co.bw) Tel: 3717158

# Palapye embraces decentralisation

**Q: Who is Kabo Ketshogile?**

**KK:** Kabo Ketshogile is 41-year-old man born in Selibe Phikwe town but born and bred in a dusty village of Lerala. I was raised by single parent as a second born from the late Taetso Ketshogile. I am an artisan by profession as I hold NCC in plumbing and pipefitting (Palapye Technical college). I also hold Diploma in Law (Gaborone University College) certificate in Business information system (Realic College) and I also have Vocational Teaching certificate (Teacher Training) from Botswana Open University.

**Q: Take us through your political journey?**

**KK:** I started politics at the age of 19 when I was student at Vocational school and when I was 20 years, I stood for BDP primary election in 2003 and lost. The same year I was Lerala ward Secretary. I rose to become National youth political board member of BDP during kefentse Mzwinli youth Chairmanship and the Youth political officer for Palapye Constituency during Boyce Sebetlela and that time I was a student.

In 2008 tried my luck again for Lerala ward for BDP primaries and won the primaries at the age of 24 and the following went to win general elections and became the youngest elected Councillor 2009-2014 in central district and the entire country. I was

Palapye District Council Chairperson, Kabo Ketshogile is adamant that the district is right course after it was established as one of the new districts, buttressing that the new decentralization policy is key for their growth. Ketshogile speaks to **STAFF WRITER BAKANG TIRO** to give an overview of the council performance and he believes that his government of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) has done well in meeting number of electoral promises it advanced before the voters during the 2024 general election.



Palapye District Council Chairperson, Kabo Ketshogile

re-elected again 2014-2019 for the new demarcated ward of Lerala East. In 2017 I was elected in the famous Tsabong youth congress as national Youth political officer and is

the same year which I resigned form ruling party join UDC and later became the UDC Parliamentary Candidate for Tswapong North in which I lost. In 2022 I was elected the

BNF North Central Regional Chairman and in 2023 it was split into three I was again elected in new class Motshidisi Regional Chairmanship the position in still occupying.

In2024 I was nominated and voted to be Palapye District Chairman. Before, I served as Deputy Chairman for Palapye Sub District from 2014 to 2018.

**Q: What are your functions as Palapye District Council Chairperson?**

**KK:** My functions as Palapye district Council Chairman is to be the Head of the district, chairs the proceedings of full council, makes sure that resolutions of council are implemented by public officers, strategic guidance, making sure that projects and programs of the government are implemented by public servants, making sure that services delivery is implemented and whether your services standards are met.

**Q: Highlight some of key challenges that affect Palapye District and how does the council intend to address them?**

**KK:** The challenges are financial problems as we are working on deficit, our Revenue support grant is not enough to cater for our needs, the roads are in bad state with limited machinery and lastly resistance from some public servants for change how they have been doing things to improve communities needs.

We can improve or address these challenges of shortage funds to find ways to generate our own income not depends on RSG, and decentralization policy can solve the problem by empowering Chairmans and Mayors to run council by giving them executive powers as that will make us take full control n improve service delivery.

**Q: Government introduced decentralisation of local government authorities. What is your view on this development?**

**KK:** Decentralization policy is a very good step and I appreciate the Minister as it will empower council with lot of departments and it will stop centralization of lot of departments and I expect it to give us executive powers to run our council to fullest capacity.

**Q: Reflect on the performance of your UDC government so far? Are you satisfied with the implementation of electoral promises to voters, P4000 living wage and old age pension etc.**

**KK:** So far so good my government is in right direction as we already increased old age pension to P1400 short of P400 and we will close gap in a short time.

Our interest was to give straight P1800 but because of the financial status we found our self in we compromised for reasonable P1400, P4000 living wage is a process to change of laws and we will do it during our governance. For the new born babies' mothers we are starting P300 and we must remember we have five years to fulfill our promises

**Q: What are some of key legislative reforms that you believe the UDC government should enact that will benefit Batswana in general?**

**KK:** Decentralization policy is the best policy to address lot of problems and the government must amend Minerals and Mines ACT to give Communities Royalties to improve where mines are mined.

**Q: What is your view on the Government Political Party Funding?**

**KK:** I fully support political party funding as to allow playing field level. We suffered a lot as opposition and we must not forget where we are from not to be like the previous Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) administration.

**Q: What is your plan going forward, will you still avail yourself in 2029?**

**KK:** I am still in politics. I'm still I a young man and I have got a lot to offer. I will see where to stand and a lot of things will determine where and which position. So, in short will cross the river when I'm nearby.

**Q: What more can you tell us.**

**KK:** Batswana must be proud n celebrate the change they made last year. President Advocate Duma Boko is the right man to change Botswana and take it to promised land.

And I also want to applaud the minister of local government Kethlalefile Motshegwa the job he is doing in short time. I see a lot of change and he need our support as Chairs and Mayors throughout the country.

## Addis Ababa hosts International Forum for Journalists

**Russia - Africa. The Way of Friendship and Cooperation**

**T**HE ALFA-DIALOGUE Center for Additional Professional Education (Saint Petersburg, Russia), with support of the Alexander Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund is pleased to announce the upcoming International Forum for Journalists "Russia-Africa. The Way of Friendship and Cooperation".

The Alfa-Dialogue Center 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. 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.

Representatives of media outlets from other countries are welcome to participate in the in-person Forum in Addis Ababa from April 22-23, upon covering their own participation expenses (flights, accommodation, and meals).

To submit applications, please email: [center@alfa-dialog.ru](mailto:center@alfa-dialog.ru)

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

Contact Information: Website: <https://alfa-dialog.ru/forum/en>

Telegram Channel: [https://t.me/Africa\\_Russia\\_Dialogue](https://t.me/Africa_Russia_Dialogue)

## DM Model under audit



Vice President and Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe

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**G**OVERNMENT IS conducting an audit the controversial Development Manager Model (DM) procurement system, to determine how much public funds was wasted under the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) rule, vice President Ndaba Gaolathe has revealed.

The public projects under the Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP) were allocated a budget of P27 billion implemented through the DM model.

On Wednesday Gaolathe on Wednesday while launching the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA)'s 2024-2028 Corporate Strategy in Gaborone said the audit for the DM Model has commenced in April 2025 and the document is currently under review strategy.

He said the full audit is expected to conclude by the end of May 2025, adding that still in May new audits will commence at the Central Medical Stores, Water Utilities Corporation, Botswana Power Corporation, and the Botswana Police Service, among others.

"These audits are not merely symbolic; they are forensic in nature and reflect our government's unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and value for money," said Gaolathe.

Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) upon assuming government took a decision to

**Final Audit Report due in May 2025 - VP Gaolathe**

**June: Forensic audits for several govt departments start**

suspend projects under DM model following calls of alleged corruption and public funds siphoning in award of tenders.

Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Noah Salakae while briefing Parliament in November last year said the DM model in its shape was designed to steal the state money hence need for government to review it. Some of the projects that lined up for implementation under the DM model include construction of new hospitals, schools, police stations, prisons and stormwater projects etc.

**Top Secret**

During Budget Pitso with councils in February at Tlokweng, Gaolathe said the PPRA was kept in the dark about changes in the procurement procedures around the development manager model and was only reading about it from the newspapers like any other citizen would do at time of DM model execution.

Gaolathe said under the new UDC government, the rebirth of the PPRA reflects our values and collective resolve to prioritise honesty over expedience, excellence over shortcuts, and the public good over private gain. He said in recent decades, the country has lost significant resources due to procurement inefficiencies, poor oversight, and institutional inertia, but that is not the future anymore. "At the heart of every economy lies its procurement system. It serves as the bloodstream through which the lifeblood of a nation - its financial resources - flows. When procurement functions well, nations thrive. When it falters, economies bleed," he said.

**Transparency**

Meanwhile, Botswana Congress Party (BCP) MP for Tati East Tlhabologo Furniture said the DM model audit is a welcome development but said UDC government should crack whip on the wrongdoers.

He said the BCP believes that a huge chunk of money had been stolen from the state coffers due to corruption dealings during the implementation of the DM model under the BDP administration

Furniture said they believe in a transparent government and accountability therefore the report should be made available to the public and Parliament for them to appreciate how much government has lost.

## Bona Life donates to GBV victims

**B**ONA LIFE INSURANCE, Botswana's first indigenous, citizen-owned life insurance company, has donated P100,000.00 to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Centre in Gaborone. This significant contribution is set to bolster the Centre's critical operations, providing safe transportation for victims in crisis and easing administrative burdens to ensure survivors receive timely, life-changing support.

As Botswana grapples with a troubling rise in gender-based violence cases, Bona Life's donation arrives as a beacon of hope, addressing urgent needs while reinforcing the company's mission to serve and uplift communities. The initiative is more than a financial gesture - it is a heartfelt commitment to restoring dignity, protecting lives, and fostering a safer, more resilient nation.

The donation targets two key areas of the GBV Centre's operations: transportation and administration. For survivors of gender-based violence, access to safe and reliable transport can be a matter of life and death.



Bona Life's contribution ensures that victims can reach critical

services - such as counselling, medical care, and safe shelters

- without delay. By alleviating transport barriers, the company

is helping to bridge a critical gap in emergency response.

Additionally, the donation will streamline the Centre's day-to-day administrative functions, allowing staff to focus on delivering essential services. From providing trauma counselling to facilitating reintegration into society, the Centre's professionals will be better equipped to support survivors on their journey to healing.

"This donation is not just about resources; it's about standing shoulder-to-shoulder with survivors and the tireless advocates at the GBV Centre," said Phatsimo Keakabetshe, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Bona Life Insurance. "We believe that every life saved today is a step toward a brighter, safer tomorrow for Botswana."

"Our purpose has always been to serve. This donation reflects our unwavering commitment to addressing the real challenges facing our communities, particularly the scourge of gender-based violence that affects men, women, and children alike," said Christopher Ntabu, Chief Finance Officer at Bona Life

# The global impact of Trump tariffs

**GRAHAME MCLEOD**  
Own Correspondent

ON APRIL 2ND, U.S. PRESIDENT Donald Trump announced sweeping new tariffs on almost every country in the world. At the event in the Rose Garden at the White House, Trump proudly displayed a chart which showed two things for each country on which he is imposing new tariffs. Firstly, the tariffs that these countries are imposing on imports of U.S. goods and secondly, the retaliatory tariffs that Trump will levy, in return, on those countries. And the announcement came like a thunderclap which has reverberated worldwide.

He astounded the world and his Republican supporters concerning the 'excessive tariffs' which many counties are enforcing on 'poor' Uncle Sam. And the figures made for welcome reading for diehard American Republican patriots. Although he imposed a 10% blanket tariff on almost all countries, many nations were punished with higher tariffs ranging between 11 and 50%. Tariffs charged on imported goods for the ten most targeted nations include: Lesotho 99%; Cambodia 97%; Laos 95%; Madagascar 93%; Vietnam 90%; Myanmar 88%; Sri Lanka 88%; Falkland Islands (A British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic) 82%; Mauritius 80%; Iraq 78%. And Botswana (74%) fared little better, coming in at 12th place behind Guyana. And most of America's leading trading partners, such as China (67%), the European Union (E.U.) (39%), Japan (46%), South Korea (50%) and India (52%), also were not spared.

Once Trump had displayed the tariffs, he was warmly applauded by his Republican-biased audience, and his proposed tariffs were described as a 'stroke of economic genius'. According to Trump, this was 'Liberation Day' - the longest-for day when the U.S. would be at last free from all the 'terrible unfair trading practices' that it has been subjected to by the whole world for decades. The time had now come to punish the world for plundering, looting, cheating and ripping off the U.S. So, the

U.S. has to retaliate! And in so doing, he would surely be on the right track to certainly make America great again, since the retaliatory tariffs would create jobs in American industries thus ushering in a golden age for the U.S. Really?

The world must be prepared to expect the unexpected from the White House these days; with Trump at the helm, it is the new norm in U.S. politics! It reminds me of the captain on the ill-fated Titanic!

However, many economists have severely criticised the Trump administration for the way that these 'tariffs' were calculated. In fact, they are not tariffs at all, but are fictitious and cooked up since the figures are based on America's balance of trade with other countries.

America's balance of trade with another country is the difference between the value of goods which the U.S. exports to that country, and the value of goods which it imports from that country over a certain time period. These exports and imports only include physical goods. Now the balance of trade can show either a trade surplus, or a trade deficit.

A trade deficit occurs when the value of a country's imports from another country is greater than the value of its exports to that country. Conversely, a trade surplus occurs when the value of a country's exports exceeds the value of its imports. A trade deficit needs to be financed, either by a loan, by reducing imports, or increasing exports. And in Trump's opinion, if the U.S. has trade deficits with other countries, then it means that those countries are indulging in 'unfair trading practices' and that the U.S. is being 'ripped off', or being taken advantage of. But Trump seems to refuse to accept reality. Even countries which have strong economies will have trade deficits with some countries which can be offset by having trade surpluses with others. That is how international trade works!

Now let us refer to Lesotho. Trade between Lesotho and the U.S. in 2024 was as follows:

Value of U.S. exports to Lesotho = \$2 million  
Value of U.S. imports from Lesotho =



**Trump**

\$237 million  
U.S.'s balance of trade with Lesotho:  
Value of U.S. exports to Lesotho - value of U.S. imports from Lesotho = \$2 million - \$237 million = -\$235 million.

This shows that the U.S. has a trade deficit with Lesotho since the value of goods imported from Lesotho exceeds the value of U.S. exports to Lesotho. To calculate the 'tariff' that Lesotho is supposedly slapping on imports of goods from the U.S., the following formula was used by the Trump administration:

$$\text{Tariff} = \frac{\text{Trade deficit}}{\text{Value of exports to the U.S.}}$$

Now applying the above formula:  
Tariff =  $\frac{\$235 \text{ million}}{\$237 \text{ million}}$  = 0.99

To arrive at the tariff, we multiply this figure by 100 and express the answer as a percentage:  
Tariff =  $0.99 \times 100$  = 99%

Such a figure is exceptionally high and beyond belief. Let us say that Lesotho imports an item from the U.S. for \$1000. Now according to Trump, Lesotho will then impose a tariff of 99% on this item;

that is \$990. Therefore, the cost of this item to the Lesotho consumer will now be \$1000 + \$990 = \$1990 (unless the company importing the item absorbs the extra cost which would be most unlikely given the high tariff). So, now the price of the item is prohibitively expensive and, Lesotho being a low-income country, this item will not likely be bought by consumers there. A tariff is simply a tax that is levied on an imported item, and does not depend on the balance of trade! Period!

Now let us consider one of America's leading trading partners, China, whom Trump has recently referred to as 'the biggest abuser of all time'. Trade between China and the U.S. in 2024 was as follows:

Value of U.S. exports to China = \$144 billion  
Value of U.S. imports from China = \$439 billion  
U.S.'s balance of trade with China:  
Value of U.S. exports to China - value of U.S. imports from China = \$144 billion - \$439 billion = -\$295 billion

This shows that the U.S. has a trade deficit with China since the value of goods imported from China exceeds the value of U.S. exports to China. To calculate the 'tariff' that China is supposedly slapping on U.S. imports, the same formula was used by the Trump administration:

$$\text{Tariff} = \frac{\text{Trade deficit}}{\text{Value of exports to the U.S.}}$$

Now applying the above formula:  
Tariff =  $\frac{\$295 \text{ billion}}{\$439 \text{ billion}}$  = 0.67 = 67%

And the same formula was used for other trading partners. Trump claims that Vietnam is imposing a tariff of 90% on imports from the U.S. But this is false; in fact, according to World Trade Organisation data, Vietnam imposes a tariff of only 9% on imports from the U.S. And the E.U. imposes a tariff of only 3% on imports from the U.S.; not 39% as Trump claims. On April 7th, Trump

imposed a further 34% on Chinese goods after which China immediately responded by imposing a tit-for-tat tariff of 34% on imports from the U.S. Trump then imposed a further 50% tariff on Chinese imports. Again, not to be outdone, China retaliated and fought back with a vengeance by imposing a further 50% tariff on imports from the U.S. And by April 12th, the total U.S. tariff on imported goods from China stood at a staggering 145%, whilst the total Chinese tariff on imported goods from the U.S. stood at 125%.

And since then Trump has further raised tariffs on Chinese goods to 245%! One reason given for this is that the Chinese government is now instructing Chinese airlines not to order new U.S. made Boeing aircraft (but surely China is free to buy its aircraft from any country that it chooses?). This will ignite a chain reaction across global industries and travel may be the hardest hit. The tariffs may trigger airfare hikes, rising hotel costs and a projected \$88 billion (\$1200 billion) decline in global business travel spending for 2025. The global tourism and travel landscape is bracing itself for increased turbulence!

When asked why Trump is heaping tariffs on China, the White House press secretary replied: "When America is punched, he punches back harder." Such moves could further escalate the trade war between these two leading economies which could have a ripple effect throughout the world and have negative repercussions for many other nations.

China says that 'it will fight to the end, if necessary'. Chinese officials claim that Trump's actions amount to 'an unilateral bullying practice which endangers the stability of the global economic trade order'. But the trade war between U.S. and China is really about politics, not economics. It's about two leaders with fragile egos showing that they will not back down and lose face.

One leading professor of U.S. and International Politics has also said that Trump's speech in the Rose Garden was "the

dumbest and most economically illiterate speech that I have ever heard." He also said that Trump's announcement on tariffs was filled with lies and distortions. It was absolute nonsense!

Australia's prime minister has also shown his disapproval of Trump's actions when he recently said: "The U.S. tariffs have no basis in logic, and they go against the basis of our two nations' partnership. This is not the act of a friend." But Trump does not have any friends; only worshippers, disciples, hangers on, bootlickers, parasites...

Because of Trump's bullying tactics, many low-income developing countries are now waiting in line with their begging bowls to kneel down before King Trump begging for mercy - pleading with him to make a trade deal with them that would include the lowering of such punitive tariffs. Is this neocolonialism? Bragging about this, in a speech given on April 9th, Trump claimed: "I know what the hell I am doing. These countries are kissing my arse to make deals..." What arrogance!

Now there are sound legitimate reasons why the U.S. may have trade deficits with many low-income countries such as Lesotho. Firstly, many of these nations, including Lesotho, have very small populations and so they can only buy a small amount of goods from the U.S. (Lesotho has just two million people). And many of these countries are tiny island nations with no population to speak of, and certainly no exports that would warrant the U.S. to impose tariffs on. Such places include: Fiji, Tonga, Niue, Vanuatu, Nauru, Samoa, Norfolk Island and Tuvalu (in the Pacific Ocean). Also, Cook Islands, Comoros, Christmas Island (better known for its thousands of red crabs), Cocos Islands, Mayotte in the Indian Ocean. Plus, countless islands in the Caribbean: Sint Maarten, Montserrat (largely deserted due to violent volcanic eruptions), British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands, Aruba, Curacao, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines...

And not forgetting the far-flung, remote uninhabited sub-Antarctic Heard

and McDonald Islands in the Southern Ocean, home only to thousands of penguins and seals (I wonder how they are reacting to the tariffs imposed on them?). Reader, how many of these tiny places have you heard of? Can you locate them on a world map?

Secondly, in low-income countries, again such as Lesotho, most people earn little or are unemployed, and so have very little disposable income to spend on items other than the bare necessities of life such as food and clothing. In contrast, the U.S. has a much larger population (340 million) with most people earning high salaries. And people there are wealthy and so spend more than people in developing countries. This means that the U.S. is a huge market for developing countries to exploit! So, there is no way that Lesotho can buy more goods than the U.S. buys from them!

Thirdly, some of these countries may just be better at selling goods to U.S. consumers than U.S. industries are at selling their goods to U.S. consumers.

Fourthly, the cost of producing goods in low-income countries is much lower than in the U.S. One of Lesotho's major exports to the U.S. is textiles which includes clothing. Most of these garments may be made in 'sweatshops' which are crowded workplaces with poor working conditions, including few or no breaks, inadequate lighting and ventilation, or dangerously high or low temperatures.

Employees in sweatshops may work long hours and may be underpaid regardless of laws mandating overtime pay or a minimum wage. With such low costs of production, clothing manufacturers can sell their goods cheaply in the U.S. market at prices that are much lower than if the same goods were made in the U.S. where wages and working conditions are much more closely monitored and upheld. Hence, many U.S. manufacturers may not easily compete with foreign imports for these reasons. Also, how many Americans are prepared to work in garment factories? Many see such work as 'soul destroying' or degrading. Instead, many Americans want plum jobs as white-collar workers!

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**GAMBLING AUTHORITY**

### Research on the Prevalence of Excessive and Problem Gambling in Botswana

The Gambling Authority has launched a study to measure the Prevalence of Problem and Excessive Gambling in Botswana. Therefore, the public is encouraged to work closely with a team of researchers who will visit various homestead to gather information related to this study.

The research will take place as follows.

| DATE          | LOCATION                       |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 10 April 2025 | Molepolole, Mochudi & Ramotswa |
| 11 April 2025 | Kanye & Lobatse                |
| 12 April 2025 | Gaborone                       |
| 14 April 2025 | Tsabong & Francistown          |
| 15 April 2025 | Francistown                    |
| 16 April 2025 | Ghanzi, Tutume & Tonota        |
| 17 April 2025 | Tutume & Tonota                |
| 18 April 2025 | North West & Tutume            |
| 19 April 2025 | North West & North East        |
| 20 April 2025 | North East                     |
| 21 April 2025 | Okavango                       |
| 22 April 2025 | Chobe                          |
| 23 April 2025 | Boteti                         |
| 24 April 2025 | Serowe & Bobirwa               |
| 25 April 2025 | Serowe & Bobirwa               |
| 26 April 2025 | Serowe & Selibe Phikwe         |
| 27 April 2025 | Serowe & Selibe Phikwe         |
| 28 April 2025 | Palapye & Mahalapye            |
| 29 April 2025 | Palapye & Mahalapye            |

Researchers will be identified by the Gambling Authority logo on their t-shirts, as well as their identity cards.

For more information on their verification or this project please contact **Malebogo Lepere** at **395 7672** or via email [mlepere@gamblingauthority.co.bw](mailto:mlepere@gamblingauthority.co.bw)

# We're HIRING!

## VACANT

## CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Choppies is seeking a highly skilled and qualified **Chartered Accountant (CA)** to join our dynamic team. This is a **strategic leadership role** for a results-driven professional passionate about financial excellence, regulatory compliance, and business growth in the retail sector.

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**Key Responsibilities:**

- Prepare, analyze, and interpret monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements
- Lead and oversee statutory audits, ensuring timely compliance with tax regulations
- Conduct financial risk assessments and deliver business advisory insights to the executive team
- Develop and manage budgets, financial forecasts, and long-term strategic plans
- Evaluate retail operations to identify cost efficiencies and growth opportunities
- Interpret stock market trends and their implications on business strategy

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**Required Skills & Qualifications:**

- Fully qualified **Chartered Accountant (CA)** with **BICA certification**
- Post-qualification experience in **retail, finance, or audit sectors**
- Strong analytical and problem-solving capabilities
- Proficient in financial systems and accounting software
- Sound knowledge of:
  - Financial reporting standards and statutory requirements in Botswana
  - Taxation laws and internal controls
  - Stock market fundamentals and economic impacts on retail

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Interested candidates should forward their CV and qualifications to [vacancies@choppies.co.bw](mailto:vacancies@choppies.co.bw), referenced "CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT" not later than the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2025.

# Insights on Water Quality in Botswana

**W**HAT'S THE NAME OF YOUR company, and the nature of your business?

Bangie Malaba (BM): Integrated Business Investments (IBI). We are water treatment specialists – providing chemicals; equipment; service and consultancy to clients.

When was it established in Botswana? Is it owned by citizens?

BM: It's a partnership of majority citizen and foreigners, established on 26th May 1999 Who are your clients/ market?

BM: Hospitals, dairies, abattoirs, utility companies, power stations, and any that use water in their processes Many Batswana, especially in rural areas, and places where taps have been dry for many years have resorted to using untreated and unsafe water from different sources e.g. dams. What can you say about this situation? As water quality experts what are your views on the quality of water in Botswana?

BM: It depends on the source – borehole water sometimes poses quality challenges, and sometimes needs special preliminary treatment before it can be supplied to consumers. Generally, surface water is good quality but there's better and best. Physically it's good but chemically and microbiologically there's need for commitment to improve it. Also, to be inclusive of peripheral communities - people in Kaudwane, Tsetseng, Ncojane, Seronga, Pandamatenga, etc are still people just like those in Gaborone. The risk of opportunistic infection is always prevalent, so disinfection to 100% compliance is mandatory everywhere, regardless of the source. Disinfection is a 24/7 process and should be afforded everyone according to UN Resolution 64/292.

In view of the above can Botswana meet the UN SDGs?

BM: UN Resolution 64/292 declares clean, safe and drinkable water and sanitation as a basic human right. That water has to be collected (pumped), then treated to make it meet : (i) the physical properties of water: colorless; odorless and tasteless. (ii) Chemical Properties- It should also not contain dissolved chemicals and salts, whose limits are beyond the maximum allowable for human consumption. (iii) It should not contain microorganisms, pathogens etc, so it should be disinfected - disinfection is a 24/7! process. At the furthest point of supply, water should

'Public complaints that have been doing the rounds are not new and should be taken seriously as poor water quality can cost lives or have a temporary or permanent impact on health. Of course, these should be nothing new to water quality experts who should have picked these problems by constantly testing water to ensure that it is compliant with at least the standards set for the above', BANGIE MALABA - Water Quality Practitioner at Integrated Business Investments (IBI) tells **The Patriot on Sunday**.

contain enough disinfectant residuals to prevent any opportunistic contamination by waterborne infections, eg cholera, typhoid etc .

Your views about Water Quality Regulation in Botswana and its adequacy i.e.

PPRA regulations or codes? BM: PPRA codes should be based on WHO guidelines not be manipulated by SOEs to favor certain preferred companies. An engineering code should belong to engineering practitioners. Scientific codes should be reserved for scientific applications. Building water treatment plants doesn't mean the ability to understand complex chemical reactions and equations. These two need not be mixed / they can solicit each other's expertise if need be.

UN SDG 6 among other targets (five years from now by 2030) improving access to safe and affordable drinking water, improve quality by reducing pollution etc, implementing integrated use, increase water use efficiency etc.

What do you suggest being done in the short, medium and long term to meet the UN SDG 6 targets?

BM: After the public outcry by the American Embassy In 2013, IBI approached WUC (pro bono) to help solve the problem of non-compliance and assist them achieve 100% compliance. Botswana could be leading the world in potable water quality compliance if these had been embraced in the spirit with which they were presented. With good cooperation and less complication or bureaucracy Botswana is not far at all from attaining these SDS- thanks to IBI. We designed systems that use HYDROELECTRIC POWER-renewable energy that can be used where use of solar systems is at risk of pilferage.

## Water quality

Malaba explains that the three main components of water quality include 1. Physical: Visual - Water should be colorless; Smell-water should be odourless; Organoleptic



Bangie Malaba

-water should be tasteless; 2. Chemical - Chemical constituents in the water should be at levels that have been determined to be safe and not to affect the consumers healthwise, and 3. Microbiological - Microbial contamination should be eliminated through disinfection.

Chemical contaminants: (i). Overdosage of chemicals can impact water quality in terms of smell and or taste. (ii). Low conversion efficiency- Unconverted disinfectant chemical ingredients can also be a source of corrosion and health-related problems. In water treatment plants where Chlorine Dioxide is used as a disinfectant, monitoring of Chlorite levels is imperative. Failure to test and control these cannot be tolerated, as it is serious non-compliance. Water quality laboratories must account for non-compliance on this.

Microbiological contaminants: Disinfection- if the process of disinfection is compromised opportunistic microbial contamination may result.

Physical appearance: consumers are complaining of brownish water. (i). Brown color suggests presence of corrosion products. Corrosion occurs on galvanized pipes due to presence of strong oxidants. Chlorine is a strong oxidant- its dosage needs to be closely monitored and controlled.

(ii). Current disinfection methods include Chlorine Dioxide. Chlorine Dioxide of itself is not as corrosive as chlorine. However, its main constituent, if not adequately converted is a strong source of corrosion.

(iii). Inadequate residence time for coagulants/flocculants can also impact the quality of water making

it appear colourful. This is a process control problem that allows flocs to settle much later downstream, thereby rendering that brownish color to the water from the consumer taps.

Disinfection is a 24/7 process and its execution should be done by qualified personnel; its monitoring should be tight as a slight flop can go a long way and cause contamination of water and infection/illness to consumers. This can also lead to outbreaks of waterborne diseases that may slip into costly pandemics and cost lives unnecessarily.

Professional Approach to water quality -Just like in law, medical field, teaching etc, those who provide water treatment services should be qualified and experienced. Unfortunately, almost 99.8% of such service providers are not and have previously misled big and reputable organizations to use dangerous products that were not even approved for human consumption.

PPRA codes -Water quality is not water engineering. This is a function

that should be left to scientists. Currently it is the engineers who even have their code that inhibits scientific companies from tendering. Rammers have nothing to do with water quality. Inclusion of some of the PPRA grading favors engineers instead of scientists.

Consumer Complaints - When consumers complain they deserve to be listened to, and their cases investigated. Currently those responsible seem to specialise in lending a deaf ear or rebutting statements. Professionalism would benefit consumers more than giving excuses for failure or comply.

Quality Control and Consistency - Chlorine Dioxide precursors (ingredients) should be supplied by a single qualified contractor who should be tied down to a Service Level Agreement of producing Chlorine Dioxide purity equal to or more than 98% as opposed to the current preferred 65%. The country cannot afford to be this wasteful, and be detrimental to consumers' health and life in the name of corporate governance.

Need For a Regulatory Body to Protect Human Health

- Just like ERB, or LSB, those providing water treatment services should be qualified and belong to a regulatory body which is empowered to take stern action should elements of noncompliance in terms of costs and quality be reported. With their identity numbers, these can be struck off the list should they be found to be negligent of human lives that they are supposed to protect, as is the case right now. These can be given practising licences and identification numbers.

Third party water testing Water treatment authorities and their suppliers should have expert monitoring throughout the country. These cannot police themselves as collusion is very easy and rampant.

Facts & Figures (SIDE BAR) 42% of household wastewater is not treated properly, damaging ecosystems and human health. (UN-Water, 2023. IBI long proved to WUC that this phenomenon could be improved cost-effectively.

Only 27 per cent of industrial wastewater is safely treated (based on limited data from 22 countries). (UN-Water, 2024). ). In April to June 2015 IBI co-financed an evaluation trial for WUC that proved to be very effective and could be relied on to reduce this deficit. This was performed at the

following wastewater ponds: Lobatse, Mochudi, Molepolole, Kanye and Jwaneng.

The untapped potential for wastewater reuse is around 320 billion m3 per year, with the potential to supply more than 10 times the current global desalination capacity. (UNEP, 2023). IBI helps its clients with more challenging wastewater- treating it to irrigation standards. Abattoirs and poultry places have benefited from our interventions. BMC (Both Lobatse and Maun ) are prime examples.

56% of all the water bodies in the 120 reporting countries in 2023 are in "good ambient water quality". (UN-Water, 2024)

By 2030, the health and livelihoods of 4.8 billion people could be at risk if current water quality monitoring is not improved. (UN-Water, 2024)

Of the 120 countries with water quality data, only 71 have information about groundwater, which is problematic because groundwater often represents the largest share of freshwater in a country. (UN-Water, 2024)

Wastewater accounts for about 1.57% of global greenhouse gas emissions, just below the climate harm caused by the global aviation industry. (UNEP, 2023)

Wastewater can generate biogas, heat, and electricity. It can produce about five times more energy than is required for its treatment – enough to provide electricity for around half a billion people per year. (UNEP, 2023) Several water-related diseases, including cholera and schistosomiasis, remain widespread across many developing countries, where only a very small fraction (in some cases less than 5%) of domestic and urban wastewater is treated prior to its release into the environment. (UN WWDR, 2017)

The greatest increases in exposure to pollutants are expected to occur in low- and lower-middle income countries, primarily because of higher population and economic growth in these countries, especially those in Africa (UNEP, 2016), and the lack of wastewater management systems. (UN WWDR, 2017)

Better lake and groundwater monitoring is an urgent priority. Countries in the lowest income half of the world reported using fewer than 4,500 lake water quality measurements from a global total of nearly 250,000. (UN-Water, 2024)

## Manage Children's screen time over holidays

DAVID MOEPENG  
Independent Correspondent

**C**HILDREN ARE AT GREATER risk of excessive screen time during term breaks or school holidays, which in turn increases their vulnerability to a range of online threats such as exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, online predators, and privacy breaches.

Prolonged unsupervised screen use can also lead to unhealthy habits, including internet addiction, reduced physical activity, and disrupted sleep patterns, further impacting their overall well-being and mental health.

Here are some practical tips on ways you can curb excessive screen time for your children during school holidays:

1. Set clear and reasonable screen time limits
2. Use built-in parental controls or third-party apps to set daily screen time limits.
3. Have agreed "screen-free times," like during meals, family activities, and before bedtime.
4. Explain why limits are important, so it feels like a shared decision, not just a rule.
5. Guide children towards age-appropriate, educational, and creative content (like coding games, documentaries, or digital art apps).
6. Watch or play together to understand what they are consuming.
7. Promote interactive use of screens (like creating something) rather than passive scrolling.

8. Establish tech-free zones in the house i.e bedrooms should be device-free at night to avoid sleep disruption.
9. Create common family spaces for device use to make supervision easier.
10. Balance tech use with offline activities. i.e Plan plenty of offline activities: outdoor play, reading, hobbies, or family outings.
11. Keep kids engaged in house chores to reduce boredom that leads to excessive screen time.
12. Talk about online safety regularly.
13. Have open, ongoing conversations about the risks they might encounter online.
14. Teach them about privacy settings, recognising suspicious behaviour, and how to report problems.
15. Model healthy screen habits yourself - Children learn a lot by imitation.
16. Show how to use technology in positive, productive ways.
17. Check privacy settings and security - Ensure your children's devices, apps, and games are set up with the right privacy controls.
18. Teach children not to share personal information and to use strong, unique passwords.
19. Recognise warning signs. i.e Watch for changes in behaviour, mood swings, or secretiveness about online activities.
20. If you notice concerning signs of internet addiction or online distress, act early—either through open conversations or professional guidance if needed.

## Doctors fed up

FROM PAGE 1

In an interview on Friday, president of BDU Dr Kefilwe Selema said government through Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) hasn't reached out to the doctors over their decision not to work. He said their hope is that relevant ministries will out soon before the holidays ends, asserting that doctors would not respond to call to duty during the period but instead should enjoy their holidays.

Dr Selema indicated that they have met with all necessary stakeholders with regards to the emergency call to duty and nothing solid came out of the discussions. "The DPSM is using technicalities to not come to the table. The Ministers don't negotiate. We are planning to go to Commissioner of Labour and International Labour Organisation if this matter is not resolved," said Dr Selema. In a statement giving an update on emergency call, BDU said it engaged with relevant stakeholders that include assistant Minister for

State President, Minister of Health, Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Leader of Opposition (LOO), DPSM Director and Permanent Secretary in health.

"We wish to further inform you that thus far there is no consolidation on how to resolve this impasse. Government has not brought any position or clear pathway intended at closing the matter. With that, all our colleagues having done their prescribed call are released to enjoy the holidays full," BDU buttressed, advising doctors to only return to work after the holidays as prescribed for all government employees.

Contacted for comment on Friday, Assistant Minister of Health, Lawrence Ookeditse referred inquiries to Chief Public Relations Officer, Dr Christopher Nyanga who had not responded by the time of going to print.

Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Kethalefile Motshegwa also referred inquires to DPSM as the employer of the

doctors, saying she is the most suitable to give an update on the issue.

### DPSM

DPSM Director Gaone Macholo said they are aware of the issues raised by the doctors on emergency call allowances, adding that there are many other pending issues related to the matter. She said DPSM strongly believes that there is a solution to the issue that is on table between the doctors and employer.

"What we are asking for from the doctors is that we should look at their issues holistically so that we have solutions for all of them. Dealing with one issue at a time is expensive and is not helpful. We are open for negotiation with the doctors and we believe solutions will come," said Macholo.

### Nurses

Meanwhile, Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) cautioned nurses to not find themselves performing duties of the doctors during their

tools down over the emergency call to duty during the Easter holidays.

BONU said nurses must not be expected, under any circumstances to assume the responsibilities or decision-making roles of the doctors during their dispute with the government. It said any attempt to burden nurses with duties beyond their legal and professional scope is unacceptable, unethical and dangerous. "Nurses and Midwives are not substitutes for Doctors, and forcing them into such roles risks compromising patient care, violating professional codes, and exposing nurses to undue legal and professional risk," BONU affirmed.

In addition, BONU noted that Nurses and Midwives remain committed to their oath and to the delivery of safe, compassionate and ethical care to the public, adding that however this commitment must not be mistaken for compliance with unreasonable, unlawful or exploitative expectations by the employer.

## More taxes coming

FROM PAGE 1

Some or all of it could be returned to consumers in the form of a dividend.

Alternatively, it could be reinvested in climate purposes, such as advancing low-carbon technologies or building resilience, "said Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, the Virginia based leading think tank on carbon taxes.

### Income Tax

Proposals by BURS to increase tax revenue streams comes at a time where government has announced an increase in taxes for businesses and workers respectively. Finance Minister Ndaba Gaolathe in February during the budget speech said there would be a hike on the personal income tax rate by 1.5% to 23.5%. However, the public sector trade

unions last week during a media briefing said they are against the hike on income tax and would engage Gaolathe about that, citing that a hike will be a burden on the workers.

The Six Cooperating Trade Unions plus one union said the government should prioritize closing revenue leakages due to corruption instead of overwhelming workers and businesses with increased tax rates. According to the unions, 1.5%

income tax increase for high earning individuals including some civil servants will reduce their take home without a corresponding salary adjustment.

Meanwhile, BURS officials said the proposed 1.5% income tax rate increase has not yet been affected as BURS is still awaiting the Amendment Act which will pronounce the commencement date of tax hike.

## BDP

FROM PAGE 1

young democrats to elect him to the party presidency position.

He said if he is elected the president, he will ensure that the BDP constitution is amended to provide for recalling the president or any other leader for unethical conduct or loss of integrity.

### Molefhi

Molefhi raised his hand for the BDP presidency and elder BDP members believe he should lead the party. He is not new to the BDP central committee election race as he contested for the chairmanship during the 2017 and 2022 congress in Tonota and Tsabong respectively.

Molefhi emphasis that there is a need for BDP to go back to the drawing board (marakanelo) and he advocates for the need to reform and reorganization to build a strong and united part.

### Tsogwane

He is the incumbent BDP chairman and vice president and observers are of the view that if the experience was to be a magic for victory, then Tsogwane stand better chance to win presidency.

Morekisi said Tsogwane is facing a very tough competition and some BDP members could vote against him since they associate the BDP loss in 2024 election to his leadership style together with Masisi.

Some members are of the view that he is being supported by Masisi and the current BDP central committee.

### Other key positions

Chairman  
Kefentse Mzwini  
Dorcas Makgato  
Karabo Gare  
Secretary General  
Kentse Rammidi  
Pelotshweu Baeng  
Dr Derrick Thloire

PART 3

# Russia in favour of resuming the Black Sea Initiative

**C**HANNEL ONE: LET US BEGIN with your birthday. You have received plenty of birthday wishes. There was even a "marathon" of your wonderful verses. Did you have time to look and read all that and answer to everyone?

Sergey Lavrov: I am deeply moved by what I have heard, seen and received through various information channels.

I would like to say thank you to everyone. However, it is impossible to do so, which is why our today's meeting is very fortunate.

Before proceeding to the political part of our conversation, I would like, with your permission and with the permission of Channel One, whose good services we use on a regular basis, to express my gratitude to all those who remembered my birth anniversary, those who did not just call to congratulate me, but put their hearts into reciting my modest poems, adding some of their lyrical, humorous and many other 'finds'.

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to President Vladimir Putin for his high appreciation of my work, to Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, to the leadership of the Federal Assembly and to ministers – my colleagues, deputies and senators, as well as to the heads of the media, including, of course, Channel One and our other partners such as Rossiya 1, Rossiya 24, TV Centre, and NTV – the channels where we frequently speak to convey to our citizens the essence of what is taking place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and what we are achieving on the global stage.

I was also happy to receive birthday greetings from TNT TV channel, which had not invited me but they congratulated me nonetheless, as well as from leaders of sports movements, civil society in its various facets, and of course, my colleagues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is impossible to list them all; I have a thick folder on my desk and a lot of materials on my phone. If I have a free moment, I will definitely and gladly look through everything. But I would like to take this opportunity

to thank, through you, all those who have marked and noticed my birthday anniversary.

Channel One: Talks in Riyadh are important. What was their objective and what is the outcome? Please share your thoughts on this.

Sergey Lavrov: The outcome is that the preliminary results are now being reported to President Vladimir Putin and President Donald Trump. As the presidents agreed earlier, the participants focused primarily on safe navigation in the Black Sea. This is not the first time they are trying to address this matter.

The first attempt dates back to July 2022. Back then, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan mediated with the specialists who represented the Ukrainian and Russian entities in question and came to terms on a certain package that was made up of two parts. The first part provided fast-track solutions to shipping Ukrainian grain across the Black Sea via the straits that included ship inspections to preclude cheating where empty runs for a new batch of grain could be used to deliver weapons.

Inspection procedures have been agreed upon and remained operational for the entire year. However, we were then forced to suspend the process, at least to pause it, because the second part of the deal that concerned removal of all obstacles to Russian grain and fertiliser exports was flat-out sabotaged. All ships that carried Russian agricultural products, including fertiliser, have been blacklisted. Lloyd's, the insurer, has hiked up the rates. Payments for our products were impeded as well. Rosselkhozbank was disconnected from SWIFT. Much was done to send prices sky high. European farmers created unfair competition. However, our Western colleagues acted in a biased manner and dumped standard Ukrainian grain on European markets.

The West was doing everything to skew the rules in favour of Ukraine and to punish the Russian Federation as much as it could.

A year after the Black Sea



Sergey Lavrov

Initiative had taken effect, UN Secretary-General Guterres threw up his hands and said that he was unable to get things right. We suggested getting back to this deal whenever he regains this ability. We just bailed out from the Ukraine side of the deal which was approved to last one year. The year ran out. We did not renew that deal. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations on promoting Russian food products and fertiliser to the world markets - Russian grain and fertiliser exports make up a much larger share of the world markets than Ukrainian - will remain in effect through July 2025.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and his representatives maintain contacts with us at all times and are trying to help. However, they are not trying to have sanctions imposed on us lifted, and are not demanding that the West - if it genuinely wants to advance the interests of developing countries, the Global Majority, primarily Africa - cancel its discriminatory food security policies.

UN Secretary-General Guterres chose another path and started looking for loopholes in the Western sanctions without demanding to lift them altogether. Moreover, in fact, he did so while complying with these sanctions and acting upon them, which is absolutely unacceptable for any

UN official, even more so for the Secretary-General. The UN Charter says that no member of the UN Secretariat, including the Secretary-General and his deputies, can receive directives from any government. If the UN Secretary-General is looking for loopholes with regard to sanctions, thus recognising that they exist, he is, in fact, acting upon the decisions that are made in the capitals of UN member states, which is something he cannot do.

That is why our negotiators in Riyadh, who were assigned for this mission by President Putin, reminded their US counterparts of this incident and said that, given Ukraine's track record and the Black Sea incident in question, we would like to leave ambiguity out of whatever agreement we may reach this time.

We also noted that when the Ukrainian part of the initiative expired in 2023, and we withdrew from it, President Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan tried to renew it on two or three occasions. A year ago, he asked for our support to fast-track the renewal of the initiative without conducting physical inspections of empty ships after grain and fertiliser get unloaded. We were willing to meet them halfway even then. Then, at the last moment, President Erdogan said Vladimir Zelensky still wanted to reach an agreement on not targeting nuclear infrastructure facilities, even

though Zelensky was the only one to attack Zaporozhskaya Nuclear Power Plant. Considering the fact that this proposal came from Kiev, we agreed to it without recurring to any special verification mechanisms this time again. In other words, we met all President Erdogan's requests, including the one that Zelensky slipped to him at the last moment for purposes that remain unknown. We agreed to it. Later, President Erdogan called President Putin and said Zelensky had a change of heart.

Every time a ceasefire was declared, Ukraine agreed to it solely because it found itself in desperate straits on the battlefield at that particular historical moment. A few weeks or a couple of months into the ceasefire, they grossly violated it. This is how things were throughout time the Minsk Accords were in effect.

That is why this time we need clear, concrete, verifiable, and workable guarantees and mechanisms. As President Putin said at a news conference with President of Belarus Lukashenko a few days ago, he was supportive of President Trump's initiative to declare a ceasefire for 30 days, not just a moratorium on strikes on energy infrastructure or on maritime infrastructure in the Black Sea. He said we are all for it. However, considering the length of the contact line, the ability of the Ukrainian military to stage provocations...

Recently, they attacked the Sudzha gas metering station and claimed Russia did it, even though the station is our property, and a number of European countries largely depend on it for uninterrupted energy supplies. It is impossible to do so now, just as it is impossible to use the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, in which Kazakhstan and the United States have business interests. One of its pumping stations - Kropotkinskaya - has come under attack. The damage it sustained cannot be undone quickly. The volume of oil pumped to European households will drop dramatically because of this terrorist attack by the Ukrainians.

President Vladimir Putin said Russia was in favour of a ceasefire, but there were nuances such as who would make sure that the Nazi regime in Kiev cleans up its act. We are also in favour of exploring ways to prevent causing any damage to the energy infrastructure which is not in our interest. As the President said, we are in favour of resuming the Black Sea Initiative in a more acceptable form, and it was discussed in Riyadh as a top priority.

Our position is straightforward, and I have just outlined it in broad strokes. We cannot take this individual's word for it. We want the grain and fertiliser market to be predictable, so that no one tries to make us leave it. It's not only because we want/wanted to generate a legitimate revenue in fair competition, but also because we are concerned about food security in Africa and other countries in the Global South and Global East that are impacted by the West's unscrupulous competition tricks. Prices there are quite reasonable, but they could have been much lower if the West stopped interfering in the free play of market forces that it worshipped when it lured us all into this "realm of globalisation and freedom."

As I mentioned earlier, we will need clear-cut guarantees. Given the disappointing experiences of our past agreements with Kiev, the guarantees can only exist in the form of a directive coming

from Washington to Zelensky and his team to do so and so and not otherwise.

I think our US partners are receptive of this signal. They realise that Washington is the only party that can achieve positive results in putting an end to the terrorist attacks and the shelling of civilian energy infrastructure that is unrelated to the defence industry. Europe went down a completely different path. Like in the times of Napoleon and Hitler, the times of the Crimean War, it is eager to inflict a "strategic defeat" on our country. As back in those years, almost all European countries with few exceptions are involved in the war effort. They are not yet physically fighting against us in Ukraine, but, without them, Ukraine would have been defeated, and the Nazi regime would have ceased to exist a long time ago.

As they continue to flood Kiev with weapons, London and Paris - especially its two leaders, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron - backed up by a not too strong coalition of the Baltic states and a number of other countries, keep talking about shipping weapons to Ukraine as they did before, and are even talking about forming a "coalition of the willing" and deploying a "peacekeeping mission" or a "mission to ensure Ukraine's security" after the war is over. Or, even two missions where one would be put on the border with the EU and NATO, and the other one would be formed from the countries of the Global South, such as India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and even China. However, these "dreamers" make their abysmal political failure clear with every passing day. They are willing to not just "contain" Russia, but to inflict a "defeat" on it. Someone even said Vladimir Putin must be put to shame. Historians may correct me, but I have a sense that we have already seen this before with Napoleon and Hitler who entertained similar goals. To realise these goals, the whole Europe was conquered by Napoleon and Hitler. In this particular instance, the whole of Europe has been

mobilised.

Europe, led by Germany - starting with Ursula von der Leyen and everyone else on that list - is beginning to seriously ponder remilitarisation that will set them back outlandish amounts running into hundreds of billions of euros in a situation where its economy and social sphere are circling the drain after the Biden administration let them off the leash and sent them to wage war against the Russian Federation. They face decentralisation and an inordinate number of ensuing problems.

This partly accounts for why they are so adamant about not "surrendering" Ukraine, continuing to arm it, and are demanding that rhetoric about Ukraine not ever joining NATO or the EU be prohibited. French President Macron recently made a statement that runs counter to where the Trump Administration stands. The President himself, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and National Security Adviser Michael Waltz have made it clear that the preliminary discussion of the parameters of the final settlement was underway. President Trump also made it clear that NATO was out of question and there was no point in bringing that issue up. President Biden made a huge mistake when he refused to listen to what Russia had to say and insisted that Ukraine would join NATO, thus creating unacceptable threats. Michael Waltz and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff said that territory issues are "the key," because the territories where the referendums were held have always been Russian in terms of culture, language, religion, and traditions. People want to be associated with Russian culture which the Kiev regime is legislatively exterminating.

Arming Ukraine, which President Putin mentioned, must be stopped. Meanwhile, Europe and Vladimir Zelensky are saying no to that and claim they will not take a pause.

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

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# Opinions, Reviews & Analysis

## COMMENT

### Can BDP restore eroded public trust?

**A**S DEMOCRATS GO TO THE polls on May 10 to elect new leadership, they should bear in mind that the now opposition Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) was already grappling with declining public trust ahead of the October 2024 general elections.

An Afrobarometer survey conducted between July 6 and 19, 2024, confirmed this. The Afrobarometer findings suggest that widespread public dissatisfaction with BDP governance, economic management, and unemployment was bound to contribute to a shift in the political landscape ahead of the

October 2024 general elections. While the BDP had historically maintained strong political dominance, feigning unity amidst deep seated internal divisions, declining trust levels and concerns over leadership effectiveness final landed the fatal blow, and saw them in opposition for the first time after 58 years of continuous rule.

We should be reminded that the public sentiments still play a crucial role in shaping public discourse and expectations for the new Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC). Democrats are better advised to pay attention when they choose the new leadership in Maun in

two weeks, for if they do not vote right the result may be catastrophic.

According to the Afrobarometer findings, 41.3% of respondents indicated they did not trust the BDP at all, while 24.5% said they had just a little trust in the ruling party. The survey also highlighted dissatisfaction with President Mokgweetsi Masisi's performance, with 27.4% of respondents strongly disapproving and 20.8% disapproving of his leadership over the past year.

On government performance, while 45.7% of respondents felt that the BDP government was

handling the economy fairly well, 25.3% believed it was performing fairly badly. There were notable concerns about job creation, with 52.5% stating that the BDP government was handling the matter very badly, and an additional 23.6% saying it was being handled fairly badly.

On improving the living standards of the poor, 20.0% said the BDP government was performing very badly, while 23.5% rated its performance as fairly bad. Furthermore, 71.4% of respondents expressed concern over economic inequality, with equal proportions (35.7%) stating the government was handling the issue very badly or fairly badly. A

staggering 60.3% of respondents said Botswana was headed in the wrong direction, compared to 35.4% who felt it was on the right track. Unemployment emerged as the country's most pressing issue, with 41.9% of respondents citing it as the top concern the government should address. Health and crime/security followed at 9.0% and 8.5%, respectively.

The survey also provided insight into the economic conditions faced by citizens. A combined 55.3% of respondents described the country's economic condition as either very bad (23.0%) or fairly bad (32.3%). The survey also revealed

deep concerns over Botswana's economic conditions and employment opportunities, while also reaffirming strong support for democratic governance. The survey reaffirmed Botswana's strong democratic values, with 72.2% strongly disapproving abolishing elections and Parliament in favour of sole presidential rule.

According to the survey, 27.4% of respondents described their living conditions as "very bad", while 32.1% said they were "neither good nor bad." When asked to compare the country's economic condition to a year ago, 24.7% stated it was "much worse," while 25.8% believed it

remained the same. Similarly, when rating their own living conditions over the past year, 28.2% said their situation had not changed.

Despite these concerns, there was a degree of optimism about the future, with 43% of respondents expecting the economy to improve within the next 12 months. The survey also highlighted employment struggles, with 52.4% of respondents reporting that they were unemployed and actively seeking work. In terms of career aspirations, 54.9% of those surveyed said they would prefer to start their own business if given the choice.

### Mokoka's utterances damaging, reckless -BTU

**T**HE BOTSWANA TEACHERS Union (BTU) has noted a video circulating on social media concerning the utterances made by the Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Hon Nono Kgafela Mokoka, at a Kgotla meeting in Digawana on Friday, 11 April 2025.

In the video, which we studied thoroughly to get into the context, Hon Kgafela Mokoka said a student in Selibe-Phikwe was beaten by five teachers, resulting in the student being hospitalised.

These are words we picked from the video in which Hon Kgafela Mokoka said: "...ba bangwe ba letse ba ketekwa ko Phikwe, ngwana a dikilwe ke mathichara a le matlhano, ngwana a bo ya go robadiwa ko sepatela..."

Upon learning of these serious allegations, the Union leadership immediately tasked the Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) Selibe-Phikwe Regional Committee to conduct a comprehensive investigation across all schools in Selibe-Phikwe.

The outcome of the investigations carried out by the Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) Selibe-Phikwe Regional Committee, with assistance from the Sub-Region Office, which oversees educational matters in the area, confirmed no such incident occurred within SelibePhikwe, as



Hon Kgafela Mokoka



Gotlamang Oitsile, BTU President

alluded by Hon Kgafela Mokoka. Also, no verified cases of teacher-inflicted corporal punishment resulted in hospitalisation in the Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) Selibe-Phikwe Region. Therefore, such unverified reports risk damaging the reputation of the educators and undermining the academic achievements the Selibe-Phikwe Region is proud of.

We, therefore, challenge the Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, as a proponent of child welfare, to tell the nation the truth about what she said about the teachers in the Selibe-Phikwe Region. We also request the Minister to publicly apologise

to Selebi Phikwe teachers for the unsubstantiated claims and correct the record through official communication channels.

We advise our Comrades in the Region to remain committed to maintaining discipline through lawful and non-violent means as outlined in Botswana's Education Act. We want to put it on record that we have been advising our members not to administer corporal punishment long before Kgafela Mokoka issued a statement on the same.

The struggle continues!

**Gotlamang Oitsile**  
BTU President

### How restorative justice could change Botswana's classrooms

**I**MAGINE THIS: A CLASSROOM where apologies are not whispered under threat, but spoken out soft—where a child who once threw a chair in anger now sits cross-legged in a circle of peers, explaining what sped up their heart. This is the gentle power of restorative justice, a practice that exchanges canes for compassion and fear for understanding. In Botswana, where the sounds of corporal punishment still linger in chalky corridors, this approach isn't just a policy shift—it's a cultural revival moulded around peace education.

Restorative justice is like a lotion applied to dry itchy skin. Imagine little Kagiso, whose cheeky demeanor conceals a domestic life of neglect, seated face to face with his teacher. Instead of lashes, they talk.

His classmate Neo, who once shuddered at his tantrums, listens as he owns up. "I just wanted someone to see me." Pain is here changing into words. South Africa's Western Cape schools have seen this alchemy: fistfights dissolve into tearful confessions and bullies become protectors.

Botswana's students also deserve this chance to transform their wounds into wisdom. That is the power of restorative practices.



of courage and forgiveness become lifelines for tortured minds. Why not reinstate Botswana's rich tradition of dikgotla—community courts—by having students mediate conflicts under the shade of a morula tree, mediated by the students themselves.

Let kindness be contagious. Ghana's schools have "kindness competitions" where kids earn points for acts as simple as standing up for a classmate who has been teased or sharing food. Botswana's teachers, though overstretched, could spark this joy with "empathy badges" made from recycled cardboard, awarded weekly. It should not appear like we have forgotten that even the worst behaved child still wants to be good. Only restorative justice would reward that desire while corporal punishment would but punish its failures? Parental buy-in is the tricky maze. But consider this: a WhatsApp group named "Pula

for Parents" (pula being rain, a blessing), where fathers who've never been to PTAs share parenting tips. Mobile workshops would turn ordinary villages in to trainees of responsible parenting. In Rwanda, where genocide caused wounds no cane could heal, community healers became school partners, bridging home and desk. And, of course, the teachers. Imagine a staff room where stress melts into laughter on "Yoga Fridays," imagine a "Victory Wall" where teachers pin up notes after small triumphs: Today, Onalenna apologise spontaneously. In Ethiopia, teachers' coffee ceremonies became confessional, where they rekindled their passion.

Botswana's teachers, too often demoralized by their stressful conditions under which they work would need these sparks of joy for their emotional and mental health. This is no dream. Namibian schools, once faced with the same problems,

now hum with restorative circles. "The cane leaves bruises. Restorative justice leaves hope." Botswana's classrooms, too, can be gardens where accountability sprouts from trust, not fear. The path is bumpy—yes, resources are scarce, and old habits die hard. But as any Motswana elder will advise: even the tallest tree grows from a single seed.

So let's plant that seed, without a cane. It's possible, because other countries have managed. Let's all transform indiscipline into dignity, one story at a time. After all, isn't that the definition of both — the belief that our humanity is intertwined? When a child learns that their voice matters more than their mistake, they don't just behave. They believe. And in that belief lies the future of a nation. I can see a light of life at the end of the tunnel, not a light from an oncoming train to come and crush us all. No.

**Otladisa Lerei Serei**  
University of Botswana

### Rising violence against nurses, health practitioners in clinics, hospitals



BONU, President Peter Baleseng

within our healthcare system and tfeuante the wellbeing of both staff and patients. What is even more concerning is that these violent episodes are not isolated, they've been occurring for far too long, with little to no meaningful response from the employer.

BONU has consistently raised the alarm yet the lack of adequate, standard-compliant security measures at health facilities continues to expose our members to unacceptable risk. This negligence is not only a disservice to healthcare workers but to the public who rely on their care.

We call on the government to act with urgency. It is imperative that top-tier security personnel are deployed across all public health facilities to ensure a safe and secure working environment.

Until such measures are implemented, BONU strongly recommends that high-risk clinics like Bokaa operate only during daylight hours, specifically from 07:30am to 16:30am to safeguard the lives of our healthcare workers.

Over and above BONU recommends Psycho-social intervention and appointment of Nurse Manager for health facilities for ease of intervention on issues affecting health care facilities. The time for action is now. Protecting our health workers is not a luxury, it is a necessity.

**Botswana Nurses Union**

### Easter, one cross - one love!

**H**E CARRIED HIS CROSS UP TO Calvary, embraced it. Already flogged by the Romans, he allowed himself to be nailed, hung on this cross. His loved ones fled, abandoned him in the hour of trial, the enemies mocked where he bleeding, suffering looked down on them and said "Father, forgive them!"

What is this, how is such sacrificial love possible? This Jesus, who became the world's most famous name, and whose birth marks the beginning of our calendar era and whose book, the Bible became the most read. The answer can only be found in that very book, where it says "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." So it was love for each of us with the purpose

of saving us to eternal life. Death is one hundred percent guaranteed for everyone, no one escapes. But, this Jesus who also died on the cross is said to have conquered death and rose from the dead on the third day. I think we need an explanation here, how is this possible? We find the answer in that Bible again. It says that "the wages of sin is death", and that Jesus as the Son of God lived a sinless life, and therefore death could not keep him.

Now we know that we ordinary people sin every day. We slander, lie, exploit, hate and treat each other unlovingly, etc. The list is as endless as this Jesus' love for us when he takes on all our billions of sins on the cross, like a giant magnet. And before God the Father, he therefore says "Forgive them!", and what could God then do other than just forgive us when our sins have been



The greatest question and fear of every human heart, is it probably "death"? Should we just cease to exist as if we never existed, a dot that fades, vanish into nothingness? The one who defeated death responds in a sacrificial and love-filled "No, believe in Me and you will live", because as the Bible finally says: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Love on the cross has spoken, can we ignore and rush on to the meaningless, emptiness of the grave and death, or do we choose to believe and rejoice in a wonderful eternal future with the prince of Life, Jesus Christ?

**Peter Kujala**  
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# Requiem for a great scribe

## Koobonye Ramokopelwa 1985-2025

TO THIS DAY FAMILY, acquaintances and many an elbow bender I encounter on the streets, or in places we used patronise together still pull me to the side and ask "kante what happened to that boy, your friend who was always chatting and laughing at the top of his voice when you meet?". Some still ask, but who would want to kill such a carefree soul like RamoK? I do not have any answers, I'm still searching myself!

When he trotted into the CBET Newsroom -publishers of Botswana Guardian and the Midweek Sun back in 2010- yes, that was not your usual walk, Koobonye Sly RamoK Mpekesho Ramokopelwa deceived many by appearing to be a shy and withdrawn young man. I was later informed that he was our new catch, our new cub reporter. I was a News Editor at CBET at the time. Shortly thereafter, as we were beginning to warm up to each other in the newsroom, he revealed that he was in class with my cousin both at high school and at the University of Botswana- where they graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Humanities (with History & English majors).

Non-conformist  
No sooner had he settled in the newsroom that Ramokopelwa established himself as an effective contributor to Content Planning sessions convened at the beginning of the week. He challenged veterans to explain and justify what they submitted as story ideas they were planning to work on during the week ahead. For him, he made it very clear that he was interested in Business Reporting and would not touch any other beats. He reluctantly contributed to the tabloid Midweek Sun, preferring the more mature and business inclined Botswana Guardian.

In speech, in attire and conduct, Ramokopelwa refused

to just tread the old beaten road like a robot. He would rock up at a black-tie corporate function in multi coloured jacket, a pair of casual pants and a checkered outdoor shirt without a care in the world. Even at the dinner table he would freely enjoy his meal in the best way he found fit, before quickly rising ahead of everyone and dashing to grab a cold one!

He was not trapped in the fear that often engulfs scribes when in the company of decorated industry captains. In fact, he had very top corporate leaders on speed dial in his ever changing cellphones -I have about five of his ever changing numbers on my phone, which most of the time were just the average sedilame! In the middle of an idle chat while enjoying the holy waters at a drinking hole, RamoK would pull out his sedilame and start dialing at the mention of Nixon Marumoloo - BSB CEO or Thapelo Tsheole -the former BSE CEO now based in Rwanda. He would then start speaking frantically to the person on the other end, gesticulating wildly and intermittently bursting out laughing.

Professional Development  
In the newsroom, under the tutelage of Joel Konopo as Business Editor, RamoK spearheaded the establishment BG Boardroom - a feature in Botswana Guardian where industry captains were grilled about their organisations, Investor Magazine targeting corporates and industry leaders, BG Breakfast - a business forum where leaders from different sectors of the economy met to dissect issues and continued the Financial Times partnership which existed at the time.

Upon his return from the US where he spent

several weeks on a sponsored familiarization trip, he would never part with you before reminding you of that fact.

Though he had an opportunity to attend internship at AmaBhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism (where

numerous CBET Journalists attended three months attachments), which the Mail & Guardian in South Africa availed to journalists in SADC or the famous annual Highway Africa conference at Rhodes University, he elected to pass such to his colleagues while he

remained in the newsroom holding fort.

Every time he was in trouble, I could tell when we met, he would keep insisting "Ke thubaruba yooRamokopelwa kana monna. A waa nkitse tota Mogabale (my Grandfather's surname). Ke Mokwena, Gago tshamekelwe mo go nna". After laughing our lungs out at his pomposity and bragging, he would narrate how he was almost fired at Botswana Guardian, only to be saved by a technicality which many overlooked. "Ke halotse ka bobi ba segokgo Mokwena hahahaha!" he would say, and I would remind him that he has two little children to take care of and should do his best to protect his job.

RamoK had planned to return to University of Botswana in 2024 to pursue a master's degree in Journalism. He would later tell me that he had deferred the admission to August 2025 because other personal matters that needed his full attention had emerged at home, which needed funding. He was always concerned about the challenges posed by lack of capacity and competence of personnel in newsrooms in Botswana.

By extension, Ramokopelwa vowed that his kids will enjoy the best education as long as he was alive and active. That was the main reasons he stayed very close them, with his partner and sponsored them to pre-school and primary schooling. In recent years, I also learned that he had enrolled his partner for some short courses at some institution in Gaborone to acquire some qualification. He talked passionately about how if he were to depart

this world, she should be able to take care of the kids without struggling.

Personal Development  
I was actively involved and assisted RamoK build himself a house in Kwaring, on the western side of Molepolole village along Letlhakeng road. I borrowed him some large water containers for the construction and on some occasions used my van to deliver material at the site with him.

He tried a hand at subsistence farming, rearing some goats, which he kept at a relative's place in Gakgala lands near Thamaga. He once sold me some goats because he needed cash to pay for some supplies in Gaborone, and we travelled together to pick them up without any glitches.

The excellent relations he enjoyed with corporates, CEOs, and PR& Marketing Agencies -the latter being mainstream media's biggest headache would motivate him to establish a company called KB Media. KB Media provided Editorial Advisory & Consultancy to serious corporate clients and their head honchos. He produced diverse business related content for them, predominantly drafting statements, compiling annual reports and newsletters, arranging paid content. He had full confidence in my abilities as an Editor and would regularly convene a meeting even against my wish- he would storm into my workplace and head straight for my office, by-passing staff at the Reception area. Colleagues in the Reception area would burst out laughing when they saw us leaving together charting heartily despite that I had just claimed to be busy with deadline to entertain unexpected guests. "Ke thatha mo chance Mokwena! Ha go ka lomagana, ka bona kontrakanyana kare thee ga bana go mpona ha ke tseneng teng!"

He travelled a lot on KB Media assignments. One morning you would meet him at

the buss rank carrying luggages on his way either to Maun, Kasane or Selibe Phikwe, the next week you will meet him with a trolley bag at the airport on a sojourn to South Africa or some other place. Most if not all the work he did for clients through KB Media, he engaged my services as a Consulting Editor. He does not owe me a thebe to date! In fact, I benefited more because high end clients showered him with gifts, including premium whiskey bottles which he would bequeath to me as his elder brother, as is Sekwena culture, and I would thank him with a full tank of fuel for his car to run around.

Zola Mdeni  
On numerous occasions when Botswana Guardian offices were still in Commerce Park, just across the railway from Old Naledi -aka-Zola Mdeni, we will leave the office together only to detour into the township for some cold ones. Some of us who grew up elsewhere, were fed the narrative that Zola is a no-go area, especially under the cover of darkness. Infact, while still in college my homeboys who were in town for a jolly good night, were once rescued by cops in the nick of time by Gaborone Dam bushes following an altercation with some boys from Zola. Yes, Zola has always had cheap depots from time immemorial even when the whole country was reeling under the clasp of the debilitating Covid19 pandemic. In Mdeni you could have one or two poblas while pondering if you will still be alive the next morning!

It was only then that he told me he knows many people in Old Naledi because he stayed there with his aunt, and even started primary school in the nearby primary school.

Ramokopelwa departed this world at a time when the media is experiencing serious internal and external challenges, battered from inside and out. But we soldier on!

Till we hang out again on the other side, REST IN PEACE BUDDY!  
**DITIRO MOTLHABANE**

# Trump tariffs kill AGOA

THE U.S. AND SOME 35 African countries are signatories to the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Introduced in 2000 by former U.S. president, Bill Clinton, its aim is to provide tariff-free access for thousands of products exported by eligible African nations. And many countries have, indeed, successfully used AGOA to boost exports to the U.S., drive industrialisation and create much needed jobs.

And textiles is one major product that has greatly benefitted from AGOA. Hence, Lesotho has benefitted much from AGOA over the years. However, the future of Lesotho's textile industry now hangs in the balance due to Trump's tariffs. Trump has clearly broken the AGOA agreement which is still in force! But he thinks nothing of doing that if by so doing he can serve his own interests!

Many developing countries are producers of raw materials, many of which are vital for industries in the developed world.

And these may include rare minerals that are only produced in the Third World. For example, South Africa is a major producer of four of these: vanadium, chrome, manganese and platinum. In fact, South Africa has 80% of the world's known manganese reserves. Chrome is used to make steel resistant to corrosion and discolouration, and is used to make stainless steel. It is also used in the preservation of wood and tanning of leather. Vanadium increases the strength of steel and protects it from rust and corrosion. Manganese is a key component of stainless steel and also is used in making batteries. Finally, platinum is used to control vehicle emissions so vital in these days of climate change.



Trump

Steel making is a key industry in the U.S. and so these minerals are vital; without them, the future of the steel industry there would be very bleak and may cause its eventual shutdown. And steel has many uses; in the construction of roads and railways and other infrastructure, and is also used in buildings and cars and to make a wide variety of machinery. The U.S. is the world's fourth largest steel producer. So, it is not surprising that the U.S. has a trade deficit with South Africa.

But why punish South Africa when its mineral resources are so vital in making steel in the U.S.? Now, of course, the U.S. could choose to turn its trade deficit with South Africa into a trade surplus by cutting back on importing these minerals from South Africa. But that might inflict a death blow on its steel industry, and Trump has vowed to revive America's manufacturing sector.

In his speeches, Trump has conveniently forgotten to mention the importance of services to the

U.S. economy. Services include a wide range of businesses such as insurance, financial services, telecommunications, computer information services (think Google, Netflix, Amazon...), entertainment, media... Most of these services are delivered digitally. In fact, services make up 70% of the U.S. economy. In 2023, the U.S. was the leading exporter of services worldwide worth a staggering \$1.02 trillion (about P14 trillion). And in 2024, the U.S. ran up a trade surplus, with the rest of

the world, in services of almost \$300 billion (about P4200 billion).

Trump's tariffs have also caused tension between Trump and his right-hand man, Elon Musk. Musk is CEO of Tesla, a multinational manufacturer of battery electric vehicles. And recently, he hoped that the Trump administration would not impose tariffs on the E.U., since not only does it export vital car parts to the U.S., but also is a major market for his vehicles. But his request fell on deaf ears!

Due to Trump's unpredictable behaviour and his lack of knowledge on international trade, many of America's leading trading partners now see the U.S. as an unreliable trading partner.

For this reason, they may now find new trading partners; for example, the E.U. may seek to increase trade with Canada, the U.K., China... And such a move may negatively affect U.S. industries since their exports to traditional trading partners may take a nosedive. And that will have an impact on jobs in the U.S. manufacturing sector.

Trump claims that the imposition of tariffs worldwide will mean that imported goods will become more expensive, and so U.S. consumers will now more likely buy American. Hence, this will result in more jobs for Americans and will boost the U.S. economy thus 'making America great again.' And tariffs may protect U.S. industries from foreign competition, generate government revenue, and improve the country's balance of trade with the rest of the world.

In particular, tariffs may also assist new, or infant, industries, which may initially produce goods at a higher cost than the same goods that could have been imported.

However, the imposition of tariffs comes with disadvantages. Since there will be much less competition from imported goods, U.S. companies may become more inefficient, and may even hike up prices of their goods for their U.S. customers. Plus, reduced choice for consumers and the likelihood of trade wars as we have seen. And imposition of tariffs can be a devastating blow to savers who have money tied up in shares through their pensions.

Some nations, such as Singapore, do not charge tariffs on U.S. goods

and yet Trump has imposed a 10% tariff on imports from the island nation. On April 1st, Israel eliminated tariffs on all American goods hoping that Trump would not impose reciprocal tariffs on Israel. However, it was not to be. On April 2nd, Trump imposed a 17% tariff on Israeli goods. So, this illustrates that Trump's tariffs are not true reciprocal tariffs as he claims they are.

Now what about those countries with whom the U.S. has a trade surplus? They have not been spared either, since Trump has imposed the minimum 10% tariff on their exports to the U.S. Such countries include: U.K., Brazil, Australia, Singapore, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Egypt, and many others.

In conclusion, we are currently in uncharted waters. Although Trump has paused most of these tariffs for the next 90 days, this does not mean that the present period of uncertainty for consumers and stock markets worldwide is now at an end. Trump is so unpredictable, and it appears that his administration has no trade policy but makes it up from one day to the next.

Already, Trump is well known for changing his mind and doing U turns - a political chameleon? Some days ago, he exempted smartphones from tariffs, but he has now changed course and has now imposed tariffs on them! With him, anything goes! No wonder, then, that many of the U.S.'s major trading partners are now busy seeking to make trade deals with other nations besides the U.S. The Chinese leader, Xi Jinping, is now busy visiting countries in south east Asia to increase trade with them; this part of the world is a huge market with a population of some 600 million.

Grahame McLeod

# Business

## Absa invests P2.5 billion in projects

BAKANG TIRO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**A**BSA BANK BOTSWANA Managing Director Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane has said over the past two years alone, Absa disbursed more than P2.5 billion to both large corporates and SMEs, enabling their active participation in infrastructure development across the country.

Pheko-Moshagane revealed recently during Private Equity Thought Leadership Forum hosted by the bank in Gaborone under the theme “Leveraging Pension Funds for Infrastructure Development: Fostering Economic Growth and Creating Long-Term Value for Beneficiaries.”

She said these funds have supported a wide range of impactful projects, including the construction of a private clinic and medical laboratory, the building of in-roads in various villages, and the implementation of water reticulation systems in major settlements.

She said in Botswana; the continued growth of pension assets presents a transformative opportunity for the nation's development and long-term prosperity.

Pheko-Moshagane said in 2024 Absa contributed P407 million in taxes to the national fiscus, reinforcing their role not just as a commercial enterprise, but as a responsible corporate citizen actively supporting the country's socio-economic priorities.

“Through the bank's performance, we are able to reinvest in initiatives that matter, from supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to pioneering sustainable finance solutions, all of which contribute to

- Powers corporates, SMMEs in infrastructure space
- Absa leverages on Pension Funds to develop sector
- Funded building of private clinic, med lab, internal roads



Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe receiving a token of appreciation from ABSA Board Chair, Cosmos Moapare and ABSA MD, Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

Botswana's economic diversification and growth,” said Pheko-Moshagane.

She added: “At Absa, we see ourselves as a bridge, connecting pension fund managers with viable infrastructure projects that offer both financial returns and socio-economic impact”.

For his part, the Vice President and minister of finance Ndaba Gaolathe said pension funds represent not just savings, but the dreams of teachers, nurses, engineers, public servants, and citizens who have served with quiet dignity and now deserve a return that is both secure and transformational.

Gaolathe said it is time for Botswana to unlock this domestic capital, to use it as a lever for inclusive infrastructure development, and to shift from dependence to dominion, from passivity to purpose.

He said the recent policy evolution, mandating a progressive elevation of domestic investment thresholds to 50%, should not be perceived as a limitation but rather as a pivotal opportunity.

“It is an invitation to harness our own capital to sculpt our own destiny, to invest in our own future with unwavering pride and strategic foresight,” he added.

He said there is a need to empower institutions such as the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) and the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) to co-invest in transformational projects, anchored in professional risk management and robust returns.

### Kenewendo meets Chinese Ambassador



**A**MBASSADOR FAN YONG paid a courtesy call to Bogolo Kenewendo, Minister of Minerals and Energy, to exchange views on strengthening friendly bilateral cooperation on April 16, 2025.

Ambassador Fan briefed the Minister on the 10 partnership actions of the FOCAC Beijing Summit 2024 proposed by President Xi Jinping. He noted that energy and mining are key sectors for Botswana's economic and social development. China is willing to take the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations as an opportunity to consistently uphold the principles of green and sustainable development, continuously deepening exchanges, and cooperation between the two countries in the energy and mining fields.

Kenewendo expressed that Botswana government is willing to further enhance exchanges with China and welcome capable Chinese enterprises to invest and do business in Botswana. She encouraged companies to engage in high-quality and practical cooperation, conducting professionals training, aligning with Botswana's new development plans.

## PPRA rebrands

- VP pinpoints PPRA as key player in transformation process
- Urges the Nation to hold PPRA accountable without failure
- PPRA upbeat strategy will deliver efficiency in procurement

BAKANG TIRO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**T**HE VICE PRESIDENT AND Minister of Finance Ndaba Gaolathe has said the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) is the cornerstone of Botswana's economic future.

He was officiating at the launch of PPRA's 2024-2028 strategic plan and new brand identity on Tuesday in Gaborone. He hailed the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan as bold in its vision and rigorous in its logic.

He noted that at its core lies a powerful proposition: “Doing Things Right.” Not just doing things, but doing them right, the first time, every time. The strategic plan's core goal is to establish a “sustainable and inclusive public procurement system.”

Gaolathe said there is a need for a system anchored in transparency, equity, fairness, service excellence, innovation and high impact and a system where compliance is not an aspiration but a minimum requirement.

According to Gaolathe, PPRA has set an ambitious target to achieve 100% compliance with the public procurement law by all procuring entities, procurement practitioners, and contractors by the year 2028.

“That is the kind of resolve we need. I commend this clarity of ambition. In the absence of high standards, mediocrity becomes the norm. Not anymore,” he said.

Gaolathe emphasized that the Strategic Plan is not merely a declaration of intent but a promise to the people of Botswana. He encouraged the public to hold PPRA accountable because when



PPRA Chief Executive Officer Tumelo Motsumi

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

procurement fails, it is the people - especially the children waiting for textbooks and the patients needing medicine - who suffer.

Through this strategic plan, Gaolathe said PPRA pledges to deliver: an efficient and effective tendering process; professionalisation of public procurement; robust compliance and enforcement; strategic partnerships; and improved stakeholder satisfaction. Meanwhile, PPRA Chief Executive Officer Tumelo Motsumi said the new strategic plan would

improve efficiency and transparency in the public procurement system and aid PPRA to be very agile.

She said PPRA is undergoing transformation phase and with the support of the government it would meet its intended outcomes in execution of its public procurement mandate. According to Motsumi, PPRA is committed to ensuring that there is compliance in the award of tenders in the public procurement, adding that there is a need for prudent use of resources in public procurement.



### Phikwe Citrus sells 33% stake to CITRICO GLOBAL

**S**ELEBI PHIKWE CITRUS (PTY) Ltd. (SPC) is closing a transaction where it intends selling 33% of its shares to CITRICO GLOBAL S.L.

CITRICO GLOBAL S.L. is headquartered in Spain. They farm c 30 000 hectares of fruit globally, distribute 1 million tonnes of produce into 70 countries, employ around 12000 staff members and have an annual turnover of circa one Billion Euro annually.

The rationale to conclude a transaction with CITRICO GLOBAL S.L. is the global sales and marketing footprint that they have. Market access and route to market is crucial in the industry and they will bring invaluable established customer bases, knowledge and expertise to the business.

SPC has over the last 18 months looked at many share sale options that would on the one hand provide further capital resources, but at the same time bring in partners that will actively strengthen the business. The best option by far that we have found is with CITRICO GLOBAL S.L.

Section 34 (1) of the Tribal Land

Act of 2018 compels this transaction to be advertised in the manner that we have done. The Advertisement placed this last weekend has elicited much speculation as to the purpose of the sale of shares. The Company wishes to confirm that the Board is totally committed to the development and expansion of Agriculture in Botswana.

Also, both current shareholders remain deeply invested in SPC. We are not going anywhere, the opposite is true, we are investing further. Many hundreds more jobs will be created, Botswana exports will rise, eventually, agri-processing and supporting industries will develop.

The bulk of the proceeds of this share sale will remain in SPC as capital.

This capital injection will enable the development of a second large citrus farm, similar to SPC. “Our intention is not just to establish farms, Botswana needs a citrus Industry, and we are committed to facilitate and participate in this. SPC is in discussion with Government on the planned expansions,” the company said in a statement.

### BoB keeps rate at 1.9%

**A**T THE MEETING HELD ON 17 April 2025, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of Botswana maintained the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) at 1.9 percent. The MPC met at a time when the global economy is experiencing heightened uncertainty due to shifting trade policies manifested by series of imposition of reciprocal trade tariffs.

For Botswana, the import tariff rate for exports to the United States of America (USA) was set at 37 percent, which, however, has been put on hold for 90 days. One of the effects of this could be an adverse impact on Botswana's exports to the USA. We expect that the forthcoming April 2025 World Economic Outlook (WEO) publication by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will provide comprehensive analysis of the likely trajectory of the global economy in this environment. Relatedly, recent developments have led to a significant drop in international oil prices, which, if sustained, could result in lower domestic inflation. The domestic economy faces challenges relating to inadequate traction of transformation policy initiatives, thus lack of economic diversification and weakening fiscal and external position.

The recent credit rating reviews by Moody's and S&P Global Ratings also allude to these factors. Hence, the need for all policy frameworks to be aligned towards building economic resilience. For example, fiscal policy in terms of enhanced resource mobilisation, rationalisation of expenditure and rebuilding fiscal and external buffers that enable continued policy discretion not influenced by any need for external support. At the previous briefing, it was pointed out that our economy was in a recession in 2024 but was projected to improve. However, there is possibility that this recovery may be muted. Indeed, the challenges faced now and those ahead require effective design and implementation of sound policies and achievement of high levels of productivity across all our initiatives and efforts to grow the economy.

Notwithstanding, the MPC deliberations and decisions continue to be undertaken within the Bank's monetary policy framework as recently outlined in the 2025 Monetary Policy Statement. [BoB PRESS RELEASE]

# Hollard Life launches Future-Focused Service Centre

**H**OLLARD LIFE TODAY marked a transformativemoment in Botswana's insurance landscape with the official launch of its new Customer Service Centre, located in the Gaborone CBD.

The opening represents more than just a new branch—it is a first-of-its-kind, hybrid Self-Service + Human Agent Customer Service Centre, designed to deliver an innovative, efficient, and deeply human customer experience. The new space combines cutting edge digital technology with warm, personalized service, setting a new benchmark for the insurance industry in Botswana.

The launch event was officiated by Tabuya Tau, Managing Director of Hollard Botswana, and attended by key stakeholders, clients, partners, media, and members of the Hollard team. In her keynote address, Tau emphasized that the new centre is a bold step

in reimagining what insurance service can be.

"We are not just opening a branch we are unveiling a reinvention of how we engage with our customers. This is a space where technology handles the transactional, and our people focus on what matters most, building trust, offering guidance, and delivering peace of mind."

One of the centre's key features is the Hollard Life Self-Service Client Portal, a digital station enabling customers to independently apply for policies, manage claims, access product information, and request quotes. This innovation reflects Hollard's commitment to empowering customers with choice, convenience, and control, while maintaining meaningful human connection.

The centre also includes a dedicated Compassion Room, a quiet, private space designed for sensitive conversations, such as claim discussions or grief support. This feature



Tabuya Tau, Managing Director of Hollard Botswana

underscores Hollard's values of care, dignity, and respect, ensuring that clients feel truly seen and supported in every interaction.

Group CEO of Hollard Botswana closed the event by calling the launch "a promise

made visible" and reaffirming the company's broader purpose: "This service center signifies our strategic intent in bringing our purpose to life. It's about delivering on our promise to enable more people to create and secure a better future.

This centre is a platform for empowerment, built with heart, innovation, and partnership at its core." By situating the service centre in one of the busiest and most accessible parts of the city, Hollard demonstrates its dedication

to customer convenience and inclusivity. The company sees this centre as a blueprint for future initiatives that put people first, integrate digital transformation, and enhance service delivery in the insurance space.

## Outsmarting Banking Scammers This Easter



**MALEBOGO HIRSCHFELD**  
Forensics Services Manager  
Bank Gaborone

**A**S THE EASTER holidays approach, many Batswana will be sending money home, transacting while on holiday, or shopping Easter celebrations. With more people using digital and mobile banking services, fraudsters see this as an opportunity to trick unsuspecting individuals out of their hard-earned money.

Bank Gaborone, we understand that banking is personal. Therefore, we are committed to helping you protect what matters most - your money and your peace of mind. We do not just bank money. We bank people.

A New Era of Scams  
Criminals are becoming increasingly smarter, no

longer relying on outdated methods and tricks. As the national policies evolve to better protect customers, the fraudsters are also advancing to make their attacks more targeted, and harder to detect. Using AI-generated messages, voice-cloning software, spoofed caller IDs, and locally relevant details to make their deception believable.

Whether it's a call pretending to be from your bank, a fake website, or a deceptive SMS link, the goal is the same: to gain access to your money or sensitive information.

According to a Botswana Police Service alert released on 02 April 2025, there has been a noticeable rise in:

Impersonation scams – where criminals pretend to be your bank, police officers, or even family members.

Phishing messages – SMSes or emails that look like they are sent from your bank, asking you to "verify" your details.

Emotional manipulation – stories designed to pressure you into acting fast, such as someone claiming a relative has had a near fatal accident or your pension needs urgent confirmation.

These scams are circulating not only in Gaborone and

Francistown but also across the country.

Warning Signs to Look Out For:

You are your first line of defence. Be alert if you receive: Urgent messages pushing you to act quickly.

Unexpected requests for your PIN, OTP, card details, or password.

Messages with suspicious links asking you to "log in" or "confirm your account."

Calls from unfamiliar numbers claiming to be from your bank.

If something does not feel right or you are uncertain - pause. It is better to be safe than sorry.

What Bank Gaborone Will Never Do:  
To protect you, please remember that Bank Gaborone will never:

Ask you for your full card number, password or PIN over the phone or via SMS, email, or WhatsApp.

Tell you to move money to a "safe" or "holding" account.  
Pressure you into making an immediate financial decision.

Our systems are regularly upgraded, and our staff is trained to detect and prevent fraud. We also invest in educating our customers so

they can recognise scams and respond with confidence.

Simple Ways to Stay Safe  
Here is how you can protect yourself and your loved ones this Easter:

Use strong passwords and turn on two-factor authentication.

Do not share your banking details with anyone - even if they claim to be from the bank.

Always call our official number to verify anything suspicious

Confirm the validity of promotions and competitions with the Bank Gaborone Facebook page

Report fraud immediately. Your action could stop others from becoming victims too.

Scams do not just steal money, they shake your sense of trust, peace of mind and security.

Scams do not just steal money, they shake your sense of trust, peace of mind and security.

For Bank Gaborone as your banking partner trust is everything. We remain committed to keeping your experience safe, secure, and empowering. Call the Bank Gaborone Contact Centre at +267 31 586 81 for further information .

## Know Your Corporate Leader



**Full Name:** Thabang Mogodi

**Position:** Chief Financial Officer

**Institution:** Water Utilities Corporation

**Date started:** June 2022

**Nature of business:** water and waste water management services

## Masheleng launches 2025 National Tour

**I**N A COUNTRY WHERE financial inequality continues to widen the gap between potential and opportunity, Masheleng is taking bold steps to bridge it - one empowered conversation at a time.

The company has officially launched the Masheleng 2025 Financial Literacy Tour, a national campaign aimed at bringing practical money education, economic tools, and financial confidence to thousands of Batswana across six towns: Maun, Francistown, Palapye, Jwaneng, Gaborone, and Ghanzi.

But this isn't just another event tour. It's a movement and at the heart of it lies a powerful campaign to ensure that even the most overlooked voices are heard and included.

"This year, we've introduced a sponsorship drive to provide free tickets to students, unemployed youth, single mothers, and small-scale entrepreneurs - people often left out of financial conversations, yet most in need of them," says Seatla Ratshosa, Founder and Director of Masheleng. "We believe financial empowerment is a right, not a privilege."

The sponsorship campaign invites individuals, companies, and donors to sponsor access for those who would otherwise not afford to attend. It's a chance to invest not just in people but in the potential that has long been locked out of opportunity due to lack of knowledge or access.



Ratshosa

Masheleng is already a household name through its weekly TV show on BTV, and a growing online presence that reaches over 350,000 followers. But this tour brings the platform offline and into communities, delivering live workshops, expert panels, and actionable tools that demystify money for everyday citizens.

From explaining savings and investment basics to breaking down debt, insurance, and starting small businesses,

Masheleng meets people where they are and helps them build from there.

The initiative starts in Maun on the 7th of June then goes to Francistown on the 5th of July, Palapye on the 2nd of August, Jwaneng 6th of September, Gaborone 27th of September and closes in Gantsi on the 25th of October 2025. Tickets are sold at General: P350, Standard: P750 and VIP: P1,250 for those willing to attend.

"This isn't about giving

handouts," says Campaign Strategist & Producer Gauta Eyma, "It's about unlocking mindsets, giving people the tools to dream again, and making sure no one is left behind."

As the tour prepares to roll out in June, Masheleng is calling on brands, individuals, and communities to sponsor a ticket, change a life and join a movement that's quietly transforming Botswana from the inside out.

## TENDER NOTICE



### BOTSWANA PUBLIC OFFICERS PENSION FUND

**TENDER FOR CLEANING SERVICES TO BOTSWANA PUBLIC OFFICERS PENSION FUND TENDER NO: BPOPF/HCA/002/ 2025-2026**

The Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (the Fund) invites companies for the provision of office cleaning services at its head office located at Plot 54366, Unit 3, Peelo Place, Western Commercial Road, Central Business District, Gaborone.

Bidders are required to provide proof of payment of the non-refundable deposit and their preferred email address where the Invitation to Tender ("ITT") document will be sent. Alternatively, the ITT can be collected from the BPOPF head office located at Plot 54366, Unit 3, Second Floor, Peelo Place, Central Business District, Gaborone.

1. The Tender is open to 100% citizen owned companies **ONLY**.
2. Submissions must be received no later than **12 noon on Friday 30 May 2025**.
3. A non-refundable deposit of **BWP 1, 000.00** must be made via EFT in Favor of the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund.

**Banking details:**

**Account Name:** Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund  
**Bank name:** FNBB  
**Branch:** Corporate  
**Account Number:** 62098584967  
**Branch code:** 282267

4. Proof of payment should be emailed: **tenders@bpopf.co.bw** Tel: **3717158**

## Hinchliffe joins Chobe board

**C**HOBE HOLDINGS IS pleased to announce the appointment of John Philip Hinchliffe to the Board effective from 15 April 2025 subject to the confirmation by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held in August 2025.

Mr Hinchliffe trained as an articulated clerk for three years with Coopers & Lybrand in London qualifying in 1980 and subsequently promoting to Audit Manager before being seconded to the Botswana

office later taking up a full-term contract in Botswana. Since leaving Coopers & Lybrand in 1984 Mr Hinchliffe has held various positions in business including Group Financial Officer of Premet Holdings Proprietary Limited, Finance Manager at Kgalagadi Breweries Proprietary Limited and Managing Director at DCDM Botswana where he established the Botswana office for DCDM and led various consultancy projects.

He currently runs John

Hinchliffe Consultants. Additionally, Mr Hinchliffe's professional career has included participation in numerous consultancy projects for government and parastatals, including the Human Resources Development Council and Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs as well as serving as a high-profile liquidator and judicial manager.

He has held various directorships, including nonexecutive director roles at both Botswana Insurance

Holdings Limited and Botswana Insurance Company.

Mr Hinchliffe holds a Bachelor of Arts (Economics) Degree from the University of Manchester and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and a registered ICAEW Business and Finance Professional. He is also a Fellow of the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (FCA). The Board warmly welcomes Mr Hinchliffe. **[bse.co.bw]**

# Kenewendo on making deals, marketing diamonds

**B**OGOLO KENEWENDO WAS IN New York City for a week in March, where she served as the keynote speaker at the Jewellers Vigilance Committee's annual luncheon. She is a trade negotiator and trade economist who served as the cabinet minister of investment, trade and industry under the previous president of Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi. Then age 30, she was the youngest cabinet minister in the history of Botswana and in all of Africa. She left government in 2019 but this past fall, the country's new president, Duma Boko, asked her to return and gave her a clear directive—get the new sales deal with De Beers Group done in 100 days. And she did. In our interview, Kenewendo shared her perspective on closing the deal, the importance of refocusing on natural diamond marketing, and her advice for young leaders. This interview took place March 11 at the Tiffany & Co.'s The Landmark on Fifth Avenue.

**Michelle Graff:** I recently watched a recording of a TED Talk you did a couple years ago in Cape Town. In that talk, you described yourself as a “diamond baby.” Can you talk a little bit more about what that means?  
**BOGOLO:** Yes. In that TED Talk, I talk about being a diamond baby because I was born in a government hospital, I went to a government primary school, a government senior school.

I went to university, paid for by government around the world—in Botswana, in the U.S., in the U.K., and I ended up working for the government. All this was possible because the government of Botswana pays for it. The only way that the government pays for this is that diamonds contributed in the '80s well over 60 percent of government revenues and in the '90s to the 2000s to now, contributes 30 percent or so of revenues. Our ability to convert what's underground to revenue, to tangible wealth, is what makes me a diamond baby.

**MG:** In that talk, you also mentioned Dr. Gaositwe Chiepe. Can you talk a little bit about her role in ensuring the people of Botswana benefited from their country's diamonds? Is she someone who was a mentor to you or someone you've emulated in your career?

Bogolo Kenewendo, the minister of minerals and energy, discusses closing the deal with De Beers and the work that was missed along the way with Michelle Graff of the National Jeweler, USA



Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo

[PIC:PINO KILANO]

**BOGOLO:** Dr. Chiepe was [Botswana's] first woman [cabinet] minister, and she was also the first woman minister of minerals and the first woman minister of trade, which are both positions that I've happened to hold. She became really important in my life. She later became my mentor, and I called her my adopted grandmother. This is a sad story, but so profound to me. She passed away [on Jan. 26 at age 102], the Sunday after we concluded [negotiations on] the De Beers deal and I called her to tell her that we've concluded negotiations, negotiations that took six years. She was so excited, and we were planning what to do for the celebration.

Dr. Chiepe had really been an anchor to me and my career for several years; she was wonderful. But, over and above being an anchor to me, she negotiated the first De Beers-government of Botswana

deal, the first agreement that created Debswana, our mining vehicle. This was in the '70s and it enabled Botswana to mine its diamonds. Then, we didn't even have a pound to our name. What they negotiated at the time is that with the expected dividends from our mines, we can reinvest those, and they foreshadowed that the royalties that will come out of our mines is what we will use for the developmental aspects of the mines.

They front-loaded the taxes that they wanted for the mines and that's what they used as contribution for their equity, so all of this Mathematics. You can just see the visionary leadership back in the '70s that enabled them to craft what is now heralded as the world's best and largest Triple P (public-private partnership) that we continue to emulate. I don't think it's just the creation of Debswana that makes her

so pivotal to our development. It's what happened when she moved to Ministry of Education, of reinvesting the mineral rents in education, affording every Motswana an opportunity to go to school. Regardless of where you go in the world, you will get your tuition paid in full and you will get a living allowance associated with it. Incredible leadership.

**MG:** I want to talk a little bit now about this new deal between Botswana and De Beers. I think the main thing people are curious about is, what took so long? We were told an agreement had been reached in July 2023, but it took until February 2025 for the deal to be signed. I know the Botswana general elections were in October 2024, which resulted in a new leader and a new ruling party for the country. But I've also seen reports about a tax issue causing the delay. What can you tell us about the timeline?

**BOGOLO:** First, this agreement is critical to Botswana's development and Botswana's future. There were quite material matters to be negotiated after onset, and those issues couldn't be dealt with overnight. What was reached in 2023 was the heads of terms [meaning], what is it that we agree to negotiate on? And then I think there were issues on, maybe style of negotiation and maybe personality clashes. I'm unsure, quite honestly, because I was not in the government at that time. What I can tell you is that after the elections, President Gideon Duma Boko said to me, “As the minister of minerals, I need you to get this done in 100 days. You have no excuses.” It was clear I had to unpack with the team, what were the things that were hanging and if they needed isolation and mediation, we isolate, we mediate. And one of the things that you've referred to was the matter of taxes. We have resolved the matter

of tax. De Beers no longer has any liability of taxes in Botswana and they are a corporate citizen in good standing.

**MG:** So, De Beers owed some money in taxes and was that holding up negotiations?

**BOGOLO:** I wouldn't say they owed. I think there were matters of calculations, but they are fine now. But I don't think that that was necessarily what was holding up negotiations.

**MG:** What do you think it was then, just the transition from one government to another, the personality clashes?

**BOGOLO:** Well, the transition happened in November. I was given a mandate to close it in 100 days, and we did that. We were entirely focused on closing it because what we realized is in the six years that Botswana and De Beers were negotiating, [demand for] synthetics grew, right?

**MG:** Yes, a lot changed. **BOGOLO:** There were serious structural changes in the American market. Gen Zers became a lot more aware of ESG (sustainability) and wanted a product they could relate to.

The marketing budget of both De Beers and diamond-producing countries significantly dropped and therefore the presence of natural diamonds in the market dropped. The call to say, “Do this in 100 days and close,” was so that we can focus on fixing the market, on getting back demand, but end on getting the supply flowing and on working on the fifth C... confidence in the market. That was what we were solely focused on—make sure Botswana has a good deal, that we can sell and market our diamonds, that our production is secure, and ethics are followed, that there is no overhang of any liability that was being talked about, that we are securing the future for Botswana. But, most importantly, we're getting back the natural diamond market.

**MG:** Yes. I know there is a big push right now around marketing natural diamonds.

**BOGOLO:** It's a big push. It's a big push because if just from the trend, the focus on the negotiation really derailed the market or we missed the work. We missed the work that was

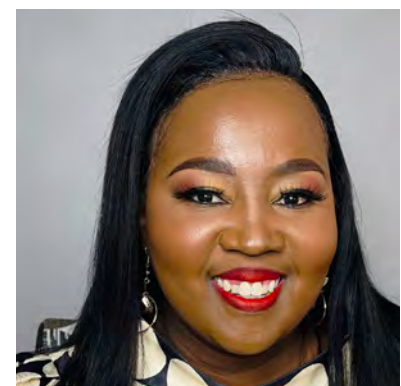
needed and the leadership that was needed in the market. We think that now together, but also in partnership with other stakeholders, we can be able to challenge what is needed in the natural diamond market and ensure that we are creating some buoyancy.

**MG:** My last two questions are off the topic of diamonds, if you don't mind. What would you say to other young women leaders, or women in general, who might be feeling discouraged about the current state of the world? I know you've spoken out about women in leadership and when you started, when you first were in the government, you were the youngest cabinet minister in all of Africa. Is that right?

**BOGOLO:** Yes; what an interesting period then. So, first, [I would say this] to just generally young people who may be feeling discouraged right now. I think in the face of adversity, we should never give up. You know, it is now that we really need to exert all of our energies to challenge the status quo and to seek what our passions are and to just go after them because the breakthrough will be that much sweeter.

It's easier for somebody to say that when they're sitting in a Tiffany & Co. office and wearing Botswana jewelry. But it hasn't always been that way for me. I have knocked on many doors, I have begged for people to see me, and I know what struggle is like. I wasn't born with a silver spoon. And every time I got a no, I took a moment out. I recognized that sometimes you need a breather. But then you must always get up, because your dreams always deserve you to show up for yourself. No one will do it for you. And someday you will look back, sitting in a Tiffany building and recognizing that those days of crying and waking up the next day and doing it all over again were worth it. And then to the young women: Agency is important, economic agency is important. Right now, I recognize that it is fashionable to have somebody pay for your life, but nothing is more fashionable and more worthy than affording yourself and having economic agency. It is worth the liberation. That's the only thing that can guarantee you the liberty, the freedom, the life that you want. [https://nationaljeweler.com]

# Outsmarting the Digital con artists



DR DIMAKATSO POLOKELO

**I**MAGINE RECEIVING AN EMAIL from your CEO requesting an urgent wire transfer. The message references an ongoing project, mimics their writing style perfectly, and even includes details only someone familiar with your company would know. You comply, only to discover hours later that you've just funded a cybercriminal's offshore account. This isn't fiction, it's happening right now in boardrooms and inboxes worldwide. Last week, I received a desperate email from a 'friend' stranded on a remote island, begging for money to get home, complete with a suspicious link. Of course, I recognized it as a phishing scam, but not everyone would.

In view of the foregoing, cybersecurity has evolved from a technical concern to a fundamental survival skill. Where once we worried about viruses corrupting files, we now face an insidious new threat: phishing attacks so sophisticated they bypass our instincts and exploit our trust. Cybercriminals have weaponized artificial intelligence, behavioural psychology and vast troves of stolen data to craft attacks that are virtually indistinguishable from legitimate communications.

Awareness is our first line of defence and cybersecurity literacy

might just be the most valuable skill of the 21st century. Phishing has evolved from obvious scams to highly personalized attacks that can deceive even cautious users. The shift from mass phishing to targeted campaigns demonstrates why cybersecurity must be proactive rather than reactive. A single successful phishing attack can lead to devastating data breaches, ransomware infections, and financial fraud. The 2023 Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report found that 74% of all breaches involved human error, often stemming from successful phishing attempts.

Outdated software becomes an open door for malware delivery, while weak password policies transform employee accounts into turnkey access points for corporate networks. Perhaps most alarmingly, the absence of multi-factor authentication creates a golden opportunity for attackers, stolen credentials can be deployed instantly, with no secondary gatekeeper to halt the intrusion.

The threat landscape has been further transformed by the advent of generative AI. Where attackers once spent hours crafting individual scam emails, they now deploy AI-powered tools that generate thousands of hyper-personalized messages in minutes. These machine-generated communications mimic corporate tone, replicate writing styles, and even reference real internal projects, rendering traditional spam filters effectively obsolete. IBM's 2023 Cost of a Data Breach Report reveals that phishing-related breaches now cost organizations an average of \$4.45 million per incident. But the true damage extends beyond immediate financial losses. Each successful attack erodes customer trust, damages brand reputation, and creates operational chaos that can



take months, or even years, to fully remediate.

What makes these attacks particularly insidious is their self-reinforcing nature. Every successful breach provides attackers with fresh data to refine their tactics, creating a vicious cycle where each wave of attacks becomes more sophisticated than the last. The emails that bypassed defences yesterday become the templates for tomorrow's campaigns, while stolen internal documents supply the authentic details needed to craft ever more convincing lures.

Below are a few tips to help strengthen defences against phishing:

### Individuals

Use strong, unique passwords for every account (such passwords as

“thato1974” and “Lobatse123” are not good passwords and you need to refrain from using them

Be skeptical of unsolicited messages, even if they appear to come from trusted sources

Keep software updated to patch vulnerabilities that attackers exploit

Educate yourself on the latest phishing tactics to recognize red flags

For Businesses

Implement AI-driven email security to detect and block sophisticated phishing attempts

Adopt a zero-trust security model, requiring verification for every access request

Conduct regular cybersecurity training to keep employees aware of evolving threats.

Develop an incident response plan to minimize damage if a breach occurs.

For Governments and Policymakers:

Enforce stricter cybersecurity regulations

Invest in public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about digital threats

Strengthen international cooperation to track cybercriminal networks

Phishing attacks have also evolved beyond poorly written emails from fake princes. Today's cybercriminals also use psychological manipulation and industry-specific deception to trick even cautious users. Recent data from Verizon DBIR 2024 reveals that certain lures, like “urgent document review”, fake payroll alerts are far more effective than others. Meanwhile, attackers are tailoring scams to specific industries, impersonating insurance portals, fintech apps and scholarship offers. A few examples are listed below.

Cybercriminals exploit cognitive biases (mental shortcuts that influence human decision-making). The most successful phishing lures prey on such cognitive biases as “Urgent Document Review” (32% click rate). This triggers authority bias (appears to come from management/HR), exploits FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) as users worry, they'll miss an important update, and it often uses legitimate-looking templates (eg SharePoint, DocuSign).

In 2023, an attack impersonated a corporate legal team of a certain company, claiming employees needed to “review updated policy documents immediately.” The link led to a credential-harvesting page.

They also use Meeting Cancellation” which has a 28% click rate. This targets habitual behaviour (many workers check calendars frequently), creates false urgency getting users to rush

to reschedule without verifying and often includes familiar

branding (Zoom, Microsoft Teams). An example of this would be a campaign mimicking calendar alerts, telling recipients their “meeting was cancelled” and that they should click to view details. The link would then installed malware.

Cybercriminals don't use a one-size-fits-all approach. They research industries to craft believable scams. The most common one is impersonating fintech and banking apps. The common lures are “Suspicious activity detected on your account”, “Your account has been blocked, click this link to update”. These are usually effective because people expect fraud alerts from banks.

To defend against these attacks, you should:

Slow down - phishing preys on rushed decisions

Verify sender email addresses (look for subtle misspellings)

Never click links - manually type known URLs instead

The evolution of phishing techniques demands security solutions that adapt in real-time to emerging threats.

The most effective defence recognizes that modern phishing succeeds by exploiting the gap between human psychology and digital security. While technology can filter many malicious messages, some will always slip through to target our innate tendencies. Closing this vulnerability requires creating security-aware cultures where questioning unusual requests becomes second nature and where everyone understands their role in collective protection.

Phishing threats continue to evolve in both sophistication and frequency. Effective protection requires coordinated efforts across all levels. Sustained attention to evolving threats and regular updates

to defensive measures will remain essential as phishing techniques continue to advance.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Dimakatso Michelle Polokele is the Head of Centre for Technology and Innovation for Africa at Woxsen University in Hyderabad, India. She also serves the university as an Associate Professor in the School of Business. As part of her responsibilities, Dr. Polokele is the Convenor of the Women Leadership Affinity Group at Woxsen University. She has studied across multiple universities around the world and holds a Doctor of Business Administration from Selinus University in Ragusa, Italy. Dr. Polokele is a digital transformation expert with specialization in Artificial Intelligence for Business, Blockchain for Business and Future of Work and Automation. She is also a Micro Finance expert with over 15 years of executive leadership experience in various African countries. Beyond academia, she is a thought leader with a widely followed weekly column in The Patriot on Sunday, a leading Botswana newspaper. Her insights focus on emerging technologies and their transformative impact on Botswana and Africa's broader economic landscape. Dr. Polokele is also an accomplished author, having recently published books titled “Mindset Revolution”, “Breaking Glass Ceilings – The Myth of Women Empowerment” and “AI in Microfinance for Growth and Returns”.

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNING CEREMONY

### BANK OF BOTSWANA AND BOTSWANA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY



On 4 April, 2025, the Bank of Botswana (BoB) and Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance collaboration between the financial and telecommunications sectors. The MoU was signed by Bank of Botswana Governor Mr Cornelius K. Dekop and the Chief Executive Officer of BOCRA, Mr Martin Mokgware.

This MoU aims to create a structured framework for dialogue and cooperation between the two organisations, particularly in response to the rapid innovations impacting these sectors. The MoU specifically targets critical areas that intersect their responsibilities, including cybersecurity, mobile money services, and financial technology developments.

The key areas of collaboration identified in the MoU are Cybersecurity and Incident Response, Technology Innovation and Research, and Capacity Building and Training. Through this partnership, BOCRA and the Bank of Botswana aim to enhance cooperative efforts significantly, ensuring a secure, resilient, and proactive approach to addressing interconnected challenges faced in finance and telecommunications.



The Chief Executive Officer of BOCRA, Mr Martin Mokgware (left) and Bank of Botswana Governor, Mr Cornelius K. Dekop, (right) signing the Memorandum of Understanding.



Bank of Botswana Governor, Mr Cornelius K. Dekop and the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Martin Mokgware and their teams at the Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony.



The Chief Executive Officer of BOCRA, Mr Martin Mokgware (left) and Bank of Botswana Governor, Mr Cornelius K. Dekop (right) shaking hands after the official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

# CHOPPIES, BOLUX 'SUPER A1 CAMPAIGN' RETURNS



After last year's highly successful debut, Choppies supermarket and Bolux Group have teamed up on the Super A1 Campaign once again. Officially launched at Choppies' Game City Hyper store this Monday, 14 April 2025, the campaign's second edition promises to be an upgrade on its predecessor, with bigger and better prizes up for grabs. The competition will run from 11 April to 30 June, with winners expected to be announced in July.

Last year's opening instalment proved hugely popular with the public and saw over 70,000 entries try their luck at prizes such as: eight double door fridges, eight Samsung 65 inch televisions and eight defy stoves. To keep the interest high, Choppies and Bolux Group are offering even richer rewards this time round, with a brand new Nissan Navara 4X4 double cab up for grabs as the grand prize.

Other notable winnings include a Defy Double door fridge and four Defy Stoves. Throughout the campaign, which runs for just shy of 12 weeks, customers will also have

the chance to win Bolux food hampers every two weeks. Speaking on the sidelines of the launch, Bolux Group Sales and Marketing Executive, Innocent Chironda noted they were extremely excited for edition two of the 'Super A1 Campaign', especially as it takes place in a milestone year for the company. Chironda further noted it continues the proud, productive relationship between Bolux Group and Choppies. "We have been in existence for 39 years and are turning 40 this year. Since Choppies is the biggest retailer in the country, they have been working with us for many years.

They invited us to a competition last year which we did and was successful, so we decided to continue with the partnership once more. Our main aim is to give back to the community and we are privileged to be given this platform by Choppies in order to have a wider reach," said Chironda, expressing his gratitude to Batswana for continuing to support the brand.

For his part, Choppies Marketing Executive, Kebonyemodisa Kebonyemodisa revealed

the plan is to turn the campaign into an annual event. Like Chironda, Kebonyemodisa paid homage to the fruitful history between the two entities. "Bolux is one of our significant partners, though all of them are important. We worked together last year on this campaign and it was more of a trial. As you see this time around the prizes are even more enticing.

They took interest and were impressed with how we have been running the Birthday Bonanza competition with the highest professional manner and requested this partnership. We always try by all means to improve the lives of our customers, so expectation is that every year we improve the rewards," explained Kebonyemodisa, adding that at the end of the day the main objective is to assist and appreciate their customers.

To enter the competition, customers simply have to buy one of Super A1's flagship products, either maize meal or instant porridge, in any quantity and leave their details at the till. The campaign is exclusive to Choppies stores



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# lifestyle

## Beauty hurts!

DONALD MOLOSI\*

**B**EAUTY PAGEANTS HAVE often been criticized for their impact on young women's self-esteem, body image, and overall mental health. The pressure to conform to narrow standards of beauty can lead to a range of negative outcomes, including anxiety, depression, and even eating disorders. Below are some case studies that illustrate how beauty pageants can adversely affect the lives of young women.

**1. The Case of Rebecca Black**  
Rebecca Black gained notoriety as a teenager with her viral song "Friday." However, her experience in the public eye was marred by bullying and intense scrutiny over her appearance. Although not directly related to beauty pageants, her story reflects the broader culture surrounding youth and beauty standards that pageants often perpetuate. The relentless criticism she faced led to severe emotional distress and impacted her mental health significantly.

**2. The Experience of a Miss Teen USA Contestant**

A contestant from Miss Teen USA shared her struggles with body image after participating in the competition. Despite being celebrated for her looks during the event, she later revealed that the experience left her feeling inadequate and pressured to maintain an unrealistic physique.

This pressure resulted in disordered eating habits and a long-term battle with self-acceptance. Her story highlights how pageantry can create an environment where young women feel they must constantly strive for perfection.

**3. The Impact on Racialized Contestants**

Young women of color often face additional challenges in beauty pageants due to colorism and cultural biases within these competitions. A study focusing on contestants from diverse backgrounds found that many felt they had to alter their appearance—such as lightening their skin or changing their hair—to fit into conventional beauty standards promoted by pageants. This led to feelings of alienation and identity crises among participants who struggled between embracing their



Donald Molosi

natural selves and conforming to imposed ideals.

**4. The Story of a Former Pageant Queen**

A former beauty queen recounted her journey through various competitions, revealing how the experience took a toll on her mental health. Initially excited about the glamour associated with pageantry, she soon found herself battling anxiety and depression due to constant comparisons with other contestants and societal expectations regarding femininity and attractiveness. After stepping away from the scene, she focused

on rebuilding her self-esteem but acknowledged that the scars from those experiences lingered.

**5. The Psychological Toll on Young Girls**

Research has shown that participation in beauty pageants can lead to increased levels of stress among young girls, particularly concerning their physical appearance. A longitudinal study indicated that girls involved in such competitions reported higher instances of body dissatisfaction compared to those who did not participate in pageantry. This dissatisfaction often translates into

harmful behaviors like dieting or excessive exercise aimed at achieving an idealized body type.

In summary, while beauty pageants may present opportunities for recognition and success, they can also have detrimental effects on young women's lives by fostering unhealthy comparisons, promoting unrealistic beauty standards, and leading to significant psychological distress.

\*Donald Molosi is writer and executive Producer of "Partly Cloudy & Hot," a film starring Kaone Kario.\*

## Adopt innovative approach to tourism

■ Rethink seasonal tourism in Botswana



BAKANG KEIMETSWE\*

**A**DDRESSING THE challenges of seasonal tourism in Botswana demands bold, alternative solutions and a shift in thinking. Our tourism industry is integral to the national economy, yet its seasonality continues to pose significant challenges. To mitigate these pains, calculated efforts must be made to reshape how we approach both domestic and international tourism markets.

Understanding the Local Context

When it comes to domestic tourism, we must acknowledge and address key limitations. Income disparities among citizens, cultural norms regarding travel, and the inability to make domestic tourism truly appealing to local travelers are significant barriers.

Without addressing these factors, domestic tourists will continue to be lured by neighboring countries that offer more enticing options.

While efforts have been made, such as domestic tourism activations across the country, these initiatives have largely proven ineffective. The question then arises: why have these efforts failed?

The core issue lies in how we position and market our domestic tourism products. Travelers choose destinations based on the promise of unique, memorable experiences. Thus, it is imperative to identify and highlight the distinctive experiences of each segmented destination within Botswana.

Moving Beyond Events

A critical shift in thinking is needed to move beyond the notion that domestic tourism revolves solely around events. While successful projects like Goo Moremi Gorge have demonstrated the potential of substantial investments, not every destination requires this level of



Cultural Practices: Showcasing traditional dances

[PIC: PINO KILANO]

funding. Instead, cost-effective solutions can tap into existing resources and infrastructure.

For example, school halls, kgotlas, heritage sites, and community halls could serve as platforms to showcase local culture and talent. Monthly events could include:

- Historical Re-enactments: Bringing local myths and history to life through engaging performances.
- Cultural Practices: Showcasing traditional dances, crafts, and ceremonies.
- Poetry and Storytelling: Engaging local elders to share folklore and myths unique to each region.
- Community-driven Creative Projects: Encouraging artists and creatives to develop physical representations of local legends, similar to Scotland's use of the Loch Ness Monster to create an enduring tourism draw.

Leveraging Local Creatives

By empowering local creatives and communities to play a central role in tourism, we can foster a sense of ownership and pride in our cultural heritage.

This approach not only enhances the visitor experience but also promotes economic activity at the grassroots level. Such initiatives can be launched with minimal investment and would create a compelling pull factor for both domestic and international tourists.

Rebuilding National Pride

For these efforts to succeed, we must first rebuild national pride in Botswana's culture and way of life. By instilling a sense of excitement and appreciation among domestic travelers, we can create a ripple effect that attracts regional and global audiences. The goal is to position Botswana not only as a destination but as an experience deeply rooted in its unique heritage and stories.

Conclusion

Botswana's tourism industry has immense potential, but unlocking this potential requires fresh thinking and innovative strategies. By addressing the core issues in our approach to domestic tourism and leveraging cost-effective, community-driven initiatives, we can create a new narrative for Botswana. This narrative, rooted in pride and cultural richness, will not only draw domestic travelers but also position Botswana as a destination of choice for regional and international tourists. The time to act is now, with bold steps and calculated risks to secure a brighter future for Botswana's tourism industry.

\*Director of Business

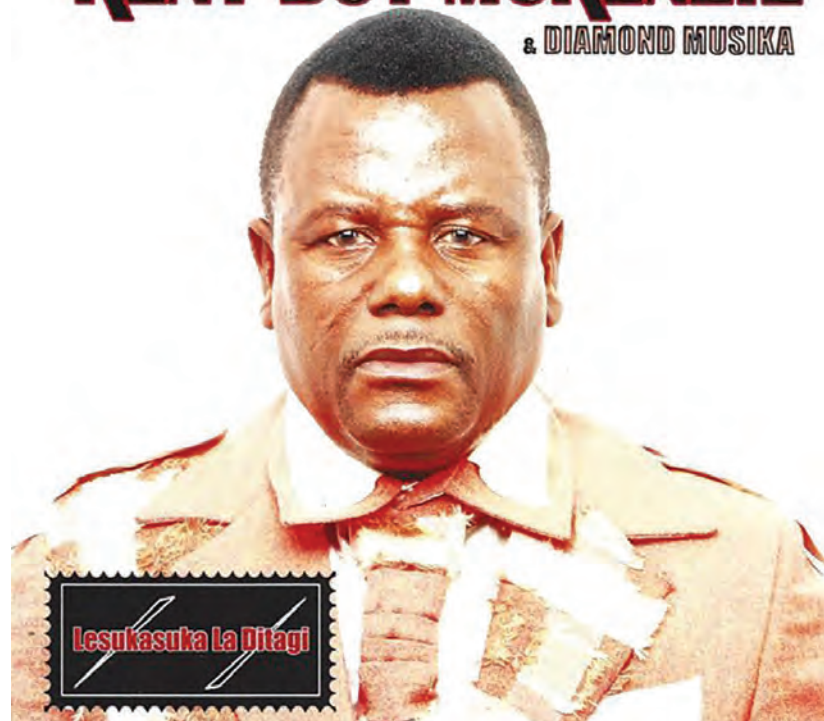
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## McKenzie drops *Ngwao e Kae*

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**R**HUMBA STARTS KENYBOY McKenzie & Diamond Musica band have launched their latest rhumba CD titled *Ngwao e Kae*, with only three other tracks on the album, *Monate o ko Kae*, *Mosadi Mmabatho* and *Botswana 1966*. McKenzie Malabane - the rhumba star, who hails from Mambo village in the Northeast said he started his music career in early primary school singing in school choir and later in church, until he joined the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) where he is currently employed. At BDF, his passion for music would catapult him to a coaching responsibility where he was leading different teams who regularly perform during the annual BDF Band in Concert shows bringing together different genres of music among them rhumba commonly known as kwasa kwasa among locals, pantsola and polka dances, and traditional (borankana) music. He would later rise to become an instructor for the different genres of music in the BDF community.

### KENY BOY MCKENZIE & DIAMOND MUSIKA



**Solo Career**

Around 2008 Kenyboy decided to produce his first ever solo album, a traditional dance compilation. Two years later, disappointed by

the reception of his debut album he decided to switch to the more popular rhumba/ kwasa kwasa music.

In 2010 he dropped *Mathata a*

Africa, later followed by his second album titled *-Lesukasuka la ditagi* as his music blasted the airwaves and fans started calling for more. His third rhumba album, launched last week is titled *-Ngwao e Kae* to feed the insatiable appetite of kwasa kwasa music lovers.

"Rhumba music has become very popular in Botswana, particularly around BDF camps.

It infuses many different languages among them Setswana, lingala, Swahili, and Bemba from the DRC/ Zambia region.

We borrow the beat from those countries, add our own and collaborate with other artists who speak those languages to produce great music which many locals have fallen in love with.

Some of the songs in high tempo are a fusion of kalindula (Zambia traditional music) and rhumba," said McKenzie.

An example of the collaboration is rapping vocals in McKenzie's album done by Coming Soon - a DRC native popularly known in Botswana as a dancer of kwaito-kwasa star Vee Mampeey.

**Marketing, Piracy**

Although reception of rhumba music is very good in Botswana, McKenzie explained that he is currently doing music as a part time artist while he works as a full time soldier. He said the biggest challenge in music in piracy and digital disruption, which has led to their music being shared without any profit accruing to the artists themselves. He, however, revealed that they have had numerous engagements with COSBOTS who have promised to develop technology to assist artists to protect their music against piracy. He said COSBOTS also often gives them royalties when their music is used in radio stations, which he highly appreciated.

"Piracy is taking away our livelihood. To salvage what we can, we prioritise focusing on performs in music shows, festivals which were organize ourselves or get invited to by events promoters. We use digital platforms, mainly social media platforms for marketing to popularize our music. We have also put some music on the likes of Sportify and YouTube for that purpose," said McKenzie.

## King Lewanika

**K**ING LEWANIKA LODGE officially opened its doors on the 4th of April 2025, under Ker & Downey Zambia. Following a complete soft refurbishment, King Lewanika Lodge in Liuwa Plain National Park is ready to welcome guests to one of Africa's most remarkable wilderness areas, renowned for its extraordinary quality of wildlife and breathtaking biodiversity.

Featuring six safari tents including one family unit, along with an expansive main area, the lodge now offers a fresh and natural aesthetic. The interiors beautifully blend Lozi craftsmanship with luxurious linens ensuring exceptional comfort for all guests.

In addition to the aesthetic upgrades, modern amenities have been introduced including fridges and coffee stations in each room. Guests can also enjoy seamless communication with our dedicated service team via radio, allowing for easy access to refreshments and snacks without leaving the tranquility of their tents.

On offer is a diverse range of activities designed to enhance the overall experience in the

breathtaking Liuwa Plain. For those wanting to spend the day at a slower pace, yoga or art safaris are wonderful ways to spend some precious time in Liuwa.

Night drives allow one to spot the elusive nocturnal creatures that Liuwa has to offer, or sit by the fire with a whisky and gaze above at the incredible night sky.

The dedicated team at King Lewanika Lodge has thoughtfully curated a variety of special experiences for our guests, from extraordinary dining experiences set in the heart of the Plain to enchanting bush cinemas and delightful drive-thru ice cream stops, we are eager to share these memorable moments with you.

An exciting new addition to our offering are the first of their kind game viewers in Zambia.

Our newly arrived fleet is equipped to provide guests with a unique, elevated perspective of the magnificent Liuwa Plain from their rooftop vista seats. Each vehicle features adjustable armrests, photography bean bags, USB charging points, and LED lighting, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable experience whilst exploring the rich

# Audi Q7: Strong design, comfort & technology



## MOTORING WITH ALPHA MOLATLWE

**A**UDI HAS ONCE AGAIN upgraded its flagship SUV with a clear visual language and even better technology. The fresh exterior design with new front and rear sections underscores the powerful character of the SUV, which offers first-class versatility and generous space for up to seven passengers. For the first time in a Q7, the HD Matrix LED headlights with laser as an additional high beam sport digital daytime running lights with selectable light signatures. Digital OLED rear lights with four selectable light designs complete the offering.

Following the launch of the second generation in 2015 and an initial product upgrade in 2019, the new Q7 impressively shows its robust and elegant design with this second, comprehensive upgrade.

The overhangs and wheelbase demonstrate confident proportions that are further emphasized by distinctive exterior colours and wheels and the unmistakably upright Audi Single frame with an octagon design now boasts vertical inlays. The Q7's self-confident appearance is underscored by the new prominent, colour-framed air intakes, which are clearly integrated into the vehicle's basic architecture.

### Safe on every surface: suspension with Audi's DNA

Only an Audi drives like an Audi: This is how the brand with the four rings sums up the DNA of an Audi's on-road characteristics, and it's no less true for the Q7.

Five characteristics define the Q7's handling: balanced, solid, controlled, precise, and effortless. The suspension, steering, drive and braking and control systems all play a key role in creating a reliably safe, confident, and comfortable driving experience.

Electronically controlled air suspension with a continuously adaptive damping system – adaptive air suspension or adaptive air suspension sport (standard equipment on the SQ7 TFSI) – are included. Depending on the driver's preferences and the driving situation, the suspension adjusts the ride height by up to 90mm while also offering level control. On the highway, the suspension lowers automatically by up to 30mm, depending on the current speed, and by 15mm with adaptive air suspension sport. During off-road driving, the "Lift" function in Audi drive select can be used to increase the ground clearance by up to 60mm at low speeds.

In addition, all-wheel steering (standard equipment on the SQ7 TFSI) ensures an increased level of safety and comfort. At low speeds, the back wheels turn up to five degrees in the opposite direction to the front wheels. This reduces the turning radius by up to one meter and increases manageability. At the same time, the driver feels more comfort and stability at higher speeds because the back wheels turn in the same direction as the front wheels.

### Efficient and powerful: drive systems

The range opens with the Q7 55 TFSI featuring a six-cylinder

petrol engine with three liters of displacement and direct fuel injection that delivers 250kW. It produces a maximum torque of 500Nm in a broad rev range from 1,370 to 4,500rpm. The Audi Q7 55 TFSI accelerates from zero to 100km/h in 5.6 seconds. It reaches its electronically governed top speed at 250km/h.

Sportiness is deeply rooted in the genes of the new SQ7 TFSI. It now runs on the established four-litre TFSI with 373kW and 770Nm of torque with fast-shifting eight-speed tiptronic and Quattro permanent all-wheel drive. With this engine, the SQ7 TFSI accelerates from zero to 100km/h in just 4.1 seconds, with an electronically governed top speed of 250km/h.

With its firing order of 1-3-7-2-6-5-4-8, the 4.0 TFSI provides a distinctively sporty, sonorous sound.

Both the five- and seven-seat versions of the Audi Q7 and SQ7 TFSI combine high prestige with everyday practicality. The tailgate is electrically powered as standard.

### The best Q7 yet, now available

Currently, offer the 55 TFSI in Platinum Edition and Black Edition trim lines whilst the SQ7 can additionally be specified in with the Black Edition trim line, which includes a Black styling package plus, Black mirror housings, a Singleframe surround in black, as well as privacy glazing for the rear windows.

Like all other Audi models, the Q7 line-up is sold with a 5-year/100,000km Audi Freeway Plan comprehensive service and maintenance plan as standard.

## Lodge re-opens!



wildlife of the region.

With support from our partners, African Parks, and our continuous commitment to sustainability, we

have overhauled our solar farm, enabling the lodge to operate on 100% solar energy. Additionally, we have implemented a state-of-the-art

water filtration system, ensuring that our guests enjoy safe and clean water without reliance on plastic water bottles.

**IN STORES NOW**

**STANCHART'S WOMEN IN TECH**

**THOMAS TAKES MISS BOTSWANA CROWN**

**THE BSE'S LEADING LADIES**

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

The Patriot *inspirational* woman

# Sport

## FNB dangles P1.4 million

- as FNB Premiership enters home stretch
- Gaborone United, Jwaneng Galaxy lead the pack

### REMAINING FIXTURES

#### GABORONE UNITED

Extension Gunners (A)  
Nico United (H)  
Matebele FC (A)  
Jwaneng Galaxy (H)  
Township Rollers (A)

#### JWANENG GALAXY

Nico United (A)  
Matebele FC (H)  
Township Rollers (H)  
Gaborone United (A)  
VTM FC (H)

#### TAFIC FC

Security Systems (H)  
Orapa United (A)  
Morupule Wanderers (H)  
Extension Gunners (H)  
Nico United (A)

#### SUA FLAMINGOES

Uniao Flamengo Santos (H)  
Security Systems (A)  
Orapa United (H)  
Morupule Wanderers (A)  
Extension Gunners (H)

#### MOCHUDI CENTRE CHIEFS

Chadibe FC (H)  
Uniao Flamengo Santos (A)  
Security Systems (H)  
Orapa United (A)  
Morupule Wanderers (H)

#### TOWNSHIP ROLLERS FC

Matebele FC (A)  
Chadibe FC (H)  
Jwaneng Galaxy (A)  
Uniao Flamengo Santos (H)  
Gaborone United (H)



Gaborone United (Red and White) hammered Sua Flamingoes 4-0 during their FNB Premiership first round match in December 2024

## BDF XI fail to secure stadium

Orapa United game venue rescheduled at 11<sup>th</sup> hour

**T**OWNSHIP ROLLERS FOOTBALL Club (TRFC) has distanced itself from allegations that they have banned Orapa United from accessing Royal Aria Stadium, leading to their FNB Premiership match away to BDF XI being moved from the facility.

The allegations have been repeatedly made in social media pages.

In a public statement today, TRFC Public relations Officer, Pako Lebanna explained that: "TRFC would like to clarify that as tenants of Royal Aria facility we have not banned Orapa United or any club from utilizing or renting the facility, as per the agreed conditions. The only reason the host team BDF XI was not offered the facility is due to them being unable to timeously pay the required stadium fee. It must

be noted that we have in the past allowed BDF XI to use the facility. TRFC would like to be lenient with sister clubs, but as we also have an obligation to pay for the facility, we are constrained by the circumstances to avail the facility to other teams on credit.

Following the reports, we have since reached out and explained the situation to Orapa United and our club retains a healthy relationship with them, as well as with BDF XI. The non-availability of the facility has no relation whatsoever to Orapa United.

TRFC said they continue to welcome all Premier League sides, including BDF XI and Orapa United, to utilise the facility when available, as per the agreed terms and conditions, for the good of the sport. Source: Township Rollers FC

### DEBSWANA 2025

## OLDM EXCO vs OGL Juniors Golf

**O**RAPA BUZZED WITH excitement last weekend as Debswana's Orapa, Lethakane and Damtshaa Mines (OLDM), in partnership with the Orapa Golf Club (OGC), hosted the 2025 OLDM EXCO vs OGC Juniors Golf Tournament.

The vibrant event brought together OLDM Executive Committee members and young golf talents for a day of sport, mentorship, and community spirit.

It showcased Debswana's ongoing commitment to grassroots sports development, youth empowerment, and social cohesion—key pillars of its "Making Life Brilliant" vision.

The tournament featured meaningful interactions between executives and junior players, with encouragement and recognition for the budding golf stars.

A heart-warming prize-giving ceremony marked the end of the day, where participants received certificates celebrating their passion and dedication to the game.

Trophies and medals were also awarded to top performers, with all juniors motivated to keep pursuing excellence in golf both locally and nationally.

Speaking at the ceremony, Orapa



Diamond Golf Challenge Chairman Thabo Mzuku emphasized the unifying power of sport.

"What we've witnessed through

our efforts is a testament to how golf can bring people together, regardless of age, background, or experience," he said.

More than just a tournament, the event fostered a spirit of togetherness, celebrated emerging talent, and reinforced the role

of sport in shaping the future of Botswana's youth.

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

## Mophakedi represents BCA in eSwatini



Mophakedi

**T**HE BOTSWANA CRICKET Association (BCA) has announced the nomination of Laura Mophakedi to represent the country at a prestigious Level 1 Umpires Tutor Course to be held in Eswatini from 16th to 18th April 2025. Laura departed Botswana on the 15th of April to participate in the three-day course, which is aimed at empowering experienced umpires to become certified tutors capable of developing future match officials across the region.

Mophakedi's journey in cricket officiating began during one of the ISSA (Independent Schools Sports Association) tournaments, where her passion for the game and sharp decision-making skills stood out. Since then, she has broken

barriers by becoming the first female umpire to officiate in both the BCA's domestic and national league matches – a historic achievement that continues to inspire young women in cricket across the country.

Her nomination for this course marks a significant milestone in her umpiring career and further emphasizes BCA's commitment to nurturing talent and promoting gender inclusion in all aspects of the game. "We are incredibly proud of Laura's progress and are confident that she will excel in the course. Her selection is not only a personal triumph but also a reflection of the strides we are making in developing quality officials for the game of cricket in Botswana," said BCA Chief Executive Officer.



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