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MAY 04, 2025 | ISSUE 624

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Molome takes charge



CINDERELLA MONICA Molome, the newly elected president of the Botswana National Front Women's League (BNFWL) is busy at work transforming the structure into a formidable force together with fellow comrades elected into the committee during the elections held in Lethakane last weekend.

"We are going to revive the BNFWL structures to ensure they are effective and visible, so that women in rural areas also have opportunities to ascend leadership roles. We want to minimize obstacles that prevent women from taking leadership roles, this could be lack of resources, gender stereotypes.

We are going to challenge gender stereotypes, educating our societies that women are as capable to represent them in leadership roles like in councils or Parliament. Engaging with media promotes positive portrayals of women in leadership roles. We are also going to ensure that the BNF implements the 30% quota it subscribes to in its constitution" - Molome.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

Rigging fears rock BDP

- Morwaeng, Rammidi want neutral body to run elections
- BDP rejects the proposal citing budgetary constraints



Makoba

BAKANG TIRO
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A WEEK AHEAD OF THE crucial Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) elective congress in Maun, some democrats contesting for central committee positions have raised concerns over the integrity of the upcoming elections.



Morwaeng

BDP will hold an elective congress as it rebuilds after suffering a humiliating defeat at the hands of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) in 2024 general election. Secretary General (SG) aspirant Kabo Morwaeng on Friday asked the party's leadership to consider engaging an independent body to supervise elections and, in this case, recommending the University of



Molefhi

Botswana of Democracy Research Project. In a letter addressed to the central committee Morwaeng said UB Democracy Research Project should be engaged to work alongside the party's electoral board in managing the elections during the congress. He said the involvement of an external, impartial body will not only safeguard doubts or negative



Balopi

perceptions that could undermine the outcome and spirit of the congress "Our collective goal must be to emerge from Maun more united, more hopeful and stronger than ever before. An election process perceived as fair and impartial will be instrumental in achieving this goal," said Morwaeng.

TO PAGE 2

Khama hurts UDC

- Minister puts a leash on Khama, order him to follow protocols
- Managing Khama a big political dilemma for UDC- Analysts



Khama

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BANGWATO CHIEF, IAN Khama's growing influence on some tribal leaders and councilors could unsettle the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government demonstrated by a fallout last week with Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs Kethalefile Motshegwa, political analysts have cautioned.

Khama and his boss Motshegwa clashed over the meetings that Khama continues to engage on with some of tribal leaders and councilors across the country. However, Khama boldly said Motshegwa or the government have no authority to dictate what Dikgosi should be doing, enjoying support of Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF), his former party.

UDC and BPF's relations are anticipated to reach rock bottom should the government continue with its stance against Khama's parallel meetings, sources close to the developments have confided. Kgosi Khama IV relinquished his political ties to the BPF when he assumed his bogosi assignment last year.

Dilemma

Political analyst, Kitso Morekisi said Khama's confrontation with Motshegwa indicates that he is possibly undermining the position of the government and as such he feels disrespected as a kgosi. He said Khama accused the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)

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Dr Ndenzako represents WHO in Botswana, SADC



THE WORLD HEALTH Organization has welcomed Dr. Fabian Ndenzako as the new Head of Mission and WHO Representative to Botswana and the Southern African Development Community.

Dr. Ndenzako, a seasoned global health expert with over 25 years' experience, has served more than two decades in leadership roles within WHO across several regions.

His appointment comes as WHO deepens its collaboration with Botswana's new government, guided by the Country Cooperation Strategy for 2024 to 2027.

He will lead efforts focusing on strengthening health systems, delivering quality and equitable services, controlling diseases, enhancing health security, and promoting multisectoral action.

Dr. Ndenzako trained as a medical doctor at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

Botswana loses Commission on Status of Women leadership

BOTSWANA HAS QUIETLY lost its co-leadership role in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Revitalisation process—a notable step down from its previous standing in global gender discourse. The reversal marks what some in civil society are calling a self-inflicted setback, borne out of poor succession planning and a continuing disregard for inclusive stakeholder engagement.

The decision appears tied to the government's failure to secure continuity following the recall of Botswana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. What should have been a seamless transition, observers say, instead revealed structural weaknesses, particularly the state's tendency to sideline civil society—a critical partner in any functioning democracy.

■ Lack of succession planning, minimal stakeholder engagement, and a deaf ear to civil society concerns leave Botswana sidelined



Gatsha

"There has been no transparency," said Dumi Gatsha, founder of Success

Capital Organisation, a youth- and queer-led NGO that has worked extensively on gender,

social justice, and community organising. "It's not surprising. Civil society has long been

treated as expendable, and that's being polite."

Gatsha noted that if the treatment of trade unions—organisations that generally enjoy larger memberships and better resources—is any indication, then the position of civil society in Botswana's hierarchy is "at the very bottom." "Government only ever seems willing to engage with private sector interests or capitalist ventures," Gatsha said. "There's no meaningful citizen engagement, just marketing gloss and the strategic weaponisation of labour, community, and gender-based rights."

The silence surrounding Botswana's exit from the CSW co-leadership role echoes a wider pattern of exclusion and unresponsiveness. Success Capital, though

often overlooked for funding or recognition by the state according to Gatsha, has pressed forward regardless. The organisation's advocacy led to over 6,000 signatures on a petition for period dignity submitted to the Constitutional Review Commission and the Minister of Finance. It also secured research permissions from the Office of the President in both 2018 and 2019—achievements that speak to its reach at grassroots level despite chronic under-resourcing.

Civil society leaders say their requests for accountability and meaningful action continue to fall on deaf ears.

Gatsha described over two months of follow-ups with departments in the Office of the President, pushing for a presidential declaration against gender-based violence and

the formal adoption of sign language as an official language. So far, there has been no official response.

The loss of the CSW leadership role has cast a spotlight on Botswana's broader democratic health.

Once viewed as a regional example of stability and progressive policy, Botswana's reluctance to institutionalise inclusive governance and uplift marginal voices is drawing criticism not just locally, but also in the international forums where the country once played a leading role. Whether this marks a turning point or a missed opportunity remains to be seen—but for many in the civic sector, it feels like a painful yet unsurprising affirmation of a state disinterested in shared power or people-centred development.

Namibia scraps university fees

NAMIBIA'S NEW President, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, has announced that university registration and tuition fees will be scrapped from 2026.

Making her first State of the Nation Address on Thursday evening, she said the policy would apply to all public universities and technical colleges, with families expected to cover only accommodation and related costs.

However, she confirmed that no significant new funding would be added, raising questions about the plan's feasibility. The government intends to use existing subsidies and funds allocated to the student financial assistance programme to finance the rollout. While some student organisations welcomed



Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

the announcement, others, including the Affirmative Repositioning Student Command, criticised it as vague

and politically motivated. Primary and secondary education in Namibia is already free.

Revised anti-poaching strategy launched

THE REVISED NATIONAL Anti-Poaching Strategy (NAPS) 2025–2030, developed under the Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Drylands Ecosystem Project (KGDEP), was launched on 22nd April 2025 in Gaborone, marking a major milestone in Botswana's ongoing efforts to preserve its wildlife and natural heritage. At the launch event, the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr. Boipuso Wynter Mmolotsi, emphasized that

Speaking on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Resident Representative Dr Balázs Horváth recalled that the persistent and growing threat of illegal wildlife trafficking and poaching of iconic species—such as lions, leopards, and cheetahs—was the primary driver behind the conceptualization of the Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Drylands Ecosystem Project (KGDEP). Despite Botswana's notable achievements in strengthening its wildlife protection systems, these threats remain a critical concern.

Dr Balázs Horváth further emphasized that, in light of evolving global dynamics and the increasing complexity of wildlife crime, it was crucial to review and update the NAPS to ensure its continued relevance and alignment with emerging



Mmolotsi

ecological and socio-political challenges.

The revised NAPS adopts a more inclusive approach, recognizing the vital role of communities living in and around protected areas. According to Dr Balázs Horváth, these communities

represent the first line of defense in conservation and are central to any effective anti-poaching response. Community involvement—through benefit-sharing, livelihood enhancement, and participatory conservation—is, he noted, not merely a moral imperative but a

strategic necessity.

The review and update of the NAPS were undertaken through close consultation with all relevant law enforcement stakeholders. Speaking at the event, the Minister for State President, Mr. Moeti C. Mohwasa, reaffirmed the Government's full commitment to the implementation of the strategy, stating, "It is not merely a document—it is a unifying call to action, a vision for collaboration, and a reaffirmation of our high-level commitment as a nation that treasures its natural heritage." He further highlighted the strategy's recognition of the transboundary nature of wildlife, underlining the importance of regional cooperation through platforms such as the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) and other regional initiatives addressing wildlife and environmental crime.

The KGDEP, financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism with support from UNDP, seeks to promote an integrated landscape approach—striking a balance between biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and productive land use.

Beware of influenza-like illnesses

THE MINISTRY OF Health informs the public that as the winter season approaches, there will be a notable increase in influenza-like illnesses (ILIs) across the country.

These influenza-like illnesses characteristically present with symptoms like a runny nose (with clear mucus), tension headaches, recurrent fevers, dry cough, sore throat and

general body aches. These symptoms can persist for several days before easing up totally. The ILIs mainly affect young children, the elderly and those with compromised immunity. In view of this, the Ministry urges the public to exercise caution to safeguard themselves and their families as may be advised by health authorities from time to time. Some of the precautionary

measures advisable include: practising good hand hygiene protocols such as washing hands with clean water and soap at all times, avoiding crowded places where possible and considering the use of face masks, covering one's nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing as well as promptly seeking medical attention at the nearest health facility when presenting flu-like symptoms.

Further, the Ministry implores members of the public to adhere to prescribed treatment as advised by healthcare authorities and above all, refrain from self-medication. The Ministry remains resolute in its commitment to closely monitoring and implementing appropriate precautionary measures as may be necessary.

Dr Christopher Nyanga

Rigging fears rock BDP

FROM PAGE 1

In addition, Morwaeng said he is compelled to raise this appeal with just seven days remaining before the congress, the party leadership has not yet publicly reassured democrats and the broader about the integrity of the electoral preparations.

Morwaeng said at this critical juncture, open communication and demonstratable commitment to a free and process are essential.

Similarly, another SG contestant Kentse Rammidi asked the party to engage UB Democracy Research Project citing concerns over the transparency and fairness in the build up to the elective congress.

However, BDP Secretary General in his response letter to Rammidi dated 28th April 2025 said the request to engage UB body to supervise elections couldn't be successful due to financial implications associated



Ngaka

with such move.

Ngaka said: "The Central Committee assures you and every Democrat that the National Congress elections

will be fair, free and transparent and that the elections will be conducted by Election Commissioners who would be appointed by the Party

President."

He also said the Election Commissioners will be assisted by Political Education and Elections Committee (PEEC).

Protests

Political analyst, Kitso Morekisi said BDP election outcomes are likely to result in protests that would divide the party. He said the proposals advanced by Rammidi and Morwaeng but rejected by central committee speak volumes that those who will lose at the congress will not just easily concede the defeat.

According to Morekisi, the central committee led by BDP president Mokgweetsi Masisi has been already accused of plot to influence election outcome in favour of some candidates preferred by the committee. "Elections on their nature are disputable and this elective congress is very crucial for the BDP revival. It would either make or break the party. Room for conflict should be avoided at all costs by BDP," he said.

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Molome takes charge

Q: Who is Cindy Molome?

CM: I am Cinderella Monica Molome – preferred name Monica, a wife and mother of 3 boys, an accountant by profession and dedicated political activist with a deep-rooted passion for gender equality, economic empowerment and community development. My journey in politics stems from my upbringing in a politically active family, shaping my commitment to social justice and progressive policies

Q: Take us through your political activism journey?

CM: My political involvement was inspired by my father Cde. Harry K Mothei, a seasoned veteran BNF politician who worked closely with Dr. Kenneth Koma. My passion for BNF's socialist ideas developed from a young age, leading me to actively participate in party grassroots mobilization. I have closely with him through his campaigns, whether it was him standing for MP seat in Mahalapye East in 2014 or him leading a campaign team for Mahalapye East for 2019. My focus then moved to Kalamare Ward to ensure change of council and MP (Shoshong Constituency) seat to the UDC for the 2024 elections.

Q: What is your vision as the new president of BNFWL?

CM: Advocacy for equal participation in all levels of decision making - Party and Government structures. We want to minimize obstacles that prevent women from taking leadership roles, this could be lack of resources, gender stereotypes. We are going to revive the BNFWL structures to ensure they are effective and visible, so the women in rural areas also have opportunities to leadership roles.

Q: What reforms will the newly elected BNFWL Committee bring?

CM: Challenging Gender Stereotypes – educating our societies that women are as capable to represent them in leadership roles like in councils or Parliament. Engaging with media promotes positive portrayals of women in leadership roles. To also ensure the BNF implements the 30% quota it subscribes to in its constitution.

Q: Some of teams that contested elections decided to withdraw citing irregularities with the conference and accused your team of being supported by the BNF leadership particularly president Duma Boko and the Central Committee. What is your take on that?

CM: I am not aware of any such support. My team and I moved around different constituencies mobilizing for support from women

Cinderella Monica Molome, the newly elected president of the Botswana National Front Women's League (BNFWL) is fast at work aiming to transform the BNFWL into a force to reckon with together with her fellow comrades elected into the committee during the elections held at Letlhakane last weekend. Molome has emphasized that BNFWL is the voice of women in the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government. She speaks to **STAFF WRITER BAKANG TIRO** to share her roadmap.



of the BNF, and the results showed the BNF women understood us and decided to give us a chance. We have accepted the responsibility bestowed upon us and we will work tirelessly to fulfill our mandate of taking the BNFWL to greater heights for the interest of women of the BNF.

Q: With BNF now in government (under UDC), how important is BNFWL to the UDC government?

CM: BNFWL is the voice of women in the UDC government. We will shine a light on all issues that affect women in Botswana, and we will also be vital in engaging

government in finding and implementing solutions.

Q: There is low representation of women in the current Parliament. How does BNFWL intend to close this disparity going forward?

CM: We want to encourage the BNF to implement its 30% quota as per the constitution. We will also capacitate women to make sure there are able to be leaders of high value, this will be done through capacity building programs. BNFWL will assist women candidates with necessary resources for campaigns.

Q: What do you think are some of the challenges that prevent women from contesting for national elections in large numbers? Would you say women candidates shouldn't be subjected to party primary elections?

CM: Some of the challenges that prevent women from contesting are societal norms limit women, lack campaign resources and harassment that women face in politics. Not subjecting women to primaries could be a great start, this will encourage more women to have the confidence to want to take up these leadership

roles. These opportunities should not be availed to women not just for being women but be availed to capable women.

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

CM: Ensure women rights and gender equality are part of law within the constitution.

Parliament and local government could also introduce quotas to increase women representation.

Q: Reflect on the performance of UDC government so far? Are you satisfied with the implementation of electoral promises to voters, P4000 living wage and P1800 pension etc.

CM: The performance is satisfactory so far. We do recognize and appreciate the country's financial state, that the UDC government is not able to implement their electoral promises at speed they would have love to, but we do have confidence that the promises made to Batswana will be fulfilled.

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

CM: This is a crucial element into leveling the playing field in politics. This will also enable parties to have resources that could also be allocated to women in politics to run their campaigns, and also train them to prep them for those political roles. The Government could also go a step further and ensure parties have and implement gender quotas as criteria qualify for the party funding.

Q: What is your plan going forward, will you still avail yourself in the next BNFWL elections?

CM: There is a lot of talent within the BNF women, which is capable to take the BNFWL to even greater heights. My team and I are just here to make our contribution into the BNFWL and the BNF as whole, once we have achieved our mandate, we will make way for other comrades to also make their contribution.

Q: What more can you tell us.

CM: Recently coming from elections, our priority as of now is to bring members of the BNFWL together, to make sure we all put our hands together for the benefit of the BNFWL. **KOPANO KE MAATLA** our unity is the only thing that will help us drive our Party to success.

Debswana supports displaced farmers

■ Reiterates commitment to sustainable livelihoods in Boteti



Maoketsa

BOTSWANA'S LEADING diamond mining company, Debswana, has reinforced its commitment to sustainable development by officially handing over a fully developed small stock ranch to farmers affected by the expansion of the Orapa Game Park under the OTBT (Orapa Today, Boteti Tomorrow) initiative. The ranch, valued at approximately 6 million Botswana Pula (around 440,000 USD), is located in the Boteti District and represents a significant effort to support local farmers.

During the handover ceremony, OLDM General Manager, Mr. Mogakolodi Maoketsa, emphasized the project's potential to enhance livelihoods, boost rural incomes, and reverse the decline in small stock numbers in the region. As part of the initiative, Debswana also donated 18 Kalahari Red goats—valued at BWP77,000 (approximately 5,700 USD)—to improve small stock genetics and encourage farmers to transition into commercial farming.

Debswana envisions Boteti evolving into a hub for high-quality small stock genetics, enabling other districts to

purchase improved breeds through structured auctions. Mr. Maoketsa praised the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture for its steadfast collaboration throughout the project's execution.

Speaking at the event, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary for Arable Farming, Ms. Seeng Manne, acknowledged Debswana's dedication to fulfilling its pledge and reiterated the ministry's ambitions to establish Boteti as a center of excellence for small stock production through Setata Ranch No. 65. She underscored small stock farming as a national priority, essential for job creation and rural economic development.

By empowering small-scale farmers and fostering commercial farming, the initiative advances SDG 1: No Poverty, helping to reduce rural poverty through sustainable income generation and economic opportunities. The initiative represents a major milestone in sustainable agriculture and food security efforts in Botswana, showcasing the power of public-private partnerships in driving meaningful change for local farming communities.

Synthetic diamonds take quantum leap!

AL COOK*

TWO WEEKS AGO, DE BEERS announced the formation of a new joint venture with Bosch to create the world's most advanced quantum sensors based on engineered synthetic diamonds.

What does this mean? Why is it important?

First, what is quantum sensing? Well, imagine inventing a device so incredibly sensitive that it can trace brainwaves. So sensitive that it can tell exactly where it is located, based just on the earth's magnetic field. So sensitive that it can detect the tiniest change in temperature. We can make this device by engineering synthetic diamonds and then measuring the spin of their electrons. The tiniest change in the environment around the diamond makes the spin flip round. This 'quantum' change gives the sensors their name.

Why are diamonds so important?

The problem with sensors this sensitive is that their quantum states are very fragile. But in Element Six, we've learned how to combine the strength of a diamond with the 'fragility' needed for quantum sensing. Diamonds are normally made of carbon atoms in a perfect structure. But we can create a 'glitch in the matrix' by adding a nitrogen atom into the diamond and leaving a hole next to it. This is called a 'nitrogen-vacancy' diamond. And a sensor based on this could be transformational.

What could this mean?

Our challenge is to make sensors that are small, low-cost, robust and incredibly sensitive. If we can

■ De Beers, Bosch partner to develop quantum sensors based on synthetic diamonds



do this, we can create devices that could detect the tiniest change in your heart muscles, without any surgery. A device that can navigate perfectly, even underwater or in the sky. A device that could turn your brainwaves into actions.

So, what's our strategy? De Beers Group's Origins strategy pivots away from lab-grown

diamonds for jewellery and doubles-down on our diamond technology expertise.

As the price of synthetic diamonds falls, they become less and less attractive for engagement rings but more and more economic for industry. We believe the technology market could be worth billions of dollars. But successful strategy

requires successful partners. Bosch is the world leader in sensors which is why we are so excited by this new Quantum Sensing joint venture.

Well done to Katrin Kobe, Siobhán Duffy, Daniel Twitche and the Bosch Quantum Sensing and Element Six teams!

*Chief Executive Officer at De Beers Group

Communities are at the Heart of the Fight Against Malaria

PROFESSOR SHEILA TLOU

THIS WORLD MALARIA DAY, I find myself reflecting on a disease that has haunted our continent for generations and continues to take lives. What makes it even more distressing is that children and mothers, the very groups I have dedicated my career to, still bear the heaviest burden of the disease. This reality points to deeper systemic gaps in our healthcare systems where, too often, the most vulnerable are left behind.

I often think back to my early days as a nurse educator, going to villages, meeting people at Kgotlas and having conversations about their health in general. We would talk about HIV, malaria, family planning and the everyday challenges families face to stay healthy. Those moments taught me a fundamental lesson: health starts with people, not hospitals!

The most effective interventions are the ones communities understand, trust and own. For this reason, I have long championed the idea that community health workers are not just a part of the system, but its backbone. They break down barriers to health care by bringing testing, treatment and education directly to

the people. They are the leaders, educators and advocates within their communities. If we are truly committed to ending malaria and other preventable diseases, we must invest in community health workers. And by investment, I do not just mean fair pay and training, even though that is crucial. We need to empower them to help shape health policies and ensure they have a voice in the decisions that impact their communities.

Their work makes them indispensable not just in malaria control, but in building resilient health systems. Malaria, in

particular, is a pathfinder for primary health care - presenting a unique opportunity to expand and strengthen systems in ways that extend far beyond a single disease. By investing in malaria prevention, testing and treatment, countries and development partners can further empower community health workers by expanding community health programs, enhancing their capacity for disease surveillance through digital tools and strengthening infrastructure.

Beyond supporting community health workers, we must also ensure that young nurses and midwives are given leadership roles. These frontline workers are the ones who know the real needs of people and are best positioned to help shape a health system that works for everyone. I have seen the difference it makes when nurses, especially women, are in leadership positions. They truly drive change and make health systems more responsive.

This year's Theme, Malaria Ends with Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite, calls us to action. Reinvest in community health workers as the backbone of health systems; Reimagine how our health systems function when nurses, midwives, and community health workers are given the support and voice they need; Reignite the passion and drive to end malaria — not just through science, but through people.



Drop mixed ability teaching, adopt streaming



GRAHAME MCLEOD*
Guest Columnist

THE RECENTLY RELEASED PUBLIC examination results continue to show us that our education system is in decline and requires urgent attention. In this series of articles, we will examine what can be done to better give our children a world class education which they can be proud of.

Many educationists these days strongly believe that mixed ability teaching methods can be effectively used to meet the needs of both academically bright pupils and those who are academically weak. Indeed, mixed ability teaching is almost sacrosanct in education circles. Basically, it means teaching pupils of all abilities in the same class at the same time.

To support their argument, educationists believe that there are many advantages in mixed ability teaching. Firstly, pupils will be less stigmatised, or looked down upon, if both high and low achievers are taught in the same class and at the same time. Pupils may also learn to work cooperatively and pupils may learn from each other; for example, high achievers may help low achievers, especially if they work in groups. Also, pupils may be more motivated and thus, hopefully, there will be less indiscipline.

However, mixed ability teaching demands a lot of effort from teachers, and also time which teachers may not have much of! And since most classes are large and, in some schools, may have up to 50 pupils, the teacher cannot possibly. For example, bright pupils may become bored if they are not challenged. Therefore, the teacher may have to give such pupils a project to carry out, extra homework to do or provide supplementary material for them.

And since most classes are large and, in some schools, may have up to 50 pupils, the teacher cannot possibly assist low achievers

individually. Therefore, for low achievers, the teacher may have to give remedial lessons which may have to be conducted outside the normal timetable, for example, in study time in the afternoons. However, this will reduce the time in which low achievers can study. And it may be difficult to find a classroom that is free for holding such lessons.

Teachers may also have to prepare a variety of teaching aids, such as posters and charts, that can effectively illustrate what they teach. For example, in an Agriculture lesson, the teacher may explain what photosynthesis is - a process that makes food for the plant in its leaves using carbon dioxide and water. However, a chart showing a plant may help to reinforce more what has been taught. On the chart, the teacher may show that carbon dioxide enters the plant from the atmosphere and water enters the plant through the roots and then rises up the stem into the leaves. The products of photosynthesis may also be shown - oxygen that passes from the leaf into the air and food that is stored in the roots of the plant for future use. Seeing such a chart will help low achievers to understand photosynthesis much more than listening to the teacher. But preparing such teaching aids demands much time and effort on the part of the teacher.

For these reasons, mixed ability teaching has not really resulted in an improvement in educational standards here in Botswana. I remember a time when I assessed an Agriculture student teacher on teaching practice at a Maun junior secondary school. She showed me one exam paper which consisted of questions followed by spaces for the pupil to write his or her answers. Although the pupil answered all the questions, he still received a mark of 0%! And one would think that pupils would at least have some knowledge of agriculture given the fact that a large percentage of the population make a living through farming. And results must be worse in Mathematics where the test marks in a class can so easily range from 90% down to 0%! Clearly, being able to effectively teach all pupils in such classes is simply not possible. We have to face reality! Hence some teachers may simply teach at the level of a pupil with average academic ability.

So, what is the answer to this dilemma? One solution is streaming. This means that classes in the same year may take different subjects according to the ability



and interests of the pupils. For example, in a senior secondary school, pupils in class 4A might take the following subjects: Certificate in Arithmetic, English Language, Setswana, Combined Science, Geography, History, Development Studies/English Literature, and a vocational or practical subject such as Design and Technology, Agriculture, Art or Music. Such subjects would cater for the needs of those who are less gifted academically but who might be more practical. In contrast, in class 4B, more academically gifted pupils might study the following subjects: Mathematics, English Language, Setswana, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science/

Business Studies/Commerce. So, instead of taking only one science subject, the pupils here take the three individual science subjects. And Mathematics would be more demanding than Certificate in Arithmetic.

But streaming can also be implemented before pupils reach senior secondary school. I wrote my Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) in the UK at the end of Standard 7 when I was just 11 years old. At the time, the PSLE was also known as the 11 Plus. And I was motivated to study! This was because those, like me, who did well in the exam were admitted to 'grammar schools' which, at the time, were considered to offer the best education at secondary level. And those who did not do so well were destined for a 'secondary modern' school. But educationists at the time criticised government for discriminating between pupils in this way; they considered grammar schools to be elitist and were regarded as being a springboard for admission into snobbish, elitist private schools such as Eton and Harrow, and prestigious universities like Cambridge and Oxford.

But at least the secondary modern school curriculum was more relevant to the needs of the less academically gifted pupils. In contrast to the grammar school where subjects such as Latin, Greek and the sciences were taught, pupils were given a choice of more practical subjects in a secondary modern school, like carpentry and metalwork.

And my brother went to such a school and went on to become a successful design engineer and worked for a number of well-known companies such as Rolls Royce. But streaming pupils in this way may not be practical in Botswana since it would entail

much investment in school infrastructure and the building of more new schools.

Setting is another possible solution. This is the practice of grouping pupils by potential or past achievement in a particular subject. Let us take, for example, classes 4C and 4D in a senior secondary school. Here Mathematics and English Language - subjects that may be regarded as difficult for many pupils - are setted. This means that bright pupils in English Language in both classes are placed together in one group, or set. This set may be called English Language Top Set or Set A. Similarly, pupils who are weak in English Language are grouped together to form English Language Bottom Set or Set B. Usually, pupils are placed in sets according to their past exam or test grades.

Now critics of setting may say that putting pupils into the bottom set might be degrading and that such pupils may be labelled as 'dull' which might result in them having an inferiority complex. They also point out that the way of placing pupils in sets might be unreliable. For example, a pupil may perform poorly in an exam because of, say, nervousness or sickness, and yet have a good understanding of the subject concerned. So, he ends up in Set B.

However, those advocating for setting say that it has many advantages. First and foremost, setting makes it easier for teachers to teach since they only have to cater for a narrow ability range - the pupils are more alike than in a mixed ability class.

In a mixed ability class, most teachers cater for the average pupil with the result that fast learners become easily bored and slow learners may become demoralised and give up. In a set B class, slower learners will not be demotivated by faster learners and

will be able to learn at their own pace. Also, setting caters for 'late developers' as we will see later.

But personally, I myself benefitted from setting at secondary school (the school that I attended had classes ranging from Form 1 to Form 5). Depending on our exam grades at the end of Form 3, we were setted in three subjects from the beginning of Form 4 - English, Mathematics and French. I was placed in Top Set for French and we wrote the Cambridge examinations in French at the end of Form 4 whilst those in Bottom Set French wrote the examinations at the end of Form 5. So, for me this gave me more time in Form 5 to study other subjects.

However, I was placed in Bottom Set for both English and Mathematics.

Those in Top Set Mathematics wrote the Cambridge Mathematics examinations at the end of Form 4 after which they studied Additional Mathematics in Form 5. But pupils like myself, in Bottom Set Mathematics, wrote our Cambridge Mathematics examinations at the end of Form 5.

This meant that I had an extra year to prepare myself for that exam. Now during my first three years at secondary school I performed poorly in Mathematics and had difficulty in understanding the subject. But in Form 4 my grades markedly improved showing that I was a late developer in the subject. And being placed in Bottom Set contributed to this. In fact, from being a total failure in Form 3, I passed Cambridge Mathematics with an A grade! In English Bottom Set I also made progress such that at the end of form 5 I passed English Literature with a B grade.

**Retired Educationist*

DEPOSIT & LENDING INTEREST RATES

As at May 2025
Interest earned is Tax-free

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Current	NIL	NIL	
Savings			
Sesigo	1.75% - 2.75%	1.76% - 2.78%	200.00
Ordinary	1.75% - 1.75%	1.76% - 1.76%	50.00
SAYE	1.25% - 2.00%	1.26% - 2.02%	200.00

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12 months	1.85% - 2.20%	1.87% - 2.22%	1,000.00
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Mortgage Facility	Prime to Prime + 4.50%	Prime to Prime + 4.59%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit lines)	N/A	N/A
Credit card	N/A	N/A
Eezi Auto	Prime +3.50% to Prime +5.50%	Prime +3.56% to Prime +5.64%
Lease Loans	N/A	N/A
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Other Long - Term Loans	N/A	N/A

Govt, Buffet Foundation partner



Dr. Senait Fisseha, President Duma

BOTSWANA IS POISED TO TRANSFORM its healthcare sector with a collaboration with the Susan Thompson Buffet Foundation. President Duma Boko met with a delegation from the foundation, to discuss collaboration on financing for universal health coverage (UHC) and improved delivery of primary healthcare as well as sexual and reproductive health services in Botswana. Welcoming the Vice President of the STBE, Dr. Senait Fisseha, President Duma Boko said this collaboration was significant

for Botswana, as she seeks to eventually become fully self-sufficient in healthcare. The government is expected to use the funds from the collaboration for maternal health services, the development of primary health strategies and policies; development of a national, surgical, obstetric and gynaecological plan that will ensure women deliver safely through operation. It will also focus on the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Dr Fisseha, a lifetime gender advocate and internationally renowned expert in

reproductive health and rights, praised President Boko for his proactive approach to digitise the Botswana healthcare system, pointing out that most governments make misinformed decisions without supporting data.

The agreement will be a major step forward in Botswana's efforts to form long-term partnerships for funding the health sector, according to Health Minister Dr. Stephen Modise, who also emphasised the government's goal to improve the nation's healthcare system.

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The Papacy is not a United Nations seat or a World Cup final!



DR DIMAKATSO POLOKELO

SOME PEOPLE ARE BUSY TRYING to turn the next Papal Election into a competition for hosting of a World Cup Final. "It's Africa's turn", some say, as if the Chair of Peter rotates like the UN Secretary General or a political prize passed along. That is not how it works! The Pope is not chosen like a president or a world leader. He's not a racial representative.

He's a spiritual father, chosen through prayer and discernment, not politics! The Pope is chosen according to what has been discerned by the Cardinals as what God wants of the Church at this point in time and who among the Cardinal has the gift and talent to lead the Church in the discerned direction.

As is often the case after the death of a Pontiff, speculation has already begun regarding who the next Pope will be. Among the voices rising in this moment of discernment are calls for an African Pope, an aspiration rooted in a sincere (I hope) desire for representation and visibility. However, if we are to understand the

Catholic Church in its fullness, we must recognize that the papacy is not about representation in the political sense, nor is it an office driven by geographical, racial or cultural considerations. To demand a Pope based on race is to misunderstand both the nature of the Church and the sacred process by which the Successor of Peter is chosen.

The word Catholic means universal. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us: "The Church is catholic because she has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the whole of the human race" (CCC 831). This universality is not a tokenistic diversity. It is a deeper truth: in Christ, "there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). The Church transcends racial, national and cultural boundaries. It is not a federation of ethnic interest groups, but the mystical Body of Christ, drawn from every people, language and nation (Revelation 7:9).

To reduce the papacy to a question of race, be it African, European, Asian or otherwise is to domesticate the universality of the Church into tribalism. The Pope is not a representative of a region, he is the Bishop of Rome and the universal pastor of the Church.

When the College of Cardinals gathers in conclave, they are not acting as political delegates sent to vote along continental lines. They are, instead, participating in a sacred and solemn act of discernment. The Apostolic Constitution Universi Dominici Gregis that governs papal



elections, states: "The Cardinal electors shall abstain from any form of pact, agreement, promise or other commitment of any kind which could oblige them to give or deny their vote to a person or persons." (UDG, No. 81)

This is not democracy. This is discernment in the Holy Spirit. The Pope is chosen, not elected in a political sense. The conclave is an act of collective listening to

the Holy Spirit, guided by prayer, fasting and a deep sense of the sacred responsibility entrusted to them.

The Canon Law affirms that the election is a spiritual event. "The Roman Pontiff acquires full and supreme power in the Church by his acceptance of legitimate election together with episcopal consecration" (Canon 332 #1). The Church does not need to check boxes of identity politics. She needs a shepherd after

the heart of Christ. The call is not for a "Black Pope" or a "Latin American Pope" or an "Asian Pope" but for a holy Pope.

It is not wrong to desire that the richness of the African Church, its vibrancy, its martyrs, its deep faith be more visible in the leadership of the Church. Africa is a growing centre of Catholic vitality. But to demand a Pope based on the premise that it is "Africa's turn" is to approach the

papacy with a secular mindset and to misunderstand Catholic Church. This is not the Olympic Games where medals are distributed evenly across continents. The Church is not the United Nations. The Petrine office is not a post of national interest but rather a gift to the whole Church.

Indeed, if the next Pope is African, it will be because he is the one most fit in the eyes of the Holy Spirit to lead the Church at this moment.

Not because of his passport or the pigmentation of his skin, but because of his fidelity, his holiness, his vision and his heart.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his writing and example, warned against the "secularisation of the faith" and the temptation to view the Church through a sociopolitical lens. He reminded us that, "The Church is not a political organisation, nor is she a social association or humanitarian agency. The Church is a living body, the Body of Christ and she is continually guided by her Lord." We therefore must resist the temptation to interpret ecclesial processes through the categories of the world.

To my fellow Catholics, during this time, our call as the faithful is not to engage in pointless and empty speculation, but to pray. We must pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the cardinals to choose a man after God's own heart, regardless of his race or background. If we truly believe in the words of Christ, "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18), then we must also believe that the One who builds is still guiding His Church today. The conclave is not a geopolitical negotiation, it is an upper room where, once again, the Church waits for the fire of the Holy Spirit. We do not need a Pope from Africa. We do not need a Pope from Asia. We do not need a Pope from Europe. We do not need a Pope from the Americas, etc. We need a Pope from God. Veni, Sancte Spiritus. Duc nos ultra divites nostras, et da nobis pastorem secundum Cor Tuum.

Empowering future conservation leaders

IN A LANDMARK EFFORT TO strengthen environmental stewardship and leadership among Botswana's youth, the BIHL Trust, Children in the Wilderness (CITW) Botswana, and Mokolodi Nature Reserve have entered into a three-year tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The collaboration focuses on enhancing the CITW environmental education programme at Tshwaragano Primary School in Gaborone, extending existing support with a greater emphasis on experiential, nature-based learning. The initiative was officially launched at the school on 9 April 2025.

Children in the Wilderness, a programme of Okavango Wilderness Safaris (OWS), brings a wealth of experience in youth engagement through environmental education, life skills training, and leadership development. CITW is responsible for the implementation of the programme, which includes Eco Club sessions, annual camps, and student-led environmental projects designed to cultivate awareness and inspire positive behavioural change. To date, Eco Clubs operate at 10 schools across Botswana.

This strategic partnership, anchored by a P220,000 investment by the BIHL Trust, directly aligns with Pillar 3 of Botswana's Vision 2036 – "Sustainable Environment" – and advances key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Quality Education (SDG 4), Climate Action (SDG

■ BIHL Trust, CITW, and Mokolodi Nature Reserve unite for environmental education in Botswana



13), and Life on Land (SDG 15). CITW Botswana has supported Eco Club sessions at Tshwaragano Primary since 2018, also offering opportunities for learners to participate in the CITW Annual Camps, an unforgettable experience that blends fun, nature, and learning conducted at Wilderness and partners camps

"We are proud to stand beside such powerful partners and to stand for the children of Botswana. At the BIHL Trust, we believe that investing in youth education

and empowerment is the most sustainable way to ensure long-term conservation," said Ngwatshi Enyatseng, Board Chairman of BIHL Trust. "This programme reflects our commitment to building resilient communities and cultivating a generation that values and protects our natural heritage. It is an initiative we've long championed, and we are thrilled to now realise it with the support of CITW Botswana and Mokolodi." While students from Tshwaragano Primary have previously participated in CITW's

annual camps hosted at OWS lodges, including most recently in December 2024, their urban location has presented challenges for access to regular outdoor learning. This new partnership bridges that gap by leveraging Mokolodi Nature Reserve's immersive natural setting, providing consistent, hands-on experiences in conservation education. "We are empowering future conservation leaders every day, and this becomes even more possible by virtue of this collaboration," said Joe Matome,

CITW Botswana Board Chairperson and Caretaker Managing Director of OWS. "Our work is rooted in the belief that conservation is most powerful when communities – especially young people – are engaged and equipped to lead the way. We are proud to collaborate with the BIHL Trust and Mokolodi to deepen this impact in Gaborone." Mokolodi Nature Reserve's Education Centre plays a critical role in the programme by offering a natural learning environment for field-based education, hosting excursions, and supporting Eco Club activities through expert guidance and monitoring. "Mokolodi

is committed to nurturing future custodians of Botswana's natural heritage," said Dennis Ramokgau, Education & Stakeholder Manager at Mokolodi Nature Reserve. "Through this partnership, we are able to provide impactful, hands-on learning experiences that connect children directly with the environment they are being taught to protect, drawing on our extensive track record of reaching over 9,000 school children annually through our environmental education programmes."

The programme will be delivered through a comprehensive approach including teacher training workshops to strengthen capacity in environmental education, 23 Eco Club sessions per year aligned

with the school calendar, hands-on excursions to Mokolodi, and student-led projects with entrepreneurial potential. Monitoring and evaluation will track progress and guide improvements, while annual CITW camps will continue to celebrate learning and foster leadership.

Well embraced by Tshwaragano Primary School, School Head Ms. Kelopang noted the positive impact this is set to have on the 60 children who will form part of the programme. With Botswana's future conservation leaders at the heart of this initiative, the partnership stands as a compelling example of how cross-sector collaboration can drive meaningful progress on national and global sustainability goals.

Khama hurts UDC

FROM PAGE 1

administration of targeting him when government opposed some of his actions. He, therefore considered the BDP regime to be his enemy number one. "He would expect to have a field day under the UDC government as he totally believes he had an impact on the removal of BDP from power through the BPF influence especially in the strategic GaMangwato constituencies. The UDC government is facing dilemma on how to contain Khama influence," he added.

University of Botswana (UB) political science lecturer Dr Adam Mfundisi said the UDC find itself in a perilous political dilemma as a coalition of political parties with different ideologies, views, perspectives, characters, and the leadership. He said the post-election bromance between the UDC and BPF has, in part, contributed to this circus, where Khama positions himself as a Godfather of Botswana politics.

"The UDC has to be creative,



Motshegwa

innovative and flexible to deal with Khama in order to survive in Botswana politics. SKI, when he supposedly left politics, he was clear that he was to be the king of kings particularly in the Bangwato heartland and beyond," observed Dr Mfundisi.

He said as things stand, there is no official relationship between the UDC and BPF but some leaders of

the BPF opportunistically accepted positions within the UDC for their own personal gains rather than strengthening the party.

Khama dynasty
Meanwhile, Dr Mfundisi said the Khama dynasty is upon us where the Paramount Chief of Bamangwato sees himself as the undeclared King of Botswana having had perpetual privileges throughout his life.

During his inauguration to bogosi role, Khama was candid to articulate his new role including developmental agenda in his area of influence including addressing the leadership and the rank-and-file members of society.

Dr Mfundisi said Khama hardly follows protocol, and he doubts if the latter views Minister Motshegwa as his superior in government. "As a former President, Kgosi Khama seems to see himself as above everybody else except somewhat the President of the day. Upon relinquishing office, he was offered lucrative benefits, consistent with his self-entitlement attitude and behavior. All in all, SKI is the Godfather of modern Botswana politics," he said.

Efforts to get comment from Khama were unsuccessful at the time of going to print and this publication sought to establish if he will continue addressing the councilors and dikgosi following a directive by Motshegwa cautioning him against bypassing set government protocols.

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Donald Trump, a pathological liar

SOME MEDICAL EXPERTS NOW believe that Trump may be afflicted by certain mental disorders, or conditions. And such conditions may become severe as one gets older – Trump is now 79 years old.

Firstly, some say that he is a pathological liar. Such a person lies many times each day over a period of more than six months. This trait becomes ingrained in a person's character and the main aim of such a person is to wilfully deceive others. Such lying may be part of a personality disorder. Trump shows many signs of being a pathological liar. For example, he becomes defensive and indifferent when confronted by someone who has exposed one of his lies. For example, in a meeting in the White House, Trump labelled Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky a dictator. However, Trump denied that he had done so! Sometimes Trump also dodges questions and changes the subject when his lies are exposed. And he also feels undeterred by the fear of his lies being exposed. For example, the 'tariffs' which Trump claims that other nations are imposing on U.S. imports have been exposed as being fictitious and have nothing to do with tariffs. Instead, these so-called tariffs are calculated using the trade deficit that the U.S. might have with certain countries.

Pathological liars are also heroes or victims. Trump in his inauguration speech insisted that he is the saviour of the U.S.A. and that he will make America great again – "We are one people, one nation, one glorious nation. We will make our nation greater than ever before. We stand on the verge of the four greatest years in America's history. Our golden age has begun!"

Pathological liars may also consider themselves victims. How often have we heard Trump saying that America is the victim of 'unfair trading practices' – in particular, the

How it affected decisions he has been making in his first 100 days in the White House.

U.S. has trade deficits with many countries including many developing nations. And yet every country has trade deficits with at least some other countries whilst having trade surpluses with others.

Trump also claims that the "U.S. has more liquid gold (oil) under its feet than any other nation in the world." This is not true since Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world whilst the U.S. is ranked in ninth position.

And in his inauguration speech, he claimed that the U.S. has defeated communism and fascism. Not true! The fall of the communist Soviet Union and its satellite states in eastern Europe around 1990 was largely a result of uprisings in those countries.

And the U.S. armed forces were defeated during the Vietnam war (1955-1975) which saw the U.S. trying to prevent the takeover of South Vietnam by the Viet Cong communist forces from communist north Vietnam. However, American forces fled for their lives as the Viet Cong entered Saigon, capital of South Vietnam, in April 1975. The end result? South and North Vietnam merged to form the present communist state of Vietnam. Plus, communism is still alive and well in China, and the U.S. still has a communist state in its own backyard just 150 kilometres south of Florida – Cuba.

Trump always claims that Ukraine president Zelensky is a dictator but he was democratically elected in 2019 as leader of Ukraine. He also has said that Zelensky has an approval rating of just 4%; however, in recent opinion polls, he has an approval rating of over 50%.

During the U.S. 2024 election campaign, he criticised Kamala Harris's (the Democrat presidential candidate) price control policy and



labelled her a communist because of that. Not true.

Liars like Trump claim that telling outrageous lies can impress others, and many of these lies border on the fantastical as shown in his calculated 'tariffs' that other countries are 'levying' on U.S. imports (see previous articles).

Recently, American Democrat politician and activist, Bernie Sanders, has criticised Trump's stream of lies on TV. He exposed, for example, Trump's empty health care promises – his policies about coverage for all Americans was "just empty words from an empty suit." Sanders does not beat around the bush!

It is common knowledge that Trump often makes false statements in public to an extent unprecedented in American politics. The Washington Post tallied some 30 573 false or misleading statements that were made by Trump during his first presidency (2017-2021). And they have increased with time! And he habitually does not apologise for

his lies; he is too proud to do that! Or perhaps he does not see them as being lies?

But that is not all! Trump also has delusional disorder. A delusion is a fixed belief in something that is not true, even when the majority of people may say that it is not true. And such people are not amenable to change. Statistics show that only about 0.2% of the population may have this condition. There are many types of delusional disorder, but we can identify two that are present in Trump's character.

Firstly, grandiose delusional disorder. Trump has delusions of grandeur – the belief that he is more important and powerful than he really is. For example, before his inauguration he claimed that he would end the war between Russia and Ukraine in 24 hours, and that he was the only person in the world who had the ability to end the war.

However, the reality on the ground has since dismissed his claims. Russia has set conditions for peace which include many that Ukraine president Zelensky has said that he would never agree to – Ukraine would have to give up applying for NATO membership, Ukraine would have to cede parts of its territory that is now occupied by Russia, and following a possible ceasefire, no peacekeeping troops from the European Union would be allowed by Russia on Ukraine soil. And Russia has so far not suggested any concessions to Ukraine. So, it's business as usual in Ukraine with Russia intensifying its attacks on the country.

He also believes that he will be able to put an end to the conflict that has been raging between Israel and the Hamas terrorist organisation in Gaza. However, the recently agreed ceasefire has now been abandoned and its again business as usual.

Secondly, persecutory delusional disorder. People with this

disorder believe that others are trying to harm or harass them. Trump believes that the world is ripping off and cheating the U.S. through what he calls 'unfair trading practices'; for example, by imposing high tariffs on goods imported from the U.S. Such people believe in conspiracy theories – beliefs that an unpleasant event is the result of a secret plan made by powerful vindictive people.

Trump also shows signs of being a malignant narcissist, another personality disorder. Such people gain power and control over others (a narcissist is someone who has too much admiration for themselves). And Trump shows almost all the many signs of being a malignant narcissist: Grand sense of self-importance. Need for admiration. He wants people to admire him for what he claims that he can do to make America great again.

No remorse, empathy (sympathy) or concern for others. He does not feel sorry for implementing those policies that have caused suffering for others. For example, he has seriously reduced numbers of those working for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and has ordered the near freeze on foreign aid. For several years, U.S. aid has been instrumental in helping vulnerable groups in society in developing countries such as those affected by HIV/AIDS. And without such aid, thousands could soon die. The situation is further exacerbated by the fact that Trump gave no warning of such a move; one day there was aid, the next almost nothing. He simply thinks that developing countries all have the means to continue the work that USAID was doing. However, cash strapped governments of developing countries cannot raise the funds or seek other donors overnight.

But that did not matter to Trump;

he seems not to care about the sufferings of others! And how can a multi billionaire feel for others when he himself is surrounded by luxury and does not have a want in the world.

Obsessed with power. Trump wants to tell other world leaders what to do! At the recent World Economic Forum, his message to the world was: follow/obey me or else. And to back up his words, he has used weapons from his formidable arsenal:

sanctions, taxes, tariffs, cutting off aid... And in previous articles, we have seen that he has not hesitated to punish other countries in such ways. Holds grudges and takes revenge on those he claims have wronged him. How true this is of Trump! A grudge is a strong feeling of dislike or hate for others. The world has 'mistreated' the U.S. in the question of tariffs and so he bears a grudge against most other nations.

Taking pleasure from the suffering of others. Since he came into office, Trump has effectively closed the US/Mexico border to immigrants who are fleeing for their lives from places ravaged by political unrest and repression, civil wars... Most such people are Latinos. Also, forced deportations of immigrants to white Afrikaners from South Africa who, he claims, are suffering because of 'racial discrimination' there. Furthermore, he has dismissed thousands of U.S. federal government workers leaving countless families finding it difficult to make ends meet. Trump is a sadist!

Nothing is ever their fault. During the inauguration service on January 21st, the Archbishop of Washington delivered a sermon which was aimed at Trump. In it she said "We are most dangerous to ourselves and others when we are persuaded without a doubt that we are absolutely right and everyone else is absolutely

wrong..." Recently we have seen Trump and some of his diehard supporters wearing hats with the words: Trump is always right.

Do not have a conscience. Conscience is that part of you that judges how moral your own actions are and makes you feel guilty about things that you have done or are responsible for. But Trump does not even have a bad conscience about anything; nothing weighs on his conscience since he does not have one! Therefore, causing suffering means nothing to him; it's just a part of life like eating and drinking.

Have many enemies. So many people hate Trump worldwide, and would dearly like to see his imminent downfall.

Simply tune into Youtube, and you will see countless videos blasting Trump. Comments, for example, include: he's a sexual predator; treat people with love and respect; millions are being tortured, they are dying and he is enjoying every moment of it; he's always been a liar, a fraud, an idiot and a total disgrace; flush the toilet, America. Let's get rid of Trump; him in prison has a lot of approval; remove him from office, put him in jail, time to impeach and remove; I'm so sick of all the maga (make America great again) lies; impeach, convict, remove; impeach the sob!; time to call the generals to remove him; psychopaths don't have the mechanism to feel shame of embarrassment; Trump is a duck tator; his ego has driven him mad; he can't accept defeat or that people won't praise him; the thought of having this man having access to nuclear weapons is very worrying; I hope that Trump's approval ratings hit rock bottom. I hate him; Trump turns my stomach... And there are plenty of other comments using much stronger language which would not be published by any paper!

Grahame McLeod



ADDENDUM NO. 1-SECOND PRE-TENDER MEETING.

30th April 2025

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR ICT SECURITY SERVICES SUPPORT FOR MINERALS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY BOTSWANA (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED FOR TWELVE (12) MONTHS

Ref: **CMDCB 5/2/30 I (1)**

Notice to all prospective Bidders.

Prospective bidders are hereby informed of the following changes to the bidding document of the tender mentioned above.

A second compulsory pre-tender meeting with representatives of the Procuring Entities will take place at the MDCB Conference Room on **May 16th, 2025**, starting at **0900 hours**. Bidders who previously attended the pre-tender meeting for this tender are not compelled to attend the second session and, at their discretion, may opt out of the second scheduled pre-tender meeting.

The revised tender closing date is Monday, the **23rd of May 2025**.

The original bidding document issued for this tender shall remain in force except as modified by this Addendum.

Procurement Advisor
Minerals Development Company Botswana

ADDENDUM NO. 1-SECOND PRE-TENDER MEETING.

PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & ADVERTISING AGENCY SERVICES FOR MINERALS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY BOTSWANA (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED

Ref: **MDCB 5/3/5 II (46)**

Notice to all prospective Bidders.

Prospective bidders are hereby informed of the following changes to the bidding document of the tender mentioned above.

A second compulsory pre-tender meeting with representatives of the Procuring Entities will take place at the MDCB Conference Room on **May 16th, 2025**, starting at **1430 hours**. Bidders who previously attended the pre-tender meeting for this tender are not compelled to attend the second session and, at their discretion, may opt out of the second scheduled pre-tender meeting.

The revised tender closing date is Monday, the **23rd of May 2025**.

The original bidding document issued for this tender shall remain in force except as modified by this Addendum.

Procurement Advisor
Minerals Development Company Botswana

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Proof of Identity (Certificate of incorporation & Extracts)	ID	Passport
Source of Funds (latest financial statements, financial projections)	Proof of Residence	Residence permit
Business Address (Utility bill< 3months reflecting business name), Confirmation by company secretary	Proof of Income	Work permit

Submission Deadline: All updates must be submitted by **June 30th 2025**

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Opinions, Reviews & Analysis

The ship hasn't sunk yet, thanks to De Beers!

COMMENT

AS PART OF ITS Corporate Strategy, De Beers announced last May that going forward they will be pivoting synthetics, with Lightbox suspending production of lab-grown diamonds for jewellery and Element Six focusing on developing its position as a world-leading provider of synthetic diamond technology solutions. True to their word De Beers has joined forces with Bosch Quantum Sensing, a new joint venture to create the world's most advanced quantum sensors based on engineered synthetic diamonds. This is a giant leap for both the diamond industry and technology. It's a big step for the

entire civilization. An incredible milestone, and we celebrate this as a win for technology and human progress. De Beers made natural diamonds a global luxury and trade commodity through centuries of vision, strategy, and marketing. Now, their aggressive research and innovation in the lab grown diamonds (LGD) space is timely. The potential applications of lab-diamonds in fields like healthcare and navigation are exciting. It is great to see how De Beers is driving innovation in this space, redefining the role of diamonds in a way that extends beyond traditional luxury. LGD are known best to conduct heat at 2,300 W/m-K,

the highest known. Therefore, adding metallic elements, makes them excellent semiconductors. Indeed, their true future is in tech heat conductors, semiconductors, and sensors. Conversations have been ongoing about the need to shift the thought around synthetics to opportunity in other industries where a lot of application for them is yet to be uncovered, including some energy applications. In Silicon Valley, tech gurus are already looking at adding synthetic substrates to chips for AI use, to make the chips more efficient. The latest breakthrough is a clear demonstration that LGDs will be used a lot more in technology than in jewelry,

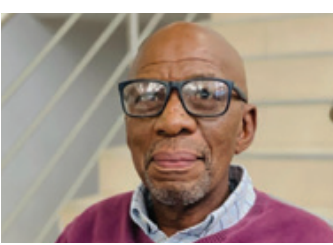
wherein lies their real merit and value. They can be precisely grown in large numbers with precision at a fraction of the costs of alternative natural and synthetic products. The jewelry industry has been a tremendous help to financially get the lab diamond growers there, but it's time to make clear and appropriate distinctions and value definition for both products. Subject to sensory has been created to prevent easy scan = easy scam in radio frequency technology. This will improve traceability and transparency for industry in the digital world for traceable validation & valuation beyond blockchain ability. Having a unique identity, designs or

special cut gems and filed intellectual property keeps producers on the go and in the game. It keeps them away from price wars. By advancement in technology for jewelry, it keeps producers ahead of others by being able to show the true story of their creation, thus building their digital legacy and digital assets. Quantum sensors are an especially promising space for industrial companies, in addition to navigation, health and more, as described in the report by Kongsberg on opportunities in the quantum ecosystem. Elsewhere, countries are already investing millions of dollars in building quantum ecosystems. One example

is Denmark's \$140 million investment in quantum, where they have established the Deep Tech Lab – Quantum. Combined, the Nordic countries constitute the 11th greatest economy in the world and could play a significant role in this shift. We need to change our narratives about the future, from driven by threat to driven by opportunity. The media's take on quantum and AI tends to tilt towards the apocalyptic, causing fear and a defensive approach. To foster innovation, we need opportunity-driven narratives addressing the exponential opportunities in this space. But an opportunity-driven narrative comes alive through action.

What small steps could we take now towards a future of quantum leaps? From Botswana's perspective, a country built on the legacy of natural diamonds, this innovation in LGD should trigger a lot of reflection and repositioning. While synthetic diamonds power precision in tech, Botswana's natural diamonds remain irreplaceable symbols of love, culture, and heritage. But we need to reinforce that story and tell it even louder while also exploring how to diversify and add value here at home and still stay competitive globally. Let's also remind ourselves and apply the porters generic

strategies. By streamlining our mining and beneficiation processes, investing in smart technology, and reducing operational inefficiencies we can maintain pricing flexibility without compromising value. We must also keep pushing for local value addition, brand building, and stronger ESG narratives. Synthetic may serve the lab but our natural diamonds will always serve the heart. This De Beers innovation should calm the debate between natural vs synthetic diamonds. Congratulations to De Beers and partners for such a milestone. We are looking forward to see how this will evolve!



ADAM PHETLHE ON SUNDAY!

Batswana (66%) favour direct election of President

Direct election of the President
The key finding on this issue puts to bed the doubts that obtained as to the percentages of Batswana who favour it and as such, guarantees that the issue will pass if it were to be subjected to a referendum. According to the finding, 64% of urban Batswana favour it while 62% of semi-urban Batswana do so as well. It is almost guaranteed that when the terms of reference of the upcoming Constitutional review process are drawn, direct election of the President will be amongst them. It will be remembered that when the majority of Batswana spoke at the Kgotla meetings during the ill-fated and flawed Constitutional review process undertaken by the Masisi administration, it was evident many of them favoured it. The only characters who did not favour it were the Commission, Masisi himself and some of his erstwhile Ministers. In fact, the Commission somewhat confirmed the direct election of

the President was favourable but inexplicably chose to please the Emperor. It was a sad moment in a process led by a former Chief Justice. 'How should cabinet Ministers be appointed? Contrary to the belief that Batswana could favour appointment of cabinet Ministers from outside parliament, 56% of them favour the status quo to remain while 34% favour the President to appoint externally. I have always wondered whether appointing Ministers externally would bring efficiency in government business. My view is that were the President to appoint externally, such appointments would firstly be premised on the political affiliations of the appointees and secondly that such appointees would not have a free hand in dealing with their ministerial responsibilities. Put differently, the President will still have absolute say on how such Ministers function pretty much the same as does the status quo. For example, the



President will be driven more by political expediency than prudent financial management. Therefore, in cases where the Minister of Finance would be appointed externally, his/her professional prudent financial management would be overshadowed by the President's political expediency. 'Should public servants be subjected to lifestyle audits? The key finding on this issue is that 45% of Batswana agree while 30% strongly agree. 13%

of those surveyed disagree while 7% strongly disagree. On this issue, 'Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you disagree with the following statement: In order to promote integrity in the public service, individuals who accumulate sudden and unexplained wealth should be subjected to lifestyle audit.' It is fair to say a whopping 75% of Batswana agree that public servants should be subjected to lifestyle audit. The reasons should be pretty obvious. There is every reason to believe some of the public servants' lifestyles are not commensurate with their known source of income given the opulent lifestyles they lead. Such lifestyles would in all probability be financed by proceeds of crime like corruption and fraud amongst others and whose origins would be kick-backs/bribery from government tenders and possibly fruitless and wasteful expenditure. But what is it important for both the public and private sectors? Lifestyle audit is defined as 'an important management tool to prevent and detect fraud and corruption in the public service... it also 'helps to ensure public servants do not live beyond their means.' There are obvious indicators of someone living beyond their means. Such individuals will be prone to exorbitant spending on expensive motor vehicles, luxurious houses and other finer things in life like high value

excursions to some of the most expensive destinations in the world. Some high profile public servants have already been accused of similar excursions not from their known sources of revenue. For the lifestyle audit to be impactful and bring desired results, declaration of assets and liabilities by public servants required by the law on the declaration of assets and liabilities to do so must be complied with and those declarations should be made public for purposes of accountability and transparency. Because the declaration of assets and liabilities is opaque, it is not clear whether the declarants do so within the legally prescribed timeframe and whether, after all, true declarations are made. Lifestyle audit will become a pipe dream if the declaration of assets and liabilities is opaque. A fully functional and transparent assets and liabilities process will make it easy to audit public servants lifestyles. The two should complement the other.

The three key findings are without doubt consequential to the expected Constitutional review in so far as the direct election of the President is concerned and upholding the highest levels of integrity in the public service. The 66% of Batswana who favour the direct election of the President is an undisputed indication that we will in the not-so-distant future have three ballot boxes during the general election. As the prime driver of government machinery, it goes without saying the public service requires serious reforms some of which is auditing the lifestyles of public servants. I need not belabour the benefits of lifestyle audit. While the AfroBarometer findings are not binding on government, it will be suicidal for government to ignore them. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself! Tsamaya sentle Bra Stan Tshosane. You have run your race. adamphetlhe08@gmail.com

BOFEPUSU birth that was almost stillborn

MBOKO CHILISA
WORKERS' DAY always fills me with nostalgia! It brings beautiful memories of the decade and a half that I spent on the cutting edge of



public union and Government relations. With my learned colleague Tshiamo Rantao, from 2008-2020, we litigated just about every conceivable issue that could be raised as between union and employer in the workplace, on behalf of the public sector unions. On this particular day thought I should share a short note about the birth of BOFEPUSU that was almost stillborn. The evolution of the legal framework for public sector unionisation seemed to coincide with my entry into practice. Relations between the public sector unions (all of which, apart from Manual Workers' Union, had just recently been established) and the Government very quickly became a melting pot. As a young leftist with testosterone overflowing and anarchist tendencies, working with the public sector unions was a dream come true. For more than decade I felt like I had the best job in the world! The first brief I got from the public sector unions was in 2007. It was to assist with the

drafting of the BOFEPUSU constitution, for the constituent members BOPEU and Manual Workers. It would later become contentious as it was said that BOFEPUSU was not formed in accordance with the Trade Union and Employers' Organisation Act. The law required that in order for the unions to resolve to federate they first organise a ballot of the general membership of both unions (which at the time exceeded more than 45 000), and no ballot had been conducted. The failure to conduct such ballot would later be used in 2008 by the Government to deregister BOFEPUSU on the basis that it was registered by mistake. An appeal to the High Court against de-registration was thrown out by Judge Walia (then a High Court judge). A further appeal was made to the Court of Appeal against the de-registration. Prior to the appeal, Advocate de Bourbon, the greatest legal practitioner in Zimbabwe of his generation, was briefed to advise on prospects of success on appeal,

and he told us that our case had no prospects of success, as the Trade Union and Employer's Organisation Act provided that the High Court's decision on the de-registration was final. Advocate Tim Brundiers was eventually briefed by Tshiamo to come argue the case. He was a coloured man, the first foreign non-white advocate that I met or worked with. As counsel introduced themselves to the appeal panel, the late Tim McNally (then Acting Judge President) started pacing around his chambers and then raised the issue of whether the Court of Appeal had power to listen to the appeal. It became as clear as daylight, as had been advised by Advocate de Bourbon that Walia's judgment spelt a death knell for BOFEPUSU. The appeal was therefore withdrawn as the Court of Appeal lacked the power to consider it. Following the withdrawal of the appeal we were resigned to the fact that BOFEPUSU was dead, as the High Court had confirmed that it had never been properly registered. We discussed, with Tim, challenging the constitutionality of the provisions requiring balloting of the general membership of unions seeking to federate. I was sceptical of the approach as it was not clear as to how it would breathe life back into something that was already dead. Tim had introduced us to a young black advocate called Tembeka Ngcukaitobi to work with as he was a bit busy. At this point I thought maybe Tshiamo was not taking the matter seriously as he was briefing black and coloured advocates, when

there were experienced white advocates at the Johannesburg Bar! Tembeka's counsel was that we urgently approach the High Court, to suspend the Registrar's decision to deregister BOFEPUSU, pending a constitutional challenge of the provisions requiring balloting. We thought our chances were slim given that Walia had already confirmed the de-registration. As fortune would have it, the computer system used to allocate cases on registration allotted the matter to Justice Moroka, the only judge at the time, apart from Dingake and Motswagole, who would not have quickly thrown out on the basis that Walia had already confirmed the de-registration. Justice Moroka gave BOFEPUSU the orders they sought, thereby preserving its status, pending the challenge to the provisions requiring balloting of the general membership. The constitutional challenge to the statutory provisions requiring balloting of general membership was a couple of years later upheld by Judge Leburu. The end result was that BOFEPUSU continued to exist and unions are not required to ballot their general membership in order to federate. BOFEPUSU would thereafter prove to be a thorn to Government. It all may have been different but for Moroka's fortuitous intervention. Following the recent election of a government that seeks to put human rights at the centre of everything, it was most fitting that Justices Moroka, Leburu and Motswagole were elevated to the Court of Appeal. **Happy Workers' Day!**

Justice delayed is justice denied - BDU

■ Ongoing Court Proceedings – Emergency Call Matter

THE BOTSWANA DOCTORS Union (BDU) notes with deep concern the current developments surrounding the legal case initiated by the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) and the Attorney General (AG) regarding the implementation of the 1-call-per-doctor-per-month policy. The matter, brought before the Industrial Court on an urgent basis by DPSM/AG, has experienced multiple delays since the interdict was first issued on 18th April 2025. Originally scheduled for hearing on 25th April, BDU proactively anticipated the matter on 23rd April. However, the government's legal representatives requested additional time to review the documents and consult their client. The Honourable Judge then set 25th April as the return date for arguments. On the 25th, government unexpectedly replaced its legal counsel, citing an emergency in Johannesburg that prevented their initial advocate from attending. The newly appointed counsel requested further time to familiarize themselves with the case. Though clearly frustrated by the delays, the court granted the request and awarded costs for the day in favour of BDU. The matter was scheduled for a full hearing on 27th April at 12:00 noon. However, we have since been informed that the presiding judge suffered a medical emergency and is currently on certified sick leave until 2nd May 2025. Despite being officially on leave, the Judge extended the rule nisi to 2nd May.



President of Botswana Doctors Union Dr Kefilwe Selema

As medical professionals and the very individuals who issue medical certificates of fitness, we must emphasize that sick leave implies incapacitation from duty until one is medically declared fit. In light of this, we believe it is procedurally and legally appropriate for the Industrial Court—comprised of seven Judges—to appoint an alternative judge to preside over this urgent matter, which has yet to be argued in full. We further wish to express the following points:
1. This matter was filed as urgent by the DPSM/AG, and should be treated with the corresponding urgency.
2. The presiding judge is officially incapacitated and unable to perform his duties until 2nd May 2025.
3. Although the rule nisi was extended, we question the appropriateness of judicial action while on medical leave.

4. Urgent matters not yet heard should, by law and precedent, be reassigned to a different judge in the interest of justice and expediency.
5. Continued delays are not only procedural concerns but have a real and detrimental impact on the health services accessed by the public. We urge our members to continue adhering to the legal requirements of their call duties and to disregard any unlawful directives. Finally, we call on the public to recognize the serious and ongoing consequences these delays have on their health and well-being. We remain committed to pursuing a swift and lawful resolution to this matter. **Issued by: Botswana Doctors Union (BDU) Public Relations Office**

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Abolish exclusionist tendencies

KEAOLEBOGA DIPOGISO*

■ Institutionalize and democratize labour administration and social dialogue

RECENTLY, I POSTED A statement suggesting that 'manifestos are not government policy!' In that piece I opined that manifestos are idealized solutions to problems, but the substantive solution will come by way of government policy. I borrowed the definition of policy from Thomas Dye, and said that, it is a decision. In this regard, and argument, manifestos are not government decisions and hence do not solve problems. Like ideologies, they provide a framework, within which solutions may derive. They guide action.

I further made the assertion that, a social contract for the purposes of political accountability, has to derive from policy and policy actions, and not mere manifestos, for in the bulk of the time the latter are a rough sketch of reality. They hardly form out of objective and factual evidence and considerations. That is why they are often referred to as utopian, idealistic, dogmatic and the like. More importantly, manifestos are not a pact. They aren't agreed anywhere because little evidence support the relationship between party manifestos and the actual vote. There's a conglomerate of many other factors that influence the vote, including, the charisma of leaders, the oratory ability to influence voting decisions, and others such as predominant party systems and physiological considerations of the electorate. So before their implementation, manifestos remain a fleeting illusion to be pursued. Thus, upon assuming power, parties especially those from opposition, are compelled to engage in policy making, transforming the roughly build ideas into soluble contingencies directly resolving problems.

But, before this, I had opined yet again, that the new regime should disrupt old institutions, if meaningful change is to be achieved!

The first responsibility of a revolutionary organisation is that of decision making - thus to orchestrate and design policy based on the realities on the ground. Inherently, in many cases, policies of governments led by parties that were erstwhile in opposition, are disruptive in nature. They reflect change, ie, such policies aim at busting institutions of convention - rules, practices, habits and attitudes - installed throughout the years by predecessors are challenged and changed. This, I continue to argue, must happen in the most inclusive, legislative process that thrives with meaningful engagement and impactful dialogue. The second responsibility

is to cleanse the system of agents of reaction and reactionary force that always aim at creating a deep state to undermine change.

This becomes the first step towards legitimizing ideas, to ensure that when turned into policies, they mirror the widest demographic interests with the diversity they present. Now this brings us, to the critical point of tensions in society, especially as far as participatory democracy is concerned. In making government policies, all ideas are worthy of consideration. Inadvertently, the parliamentary process allows such exchange of ideas, which ultimately metamorphose into policies. Parliamentary processes are the best benchmarks for achieving this, especially where parliament is independent and strong. For example, parliament may adopt ideas from the opposition and make them government policy. More importantly, it is that reciprocal effect of legislative function of parliament that strengthens democracy - where on accept dominance of some ideas with the hope that his will prevail in future. In authoritarian governments it's a rarity.

Recently, parliament heard a motion from Taolo Lucas, articulating issues of social justice, which ultimately got adopted with corrections. There are more examples from the past, and other jurisdictions elsewhere. This way, government eliminates tensions and what has come to be called tense minorities. The latter refers to a group in society, that has given up on the democratic process, in terms of addressing its issues. When this happens, and when such a grouping becomes ostracized, feels left out of the mainstream discourses, it finds refuge in unconventional ways of political expression. In militarized societies, with high levels of societal cleavages, the groupings tend towards banditry and violence. They equip armory and form into a very toxic and highly tense minority. That is, when their problems will not be resolved through the conventional political processes. In modern democracies they tend to establish populist sentiment and undermine democratic authorities.

This is the case with the Botswana Doctors Union. Its radicalized approach derives from the despair and disparaging political environment that resists change. The attitudes, rules and habitual recalcitrance obtaining within the public service echelons of power are a manifestation of institutional



Keaoleboga Dipogiso

resistance to change. In the past regimes, public service trade unions have been busted and refused with collective bargaining rights, blatantly and with technicalities. The enduring intransigence of government administrative wings accounts for nothing more than remnants of a system polluted with Stalinist tendencies, of maligning, sidelining, excluding, petrifying, and of destroying alternative views. It is carried through bureaucratic inertia marshaled by brats of the olden system.

The initial efforts to unionize public sector workers for the purpose of collective bargaining, ratification of ILO conventions 87 and 98. Their domestication, which was delayed by almost a decade, was but a continuation of habitual resistance towards social dialogue. Currently we are facing a DPSM Director with a hazy comprehension of social dialogue. How do you tell social partners that you prefer a holistic approach to their 'manifold' issues? Where do you derive the audacity to pass judgement on their hierarchy of priorities? What calculus have you applied to determine the call issue is not important and hence can wait, when Doctors are working upto 20 hours per day? This clearly signals a discouraging level of thinking, laced with pinches of arrogance and dictatorship.

Immersed with the yesteryears' attitudes and influences, the Director keeps referring to dialogue that may happen in a structure envisaged in 'the near future', yet the current situation dictate for immediate action, which action I argue should

be policy orientation towards resolving the extant problems. All the unions, radical or otherwise, have entered recognition agreements with the employer, through which collective labour agreements have been achieved, outside the bargaining council. To insist on resolving matters at a futuristic structure, is in essence a reversal of the gains and ends of recognition agreements. It lacks both creative thinking and rudimentary logic and sense. It further demonstrates failure on the part of these bureaucrats, to graduate their level of thinking towards open-mindedness and appreciation of change. It wasn't the first time in 2007 or so, when the unionization process experienced the misery of labour pains. The first state president, Seretse Khama, in 1971 gave a speech that embodied the first signs of discouraging public sector unionization. His arguments, hinged on the developmental state, suggested that organised labour comprised of people with salaries already, hence his focus was rather on the unemployed. Closely analysed, this marked the genesis of an uphill battle that government's resolve on two particular institutions, 1) to muzzle dissent and 2) to suppress public sector wages. Political leadership in Botswana, with all its agents and representations, throughout the epochs from independence, have thrived at these two particular attitudes.

The attitude also modeled around the ideal of suppressing public sector wages, was derived from the pre-independence agrarian economy. When monopolists of land and

cattle assumed state power, they transformed it into government policy. This would form a grander austerity approach that manifested during the Festus Mogae era, and which the current government budget strategy paper suggests - a decrease in the size of the public service. So, the radicalization of labour, which unions like BLLAHWU championed, through its working class ideology over the years, was a response to reactionary approaches of the then governments towards labour. Similarly, the radical posture of blue collar or manual workers, propelled by NALGPWU were a diametric opposition of suppression of dissent, that was styled in state developmentalist approaches.

Ian Khama, himself as state president, adopted an approach, of muzzling dissent whose foundation transcended his predecessor and cabinet be traced directly to his father. Though solidified by his military and authoritarian background, he was faced with the challenge of democraging labour administration and social dialogue, a test he failed dismally. Even though, blame could be apportioned to him as a leader, the government machinery that wasn't accustomed to social dialogue was unlikely to revolt towards it under his leadership, under the circumstances. The attitudes endured and frastated all efforts of public sector unionisation. Under the Mokgweetsi Masisi regime, awash with rethoric and less action, not much was achieved to bust institutions explained above - of muzzling dissent and suppression wages. The challenge that lies

ahead, is to democratize the labour administration space to allow for meaningful enjoyment of labour rights and all their manifestations. To do so, is not easy. It requires work, to reorient the masters of the old institutions, into a new dawn of inclusive decision making. Currently, there's no policy deviation from the old regime. The stark realities of the past regimes are intact. Agents of darkness are supposed to carry the light into new dawn, when they mustered oppressive and exclusionist tendencies back then. That is why there's less talk about the future labour relations and how they will look, in terms of policy and administration. We can only, but refer to the glossy images in our minds, those picturesque demonstrations, of how in the horizons, a new and better Botswana will emerge. One that respects and upholds international standards set by the conventions to which we are signatories. That Botswana currently remains a mirage, a fleeting illusion to be pursued.

We will need only the political leadership, to provide the so much needed leadership. Right now, we cannot think about the UDC as failing the social contract, as there are no UDC policies running government as yet. It's the policies created in the past regimes that run government. UDC policies haven't taken off the ground, to be tested for efficiency. Such policies do not exist, we are stuck with manifesto ideas. Another dimension exists, one may argue, that the leadership has mortgaged the mandate to bureaucrats. These bureaucrats are clueless about realizing the ideas of UDC. It may be criminal to not prevail over them, it may not be, essentially that there are no new ways, no new attitudes and no new approaches.

No policies! To steer the ship towards the promise land there is need for new policies. To appreciate that, workers' rights are human rights. To comply fully with the international conventions, particularly Article 23 (1) of the United Nations Human Rights Charter. Further to this, would be to professionalize social dialogue, by creating a body corporate with the specific mandate of handling social dialogue, in the spirit of tripartism espoused by Convention 144 of the ILO. When this is done, and policies are drafted in an inclusive and legitimate manner, the crisis of ostracism and exclusion will fall off. It will be therefore incumbent on the workers and employers organizations themselves to solidify the bargaining positions as social partners.

**Political Analyst*

Is Educational Reform Inherently Political? A Botswana Perspective

OABONA MOSES SELLO

BOTSWANA'S LEADERSHIP HAS recently made bold pronouncements regarding curriculum reform from overhauling syllabi and introducing decolonized content, to emphasizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration in schools and abolishing corporal punishment. Yet, what has stirred the most debate is not merely the intent behind these reforms, but the platforms where they are being announced: mainly Kgotla meetings and institutional visits by political

leaders.

As an education observer and engaged citizen, I wish to offer a few notable points for consideration. Yes, Botswana needs education reform but how reforms are communicated matters just as much as what they entail.

Educational reform is a complex and delicate process. It demands robust data, broad consultation, technical expertise and most importantly, stakeholder buy-in. Teachers, school leaders, parents, and learners themselves are critical agents in shaping what happens in

classrooms.

However, when major reforms are announced informally at events like Kgotla meetings, it can signal a bypassing of key stakeholders. Many teachers first hear of these changes via social media, fostering confusion and a sense of exclusion.

Botswana's education sector has witnessed landmark policies such as Education for Kagisano (1977) and the Revised National Policy on Education (RNPE, 1994). Both were visionary, yet their impact was blunted by implementation gaps, inconsistent political commitment



Oabona Moses Sello

and disruptions in policy continuity. Without careful planning and genuine stakeholder engagement, even the most promising reforms risk failing. When reforms are announced without formal documentation or consultation, we may face real challenges like: - Teacher resistance and confusion due to lack of clarity and training. - Public mistrust, especially when reforms appear politically motivated. - Inconsistency, as changes may be reversed or reshaped following election cycles.

Fortunately, Botswana has the institutional strength to manage reforms responsibly. Institutions such as the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC), the University of Botswana, and teacher unions are well-positioned to design, pilot, and implement education reforms that align with international trends like AI integration, while maintaining Botswana's cultural values.

These institutions can provide: - Research-based insights

- Pilot testing of new initiatives
 - Professional development programs for teachers
 - Monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the effectiveness of reforms.
- To strengthen education reform efforts in Botswana, we must:
1. Shift reform announcements into professional and public education forums rather than community gatherings.
 2. Publish formal policy briefs explaining proposed changes in clear, detailed terms.
 3. Consult broadly and meaningfully, especially with teachers, learners, and education experts.
 4. Train and empower implementing teachers, recognizing that even the best curriculum will fail without prepared implementers.

There is no denying that education reform is inherently political, as education shapes the future of any nation. However, when educational reform expediency seems to override professional expertise and broad stakeholder engagement, the result is often confusion, mistrust, and policy failure.

If Botswana is truly committed to preparing its young people for a dynamic, tech-driven future, we must approach education reform as a shared national project anchored in consultation, transparency and a collective vision for success.

Only then can Botswana's education system thrive in the 21st century and beyond.

obmsello@gmail.com/73352030
Oabona Moses Sello
Teacher, Blogger & Writer

GABANAGAE, J

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

CASE NO: CVHGB-001046-21

In the matter between:

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA PLAINTIFF

And

LETHOGONOLO DOE MASENDU DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE That pursuant to Court Order of this Honourable Court dated 29th June 2021 and stamped on the 29th June 2021 the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendants will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff D.P.Gabobakwe in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE: Friday 30th May 2025
TIME OF SALE: 10:00 Hours
PLACE OF SALE: PLOT 8219, MOGODITSHANE, BLOCK 9
TERMS OF SALE: Cash

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: The defendant's rights, title deed and Interest on a certain piece of land being Plot 8219 Mogoditshane Block 9 measuring 920m² (Nine Hundred and Twenty square metres) held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No TL 1136/2013 dated 6th day of August 2013 made in favour of Lethogonolo Doe Masendu together with developments thereon being a two bedroomed house, open plan kitchen, bath, shower, fitted wardrobe and screen wall.

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 14TH DAY OF APRIL 2025

Deputy Sheriff D. P. Gabobakwe
73900288 / 72901534
C/o Gobhoza Legal Practice
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 115, Unit 19, Kgale Mews
Gaborone International Finance Park
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- Production significantly down to 4.2 million carats in 2024, Q4
- No signs of recovery in 2025, consumer demand remain weak
- Mining sector fears for the worst as USA tariffs fuel volatility

BAKANG TIRO
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DEBSWANA DIAMOND Company's rough diamond production dropped by 31 percent to 4.2 million carats in the fourth quarter of 2024, compared to 6.1 million carats produced in the corresponding period in 2023. This is due to subdued global demand for diamonds.

The production information report is contained in the Bank of Botswana (BoB) Monetary Policy Report for April 2025 that was published last week by the central bank and it is currently under review. BoB noted in the report that Debswana's production for 2024 amounted to 17.9 million carats, falling short of the target of 20.7 million carats.

It said the production guidance for the larger De Beers Group was 29 – 32 million carats in 2024.

"However, the production guidance for 2025 has been revised downwards to 20 – 23 million carats from 30 – 33 million carats, reflecting the challenging rough diamond trading conditions," BoB explained.

The decline in Debswana production comes at a time when the rough diamonds industry is facing global uncertainty due to weakened global demand, a situation that is likely to be worsened by the 37% tariffs imposed by the United States of America on Botswana's exports, including the diamonds.

Industry experts have warned of high volatility on the mineral sector due to the US tariffs.

Charles Siwawa, Chief Executive Officer of Botswana Chamber of Mines (BCM), said Botswana's rough diamonds are undergoing a torrid time, adding that the tariffs would worsen the situation further.

Siwawa said the USA is a big market for Botswana rough diamonds and the higher tariffs rate would reduce Botswana's exporting



Debswana Diamond mine

capacity of diamonds, effectively reducing further government revenue sourced from the mineral exports.

"The whole tariffs situation would impact negatively on the economy. We will likely to see cost of

production increasing in the mining sector will profitability remains lower. Diamond producers could slow down production with that likely to impact on employment as well," cautioned Siwawa.

BoB said production at Lucara Diamond Corporation (Karowe Mine) decreased by 7.3 percent to 91 046 carats in the fourth quarter of 2024, from 98 177 carats produced in the corresponding period in 2023.

The decrease is also partly attributed to sluggish demand for rough diamonds and diamond jewellery.

Meanwhile, Karowe Diamond Mine projects to produce 360 – 400 thousand carats in 2025 with an

estimated sales of 400 – 420 thousand carats.

To buttress the gloomy outlook on Botswana's rough diamonds crisis, Anglo American in its latest production report for the first quarter

ended 31 March 2025 indicated that rough diamond production decreased by 11% to 6.1 million carats, reflecting the continued production response to the prolonged period of lower demand.

In Botswana, Anglo American said production decreased by 8% to 4.6 million carats as a result of the planned actions to lower production.

According to Anglo, the consumer demand for diamond jewellery in the United States over the year-end holiday season was in line with the expectations. However, rough diamond demand in the first quarter remained subdued as the midstream continued its cautious approach to restocking due to excess loose polished diamond inventory.

GLOBAL PRICES

Commenting on the global commodity prices, BoB said the global rough diamond price index decreased by 6.2 percent from 134.3 points in the fourth quarter of 2024 to 125.9 points in the first quarter of 2025. The decline was mainly due to weaker demand by major end product consumers, such as China and the US.

In addition, BoB highlighted that the demand for natural diamonds has been impacted by increased competition from other luxurious goods, especially lab-grown diamonds, which are gaining popularity as a substitute product.

It said lab grown diamonds currently hold 20-25 percent of market share and are projected to account for approximately 30-40 percent of the total diamond market by 2030, up from nearly zero in 2015.

On the other hand, it said the global polished diamond price index decreased by 7.3 percent from 98 points in the third quarter of 2024 to 91 points in the fourth quarter, due to weaker demand and a challenging global economic outlook.

"Similarly, the global polished diamond price index decreased by 3 percent from 92 points in November to 89 points in December 2024," Anglo American added.

Serious buyers showing interest in De Beers - VP



Botswana Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe

BOTSWANA'S GOVERNMENT said it's optimistic that Anglo American will find a buyer for its diamond unit De Beers this year.

"We are very confident that partners are coming forward," Botswana Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe said in an interview in Washington, without identifying prospective investors. "Some are countries, some are funds, some are companies that have a deep interest. I'm comfortable, I'm confident that we are on the right track."

Botswana owns 15% of De Beers, which sources the bulk of its diamonds from the southern African

nation. Anglo owns the rest and is looking to offload the stake following a slump in prices for natural diamonds, partly a result of the rising popularity of lab-grown stones.

Anglo wrote down the value of De Beers for a second time in February, to about \$4.1-billion. The London-listed company said it aims to exit De Beers — either via a trade sale or a listing — in the second half of 2025.

Botswana, which depends on diamonds for the majority of its exports and about one-third of government revenue, has a decades-long partnership with De Beers. They signed a ten-year deal in February to fund a marketing campaign to resuscitate demand for natural



Chief Executive Officer of De Beers Group, Al Cook

diamonds.

Gaolathe, who also serves as Botswana's finance minister, said the country should have a say over whoever takes on Anglo's 85% stake. The country, he said, wanted them to have "deep pockets" and be in the diamond industry for the long haul.

"We are looking for partners that are not coming into it for the quick buck," he said. "Whoever wants to take over the Anglo shares, it's not just the takeover of shares. It's actually the consummation of a relationship with the government of Botswana. And I want to impress upon you, we take relationships very seriously."

It's possible, he said, that Botswana looks to increase its De Beers stake to

as much as 50%. "We're definitely not going lower than 15%," he said.

The vice president, who was in the US attending the International Monetary Fund-World Bank Spring Meetings, also said higher American tariffs on diamond imports would backfire.

"The US does not have diamonds," he said. "But the US has been able to create an entire diamond sector, a jewelry sector. It's large, it creates jobs for Americans. So the US has benefited from Botswana diamonds and a sudden pushback on Botswana diamonds will and can hurt the US more than it imagines." [miningweekly.com]

HB co-founders split again



Rafael Papismedov

LEAH MEIROVICH

TWO OF ANTWERP-BASED diamond firm HB's cofounders will part ways with the company, less than two years after a third partner exited and then returned.

Rafael Papismedov and Shai de Toledo will step down from day-to-day leadership of the company, the two said in a joint statement on Monday seen by Rapaport News. The two will remain shareholders in the business but will focus on new opportunities, they noted.

"When we founded HB, our ambition was clear: to build a new blueprint for the diamond industry — one that returned value creation to producing countries, starting with our partnership in Botswana," said de Toledo and Papismedov. "We



Shai de Toledo

believed in a model anchored in local transfer of knowledge and long-term impact. But as the company's direction shifted away from that mission, we knew it was time to step back — and step into new ventures that continue to pursue our vision."

The move is curious given the pair's third cofounder and managing partner, Oded Mansori, left the company in September 2023, citing contrasting views on the direction of the business. The following month, Mansori was back, reinstated as both managing partner and director, with the company leaders claiming they were "united in their mission."

At the time, questions surrounded Mansori's exit and return, especially after Lucara Diamond Corp., with whom HB has a rough-diamond sales agreement, ended its supply contract with the manufacturer

shortly after his removal. The parties reinstated the deal a few months later.

The split with Lucara also caused the Botswana government to pause a proposed deal with HB to acquire a 24% stake in the manufacturer's business, through which it would feed rough from state-owned trader Okavango Diamond Company (ODC). In its 2024-25 budget, Botswana allocated P890 million (\$65 million) for the project.

Roy Seber, who has been with HB from the start, will become a managing director, joining Mansori and fourth cofounder Boaz Lev at the helm. The Belgian manufacturer did not mention whether de Toledo's and Papismedov's exit would affect its deals with Lucara or the Botswana government. [rapaport.com]

De Beers Auctions debuts in Botswana

DE BEERS GROUP HAS ANNOUNCED that its Auctions business has resumed operations following the successful relocation of the business' headquarters from Singapore to Gaborone. The completion of this relocation unites De Beers Group's global diamond trading activities in Gaborone, enhancing operational efficiency and supporting Botswana's position as a major player in the global diamond value chain.

With Auctions sales now being re-established, De Beers Group ran a small-scale trial event for Sightholder customers during Cycle 3. The event generated substantial interest, with a high number of customers viewing lots and participating, resulting in the majority of lots being sold to a broad distribution of winning participants. Following the successful test event, De Beers Group will begin staging auction events for all registered customers with required licences, with the next event to take place in Cycle 4.

Paul Rowley, Executive Vice President of Diamond Trading for De Beers Group, said: "The successful relocation of our Auctions business from Singapore to Botswana is testament to the hard work of De Beers' Diamond Trading team and the authorities



Rowley

in Botswana. It is exciting to now have our diamond trading operations officially united under one roof in Botswana and we are confident that this move will contribute to the continuing development of Botswana's

diamond sector. The positive participation and results from our first auction event following the relocation are encouraging, and we look forward to increased customer participation in the coming months."

Diop appointed World Bank VP for Eastern and Southern Africa

DR. NDIAMÉ DIOPI IS THE REGIONAL Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa.

As Vice President, he oversees a portfolio of almost 400 projects worth over \$76 billion and an extensive program of analytical work, technical assistance, and policy advice across 26 countries.

Under Diop's leadership, the World Bank works closely with clients and partners to advance strategic priorities in the region, including job creation, energy access, digital connectivity, regional integration, health, water and sanitation, and education — all of which underpin poverty reduction and spur economic transformation. Diop also guides efforts to address the drivers of fragility, conflict, and violence to build more resilient communities.

With over 25 years of experience working across East Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, Diop brings a global perspective and a strong track record of achieving results and impact, including tripling World Bank financing to the Philippines to support



Diop

economic reforms and improve outcomes in various sectors. In his most recent role as Country Director for Nigeria, Diop led the World Bank's largest portfolio in Africa (\$17 billion) and shaped the future Nigeria program to support faster economic growth through policy reforms, digital broadband connectivity, firms' access to finance and agribusiness growth.

In previous positions, Dr. Diop was head of the World Bank's Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment unit for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, worked as the Lead Economist for Indonesia, and held country economist roles in the Middle East and North Africa.

He holds a Ph D in Economics and has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and books on topics such as fiscal policy and growth, monetary policy and inflation, natural resource abundance, Dutch disease, and economic diversification. He joined the World Bank in Washington DC as a Young Professional in 2000. He is fluent in French, English, and Wolof and possesses an intermediate level fluency of Arabic and Bahasa (Indonesian).

PrimeTime sets the record straight

PRIME TIME

PRIME TIME NOTES CERTAIN RECENT media reports regarding the possible disposal of assets by Time Projects (Pty) Limited to Meridian Fund (Pty) Limited. PrimeTime notes that certain media reports incorrectly reference "Prime Time Properties" in their reporting. PrimeTime has no equity interest in Time Projects, and PrimeTime has not concluded any transaction and is not involved in any negotiations with Meridian or any of its associated entities relating to the disposal of any PrimeTime assets or otherwise. Any acquisitions or disposals involving PrimeTime's portfolio are subject to Board and, to the extent required Linked Unitholders approval, and are governed by the Botswana Law, including the Companies Act, Botswana Stock Exchange Listings Requirements, and PrimeTime's Constitution. [bse.co.bw]

Hollard Life completes acquisition of Absa Life Botswana



Tselayakgosi

HOLLARD LIFE BOTSWANA HAS successfully completed the acquisition of Absa Life Botswana's insurance business in the country.

The transaction saw Hollard Life Botswana acquire 100% of Absa Group's shareholding in Absa Life Botswana. The acquisition will see Hollard Life Botswana welcome the Absa Life Botswana insurance team into its operations.

Tabuya Tau, Managing Director Hollard Life Botswana comments, "The acquisition of Absa Life's insurance business represents

a milestone in our strategic roadmap – it aligns with our growth ambitions to expand our reach and cement our presence in Botswana. By integrating Absa Life's expertise and client base with our own, we are better positioned to fulfil our core purpose of enabling more Botswana to secure their financial futures and protect their loved ones with confidence and peace of mind."

Hollard Life Botswana is committed to creating shared value in the communities it serves. The company's core belief is that its

success is intertwined with the progress of the communities it serves. This acquisition will further enable Hollard to make a greater positive impact in Botswana providing customers with a more comprehensive and tailored range of insurance products and services, and leveraging the combined strengths and expertise of both companies.

Existing Absa Life Botswana policyholders can rest assured that their current policies, benefits, and service levels will remain unchanged. Hollard Life is fully committed to ensuring a seamless transition, prioritising customer satisfaction throughout the process.

Jane Tselayakgosi, Group CEO of Hollard Insurance Botswana says, "We are excited about this positive development, and we're confident that our new customers will see the benefits of the acquisition. We assure our customers that they are partnering with a company dedicated to their well-being as well as that of their loved ones.

This acquisition is against the background of Hollard International, the international division of the Hollard Insurance Company Ltd, acquiring the Life insurance businesses of Absa Group in Mozambique, Botswana and Zambia as well as its General insurance licence in Mozambique through its local subsidiaries.

The Absa insurance businesses in Mozambique trade together under the Global Alliance brand.



TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

The Minerals Development Company Botswana Proprietary Limited (MDCB) is an investment company, established under the Companies Act of Botswana by the government of the Republic of Botswana to grow and optimise the Government's mining and minerals investment portfolio.

The MDCB invites tender offers from hundred percent (100%) citizen-owned companies as stated under Section 76 (2) of the Public Procurement Act 2001 to bid for the service detailed below. Vendors should be registered with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority under the code and sub-code below to be eligible to participate in this tendering process.

Tender Number	Tender Name	PPRA Code	Procurement Method	Closing Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time
MDCB 5/3/5 II (48)	PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF A DOCUMENTARY SERIES FOR MINERALS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY BOTSWANA (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED	Code: 217: Media supplies Sub code: 02: Radio, Film and Television content	Open Domestic Bidding	xx th May 2025 @ 10:00 hrs	xx th May 2025 @ 10:15 hrs

Preference margins will be applied to qualifying bidders in line with the prescribed Preference Scheme:

- Economic Diversification Drive Initiative (EDD) CAB 11 (A) of 2041
 - Local Procurement Scheme (LPS) Presidential Directive CAB 19 (B) 2043
- The physical address for the collection of tender documents is

Reception
Minerals Development Company Botswana (Proprietary) Limited
Plot 74358, 1st Floor, Acacia House, Prime Plaza, New CBD, Gaborone

The payment of the non-refundable deposit of P500.00 is required before the collection of the Invitation to Tender Document. Hundred percent (100%) of youth-owned companies are eligible for a discounted non-refundable tender deposit of P250.00. Payment should be made into the following MDCB account:

Minerals Development Company Botswana (Pty) Ltd
First National Bank
Account No.62452018122
Branch Code.281467
Branch Name. First Place Gaborone

Proof of payment should be presented during the collection of the tender

Tender documents will be available for collection from the 4th of April 2025.

Queries or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be emailed no later than five (5) working days before the tender closing date to Galeboe Dikgang, *E-Mail galeboe@mdcb.co.bw.

Plot 74358, 1st Floor, Acacia House, Prime Plaza, New CBD Private Bag B055, Botleng Gaborone, Botswana



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The Algorithm is taking over your child's life



DR DIMAKATSO POLOKELO

PARENTS ALWAYS PROUDLY SHARE their children's milestones online, from first steps to first words and first day at school, unknowingly feeding an invisible observer: the algorithm. Every photo uploaded, every app downloaded, every interaction with a screen is quietly recorded, analyzed and stored. It's easy to believe that digital tools are just harmless conveniences, helping children learn faster, stay entertained or develop 21st-century skills. But what's rarely acknowledged is that behind the screen, there's something watching, something that understands your child in ways you likely never will.

This is neither a call for paranoia, nor a rejection of technology. Rather, it's a recognition of a reality that is reshaping the basics of parenting, childhood development and identity. Algorithms, particularly those built on machine learning and behavioural profiling, are not only reflecting your child's preferences, they are also predicting and shaping them. They are doing so with precision, scale and motives that rarely align with a child's long-term well-being.

Profiling Begins Early

Many children today encounter

algorithms before they can even speak. Children's streaming platforms such as YouTube Kids, educational apps and interactive toys begin tracking behaviour from the very first use. What does the child click on? How long do they watch? What content makes them stay longer? These micro-decisions feed into datasets that grow more refined with each interaction.

Most of these platforms are built on reinforcement loops, models that encourage certain behaviours based on patterns. If a child watches one cartoon with bright colors and loud music, the algorithm recommends ten more just like it. This creates a feedback loop where content gets more extreme to keep the child engaged. The aim is not to educate, inspire, or develop cognitive skills but rather, it is about engagement. The longer a child stays online, the more data is harvested and the more advertising revenue or subscription value is generated.

From Patterns to Predictions

Over time, algorithms move beyond simply recognizing preferences. They begin predicting future behaviour. If a child shows early signs of fascination with animals, for instance, the system can suggest related educational content, but it can also direct them toward consumer products, entertainment franchises, or games associated with those animals. What seems like benign targeting becomes a process of guided shaping. The line between what a child likes and what they're nudged to like becomes blurred.

This predictive capability isn't only based on what the child does online, increasingly, these systems draw in data from across devices, platforms and sometimes even school-based technologies. Attendance, behaviour tracking, assessment scores and typing speed are becoming part of a broader behavioural profile. Companies and governments alike are investing in

educational technology that promises to "personalize learning." But personalization is just another word for profiling.

The Illusion of Control

Parents are often reassured that they can manage this with settings, screen time limits, content filters or "kid-friendly" modes. But these tools offer only a thin veil of control. Algorithms still operate behind the scenes, and parental dashboards often give only surface-level insights. They don't show the behavioural nudges, the attention manipulation techniques or the long-term behavioural shaping taking place.

More concerning is the fact that these systems are largely opaque. Even if a parent wanted to understand how a particular algorithm works, they would face a wall of proprietary code and trade secrecy. Machine learning models are inherently complex, and their outcomes, what content gets recommended, what behaviors are reinforced, are not always explainable even by their creators.

Consent in Childhood

In most societies, children cannot legally consent. Yet every interaction they have with technology is a form of passive consent, to be monitored, recorded and influenced. Parents may click "I agree" on behalf of their children, but few understand what they're agreeing to. Fewer still understand the implications.

This is about both privacy and autonomy. When algorithms nudge a child toward certain behaviours, reinforce certain choices or limit exposure to alternative perspectives, they are shaping that child's view of the world. A child who watches certain kinds of videos may never be exposed to others that challenge or broaden their understanding. Over time, this can affect everything from attention span to political inclination.

We often talk about "data as the new

oil." But for children, it's more than that. Their digital profile is not just valuable, it's foundational. It's becoming the blueprint for how they're marketed to, how they're taught, how they interact with peers, and even how they see themselves.

The Incentive Problem

Why does this happen? Because the primary goal of most algorithmic systems is not education, enrichment, or emotional development. It is profit. Whether through ad impressions, subscription models or data brokerage, there is a financial incentive to keep children on screens for as long as possible.

This leads to content that is optimized for addiction, not growth. Bright colors, fast cuts, emotionally charged thumbnails and sensory overload dominate children's media. It's not just YouTube, many educational platforms gamify learning to the point where the game becomes the focus, not the learning.

Moreover, these systems are not accountable to anyone. There is no public regulator reviewing how a streaming algorithm affects child behaviour. There are no standardized ethical codes for AI-based educational tools. The companies behind them move faster than regulators can respond, and often have more power and resources than the regulators themselves.

Childhood Without Privacy For most of human history, childhood was a period of forgetting. A child could make mistakes, say silly things, try out new identities, and those moments would vanish. But in the digital age, everything is remembered. Photos, posts, search history, clicks, it all becomes part of an enduring profile.

Worse, this profile is not passive, it is active. It feeds into facial recognition systems, ad networks, recommendation engines and even law enforcement

databases. Children are growing up under permanent observation, with little understanding of what that means.

This raises questions like will a teenager be denied a scholarship because of an algorithmic risk score created in primary school? Will a child be tagged as "difficult" because of behavioural patterns detected by classroom monitoring software? Will their digital past haunt their job prospects?

These are not abstract hypotheticals. Pilot programs already exist where predictive analytics are used to forecast academic performance, identify "at-risk" youth or monitor students for potential threats.

The False Comfort of Personalization Much of this is happening under the banner of "personalization." But personalization is not the same as personhood. When a child is shown only content that confirms their existing interests or habits, they are not being empowered. They are being boxed in.

Real growth requires discomfort. It requires exposure to new ideas, unfamiliar challenges and different perspectives. Algorithms, by design, avoid that. They optimize for retention, not growth. They prioritize predictability, not possibility.

This matters because children are not static. They are in a constant state of becoming. An algorithm trained on a child's early behaviour will reinforce what they were, not what they might become.

Parents vs. Algorithms

Some may argue that parents still play the dominant role. But the power balance is shifting. Algorithms don't get tired. They don't get frustrated. They don't work 9-5. They are available 24/7, tailored to each child's preferences and constantly optimizing their approach. Many parents, overwhelmed by work and stress, often hand over the tablet with relief.

It is not judgmental to say this. It is

structural. Our societies are not designed to support slow, intentional parenting. In many households, digital devices are a survival tool. But this convenience has a cost, a cost that is not yet fully visible.

We are entering an era where the primary shapers of a child's identity, values and worldview may no longer be their parents, teachers, or communities, but systems designed by distant engineers, governed by corporate logic and trained on datasets most of us will never see.

What Comes Next?

There is no simple fix to this problem. But the first step is awareness. Parents need to understand that the digital environment is not neutral. It is not a passive space. It is an active agent in their child's development.

We also need public frameworks for ethical algorithm design in education and children's media. Platforms must be accountable not only to shareholders, but also to the societies they shape. Regulatory bodies must move beyond privacy to consider autonomy, psychological development and long-term outcomes.

Educational systems need to resist the seduction of data-driven efficiency and remain grounded in human relationships. A child cannot be understood solely through engagement metrics or predictive scores.

And perhaps most importantly, we need to rediscover the value of analog life. Reading physical books, having unstructured play, experiencing boredom, building relationships that are not mediated by screens, all of these are not luxuries but necessities.

The algorithm is not evil. It is indifferent. It does not care about your child's potential, creativity or humanity. It cares about how behaviour it can predict and patterns it can monetize. It is doing its job efficiently, invisibly, and constantly.



BAKANG PHUTHEGO
BUSINESS WITH BK

IN THE REALM OF BUSINESS STRATEGY and economic development, the term "value chains" often surfaces, yet its significance can sometimes feel ambiguous. Understanding what value chains are and how they function is critical for businesses, entrepreneurs, and policymakers alike. But what exactly are we talking about when we discuss value chains, and why are they essential for economic success?

What is a Value Chain?

A value chain refers to the series of activities a company undertakes to deliver a product or service to the market. Value chain analysis (VCA) is a strategic tool used by businesses to identify and enhance the activities that create value for customers. Originally developed by Michael Porter in the 1980s, the concept involves breaking down a company's activities into strategically relevant parts, helping entrepreneurs and managers understand where competitive advantages can be achieved.

Example of Value Chain Analysis in the Beef Industry

The beef industry offers a compelling case for the application of value chain analysis (VCA), which can result in increased efficiency, customer satisfaction, and overall profitability. By examining each component of the beef value chain, stakeholders can identify opportunities for improvement and implement strategies that add value.

Breakdown of the Beef Industry Value Chain

Inbound Logistics: This involves the sourcing of feed, livestock, and veterinary supplies. By optimizing logistics—such as improving the sourcing of high-quality feed and ensuring reliable transportation of livestock—the industry can reduce costs and enhance the health and quality of cattle.

Example: A beef producer might establish partnerships with local feed suppliers who provide organic or specialty feed, leading to healthier cattle and higher quality beef.

Operations: This includes the processes of raising, breeding, and processing cattle. Implementing best practices in animal husbandry and minimizing stress during handling can improve the quality of the meat produced.

Example: Automation of feeding and health monitoring through technology can streamline operations, reduce labor costs, and improve the overall welfare of the animals, leading to better meat quality.

Value Chain Development: But what are we really talking about?

Outbound Logistics: This refers to the storage, packaging, and distribution of beef products. Efficient logistics management ensures that beef reaches retail and food service operators in a timely manner while maintaining freshness.

Example: Utilizing advanced refrigeration and transportation methods can extend shelf life and reduce spoilage, helping to maintain product integrity from farm to consumer.

Marketing and Sales: In this stage, it's crucial to engage consumers effectively by highlighting the unique qualities of the beef, such as grass-fed, organic, or locally sourced beef.

Example: A beef producer can invest in branding and marketing campaigns that emphasize sustainability, animal welfare, and traceability, effectively differentiating their products in a competitive market.

After-Sales Services: This includes customer support and ensuring customer satisfaction post-purchase. Engaging with consumers through feedback mechanisms and loyalty programs can enhance customer relationships.

Example: A beef retailer might implement a satisfaction guarantee or an online platform for customers to provide feedback on their purchases, allowing for quick resolution of any issues.

Benefits of Value Chain Analysis for the Beef Industry

Cost Reduction: By optimizing each stage of the value chain—such as sourcing quality inputs at lower prices and improving operational efficiency—producers can significantly lower their production costs.

Quality Improvement: Enhanced management practices in feeding, breeding, and processing can lead to superior-quality beef that meets or exceeds consumer expectations, permitting premium pricing.

Increased Customer Loyalty: Focused on marketing efforts that clearly communicate the unique value propositions of the beef can foster strong brand loyalty among consumers who value transparency and quality.

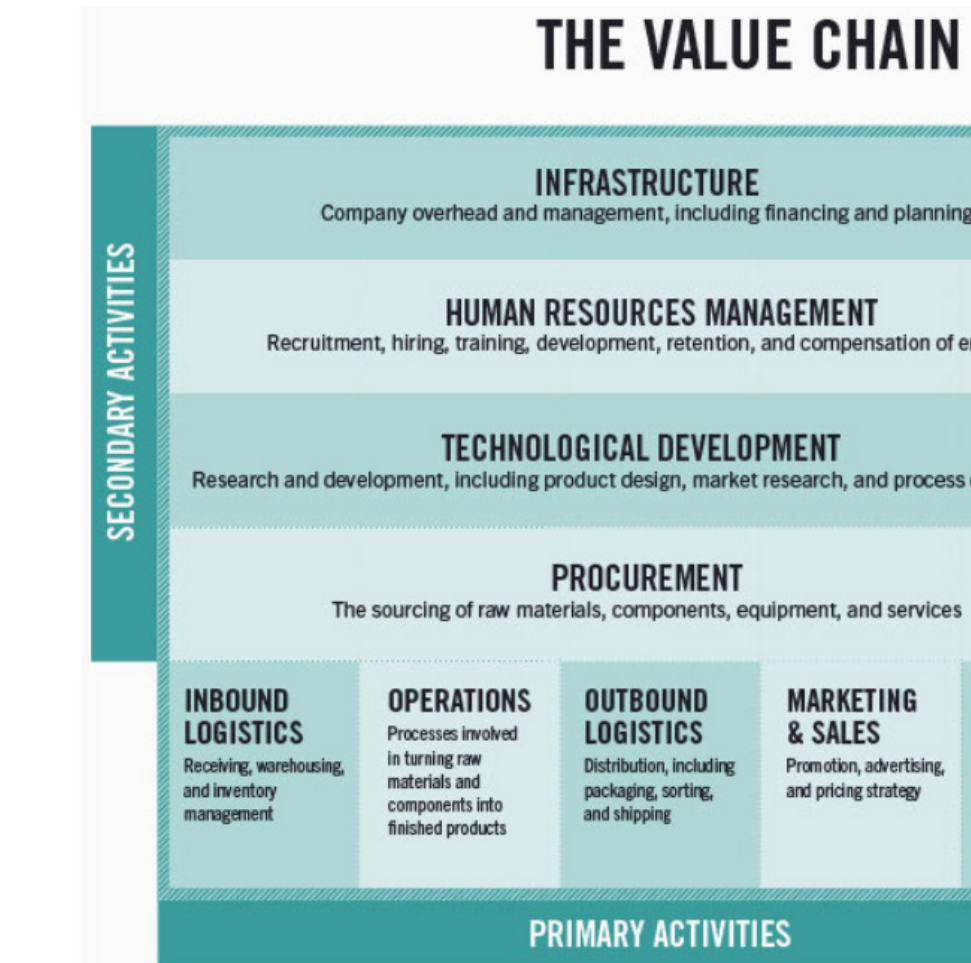
Sustainability Practices: The beef industry is often scrutinized for environmental impact. By analyzing the value chain, producers can implement sustainable practices—like efficient land use and waste management—that appeal to environmentally conscious consumers.

Agility in Response to Market Trends: Regular assessments of the value chain enable producers to stay ahead of market trends, such as the rise in demand for plant-based diets, by diversifying offerings or improving product quality based on changing consumer preferences.

Misconceptions About Value Chain Analysis

Despite the clear benefits, there are several misconceptions regarding value chain analysis in the beef industry that may hinder its effective implementation:

It's Only for Large Producers: Many people believe that value chain analysis is applicable only to large-scale producers or corporations. In reality, small and



Source: (Porter, 1985)

medium-sized beef producers can also greatly benefit from understanding and optimizing their value chains.

Narrow Focus on Costs: There's a common misconception that VCA is solely concerned with cost reduction. While reducing costs is important, the broader goal is to enhance overall value creation for customers through improved quality and better service.

Static Approach: Some stakeholders view VCA as a one-time exercise rather than an ongoing process. The beef industry, like many others, is subject to changing consumer preferences and market conditions. Regular analysis is essential for continuous improvement.

Confusion with Other Strategies: Many in the industry conflate VCA with other analytical tools or strategies, which can lead to misunderstandings about its unique benefits and applications. Recognizing VCA as a distinct process can enhance its effective application.

Underestimating Consumer Trends: Producers may overlook the degree to which changing consumer preferences and demands can influence the entire value chain. A customer-centric approach is essential for ensuring that adjustments are made aligned with market needs.

Understanding Value Chain Analysis for Policy Making: Insights from Botswana and Germany

Policy makers in Botswana can significantly enhance the country's economic development by understanding value chain analysis (VCA). By looking at specific examples from Germany, Botswana can learn how to implement targeted

policies to support its local industries and encourage sustainable growth.

Key Takeaways from Value Chain Analysis for Policy Makers

Identify and Support Key Industries: Germany's Example: The German government has actively supported its automotive industry, a key sector for its economy. Policies include research grants for electric vehicle development, incentives for manufacturers to invest in cleaner technologies, and a robust export framework that helps automotive companies thrive abroad.

Botswana's Implication: Botswana should identify its key sectors—like tourism and agriculture—and create specific policies to support them. For instance, providing subsidies for eco-friendly tourism projects or offering grants for technologies that improve cattle production in the beef industry can help enhance competitiveness.

Enhance Infrastructure and Logistics: Germany's Example: Germany boasts one of the most efficient transportation networks in the world. The government invests heavily in maintaining and upgrading highways (Autobahnen), railways, and ports to ensure seamless transport of goods. The use of digital logistics solutions, such as automated warehouse management systems, also enhances efficiency.

Botswana's Implication: Botswana could invest in upgrading its road infrastructure to connect rural agricultural areas with urban markets more efficiently. For example, establishing reliable transport routes for beef producers can help reduce costs and improve market access. Additionally, implementing a national logistics strategy that prioritizes the use of technology in

supply chain management can further optimize operations.

Encourage Collaboration Between Sectors:

Germany's Example: The German "Mittelstand," which refers to small and medium-sized enterprises, thrives through collaboration. Many of these businesses team up with local universities to foster innovation. For example, automotive component manufacturers often collaborate with engineering schools to develop advanced technologies.

Botswana's Implication: Policy makers can create innovation hubs that bring together agricultural sectors, technology firms, and educational institutions to collaborate on projects. A practical example could be establishing partnerships for developing precision agriculture technologies that help farmers increase yields and efficiency.

Focus on Development Skills:

Germany's Example: Germany's dual education system combines apprenticeships with classroom education, especially for skilled trades. For instance, young people can spend part of their education working in automotive companies, gaining hands-on experience while learning theory in school.

Botswana's Implication: Botswana could adopt a similar approach by creating vocational training programs aligned with its key industries. For example, forming partnerships with local beef processors to provide apprenticeships for youth in butchery and meat processing could help develop a skilled workforce ready for employment.

Promote Sustainable Practices:

Germany's Example: Germany has implemented policies promoting renewable energy use in manufacturing. For example, the Renewable Energy Sources Act encourages businesses to use solar and wind power, aligning the economy with sustainability objectives.

Botswana's Implication: Botswana can incentivize cattle ranchers and farmers to adopt sustainable practices, such as rotational grazing or organic farming methods, which enhance land use while appealing to environmentally conscious consumers. This could involve grants for implementing sustainable technologies or training programs for farmers on best practices for environmental stewardship.

Utilize Data for Informed Decision-Making:

Germany's Example: The German government utilizes comprehensive datasets to inform policy decisions, such as analyzing labor market needs to address skill shortages in specific sectors and adjusting educational programs accordingly.

Botswana's Implication: Botswana could develop a centralized database tracking agricultural production, market demand, and consumer preferences. This data can then be used to inform decisions about resource allocation, training programs, and marketing strategies for local beef products.

Create Supportive Regulatory Frameworks:

Germany's Example: Germany has established clear regulations that encourage innovation, including strong intellectual property protection for startups and incentives for research and development across sectors, such as tax credits for companies investing in innovative projects.

Botswana's Implication: Botswana should streamline its business registration processes and create a more transparent regulatory environment that encourages entrepreneurship. Policies could include simplifying the registration of new agricultural cooperatives, enabling easier access to loans for farmers, and protecting farmers' rights and products through better enforcement of agricultural policies.

Conclusion

Understanding value chain analysis provides invaluable insights for Botswana's policy makers as they develop targeted strategies for economic enhancement. By adopting specific examples from Germany's successes—such as supporting key industries, improving infrastructure, fostering collaboration, emphasizing skills development, promoting sustainability, utilizing data, and creating supportive regulations—Botswana can create a more competitive economy. These focused actions will drive growth, create jobs, and ensure a sustainable future for its industries and citizens.

Bakang Phuthego is an entrepreneurial specialist with research interests in global entrepreneurship, international business development and Impact Investing. For more insights contact him on bakangphuthego@gmail.com



2025/26 GOVERNMENT SECURITIES AUCTION CALENDAR

<p>MAY 23 2025</p> <p>TREASURY BILLS 3 6 Months</p> <p>SHORT-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0527</p> <p>LONG-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0931; BOTSGB0943</p>	<p>JUNE 26 2025</p> <p>TREASURY BILLS 3 6 Months</p> <p>SHORT-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0929</p> <p>LONG-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0635; BOTSGB0940</p>	<p>JULY 25 2025</p> <p>TREASURY BILLS 3 6 12 Months</p> <p>SHORT-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0527</p> <p>LONG-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0931; BOTSGB0943</p>	<p>AUGUST 22 2025</p> <p>TREASURY BILLS 3 6 Months</p> <p>SHORT-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0929</p> <p>LONG-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0931; BOTSGB0640</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 25 2025</p> <p>TREASURY BILLS 3 6 Months</p> <p>SHORT-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0931</p> <p>LONG-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0635; BOTSGB0943</p>	<p>OCTOBER 31 2025</p> <p>TREASURY BILLS 3 6 12 Months</p> <p>SHORT-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0929</p> <p>LONG-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0640; BOTSGB1150</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 28 2025</p> <p>TREASURY BILLS 3 6 Months</p> <p>SHORT-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0931</p> <p>LONG-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0635; BOTSGB0943</p>	<p>DECEMBER 24 2025</p> <p>TREASURY BILLS 3 6 Months</p> <p>SHORT-DATED BONDS -</p> <p>LONG-DATED BONDS -</p>
<p>JANUARY 30 2026</p> <p>TREASURY BILLS 3 6 12 Months</p> <p>SHORT-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0931</p> <p>LONG-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0635; BOTSGB1150</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 27 2026</p> <p>TREASURY BILLS 3 6 Months</p> <p>SHORT-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0929</p> <p>LONG-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0635; BOTSGB0943</p>	<p>MARCH 27 2026</p> <p>TREASURY BILLS 3 6 Months</p> <p>SHORT-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0931</p> <p>LONG-DATED BONDS BOTSGB0640; BOTSGB1150</p>	

Note:

- Bonds offered at the auction will be published.
- The Ministry of Finance reserves the right to amend the issuance plan.
- Actual Bonds and amounts to be auctioned will be published on announcement dates.
- ILBs and Bond Switches and Buybacks will also be accommodated through the auction programme.

For further information; please contact, Mr Nenguba Chakalisa, Deputy Director, Financial Markets Department, at chakalisaN@bob.bw, +267 360 6277 and 318 1323 or visit the Bank website at www.bankofbotswana.bw



Stanbic Bank



Stanbic Bank Botswana DEPOSIT, LENDING AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT INTEREST RATES May 2025

Stanbic Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate (SBBPLR) - 7.01%

BWP Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance
Current	NIL	NIL	P50
Youth Account	2.00%	2.02%	P50
Call	0.05% - 1.00%	0.05% - 1.00%	P10,000
Premium Call	0.30% - 1.30%	0.30% - 1.31%	P50,000
32 Day Notice	0.25% - 1.00%	0.25% - 1.00%	P1,000
Savings (Pure Save)	0.25% - 0.75%	0.25%-0.75%	P50
Koketso Savings	2.40%	2.43%	P100
Matshelo Savings	0.50% - 1.50%	0.50% - 1.51%	P500
Maitlamo Savings (12 - 36 months)	2.30% - 2.80%	2.32% - 2.84%	P100
91 day fixed deposit ^{*a}	1.90%	1.92%	P1,000
6 month fixed deposit ^a	2.10% - 2.30%	2.12% - 2.32%	P1,000
12 month fixed deposit ^a	2.20% - 2.35%	2.22%-2.38%	P1,000
24 month fixed deposit ^a	2.55% - 2.80%	2.58% - 2.84%	P1,000
Over 24 month fixed deposit ^a	2.80% - 3.30%	2.84% - 3.35%	P1,000
Stanbic Bank Prime Lending Rate	7.01%		

* Reference rate
^a Rate applies to Flexi - Access Account
 All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)
MoPR	1.90%	1.90%
SBBPLR Lending Rate	7.01%	7.01%
Mortgage Facility	SBBPLR +2% - SBBPLR + 5%	SBBPLR +2.02% - + SBBPLR 5.12%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit lines)	SBBPLR +5% - SBBPLR +12%	SBBPLR +5.12% - SBBPLR +12.68%
Credit Card	28% - 32%	31.89% - 32.14%
Lease Loans	SBBPLR +2% - SBBPLR + 6%	SBBPLR +2.02% - SBBPLR + 6.17%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	SBBPLR +8% - SBBPLR +20%	SBBPLR +8.30% - SBBPLR +21.94%
Other Long-Term Loans	NIL	NIL

*Scheme related lending is per the scheme contract and is negotiable.
 All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Foreign Currency Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
SA RAND	SA RAND	SA RAND	SA RAND
Current	0.0%	0.0%	100.00
Call	0.00%-1.75%	0%-1.76%	500.00
1 Month	1.50%-2.50%	1.51%-2.53%	1,000.00
2 Months	1.60%-2.60%	1.61%-2.63%	1,000.00
3 Months	1.70%-2.70%	1.71%-2.73%	1,000.00
6 Months	1.80%-2.80%	1.81%-2.84%	1,000.00
12 Months	2.20%-3.20%	2.22%-3.25%	1,000.00
Over 24 Months	2.40%-3.50%	2.43%-3.56%	1,000.00

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
U.S. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.05%-1.00%	0.05%-1.00%	100.00
1 Month	0.25%-0.35%	0.25%-0.35%	100.00
2 Months	0.35%-0.42%	0.35%-0.42%	100.00
3 Months	0.37%-0.45%	0.37%-0.45%	100.00
6 Months	0.40%-0.60%	0.40%-0.60%	100.00
12 Months	0.45%-0.75%	0.45%-0.75%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.75%-1.25%	0.75%-1.26%	100.00

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
BRITISH POUND	BRITISH POUND	BRITISH POUND	BRITISH POUND
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.05%	0.05%	100.00
1 Month	0.05%-0.07%	0.05%-0.07%	100.00
2 Months	0.07%-0.09%	0.07%-0.09%	100.00
3 Months	0.09%-0.10%	0.09%-0.10%	100.00
6 Months	0.10%-0.15%	0.10%-0.15%	100.00
12 Months	0.20%-0.30%	0.20%-0.30%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.25%-0.40%	0.25%-0.40%	100.00

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
EURO	EURO	EURO	EURO
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
1 Month	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
2 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
3 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
6 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
12 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00

- All interest rates quoted are on annual basis
- Interest is calculated based on the daily closing balance and is credited to the account monthly. Interest begins to accrue from the day a deposit is made, if the minimum balance requirement is met. This applies to all interest-bearing products, except fixed deposits.
- Fixed Deposit interest is calculated based on the principal amount, agreed term and applicable interest rate. The accrued interest is paid at maturity or termination.

lifestyle

Rhythms, Flavours & Finance

The New Era of Brand Engagement

DENNIS MAMBURE

Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs

TODAY'S CONSUMERS, particularly the youth, demand more than transactions; they seek brands that understand them, are conscious and enhance their lives in many ways than one. This shift explains why as Absa Bank Botswana, we have partnered with Munchies Market to be present where culture thrives, spaces where gourmet flavours mingle with soulful beats, and become active participants in the spaces that our customers enjoy the most.

Modern customers view financial services institutions as an



extension of their daily lives and rightfully so. As such they also expect their finances and money to move as effortlessly as their social connections. This demands a new approach where banks don't just manage everyday banking, but actively enable lifestyles and aspirations of its customers using platforms like Munchies Market.

Lifestyle and cultural events have become powerful platforms for this transformation. Imagine mornings where artisanal cuisine meets smooth melodies, creating immersive experiences that engage all senses?

Our partnership with Munchies Market gives us a golden opportunity to show up, not as sponsors, but as co-creators of value and connection in our customers lives.

The world's most resonant brands don't just sell, they shape how people live. From energy drinks synonymous with extreme sports to tech giants that blend innovation with artistry, successful brands

embed themselves in lifestyle and cultural narratives, moving beyond functional benefits to create shared experiences that build authentic relationships.

The Munchies Market brings together young professionals and adults bound by their love and passion for food, music and art.

By aligning with a lifestyle and cultural movement like Munchies Market, we are able to reach audiences, and become part of our customers' stories.

It's about presence in the spaces where memories are made; where people connect over food, bond through music, and celebrate shared passions. In an era of endless choice, relevance is earned through meaningful participation and authentic connections.

Human brains are wired to remember experiences far longer than advertisements. Lifestyle and cultural events serve as memory anchors, moments so vivid they become mental shortcuts for brand

associations. Brands that successfully integrate into these experiences don't just gain visibility; they earn emotional real estate in customers' minds.

The magic happens when customers naturally associate their favorite experiences with a brand's value, not because of products attributes alone, but because the brand genuinely enhanced the moment. This organic connection fosters the kind of loyalty that is difficult to match.

At Absa, we recognise that banking isn't just about accounts, it's about enabling dreams, facilitating connections, and celebrating life's milestones.

Whether through kids marathon, thought leadership sessions, brilliantly executed marketing campaigns like Win a Moraka, culinary experiences, or artistic collaborations experienced in a platform like the Munchies Market, the sweet spot lies in becoming co-authors of our customers stories.

Prof Tlou among Global Nursing Award 2025 judges



Tlou

ASTER DM HEALTHCARE, one of the leading integrated healthcare providers in GCC & India, has announced the distinguished Grand Jury panel for the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2025 to be held in Dubai on May 26, 2025.

This esteemed panel includes five leading healthcare and nursing experts: Prof. Sheila Tlou, Co-Chairperson of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, Botswana, Special Ambassador of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance and Former Minister of Health, Botswana; Prof. James Buchan, Adjunct Professor at the WHO Collaborating Centre, University of Technology, Sydney, and Editor Emeritus of the Human Resources for Health Journal; Dr. Peter Carter, OBE Awardee and Independent Healthcare Consultant, Former CEO Central & Northwest London, NHS and Former CEO of Royal College of Nursing, UK; Dr. Niti Pall, President Elect at International Diabetes Federation, Senior Consultant at AXA EssentiAll, France and Board Chair of Harbr & Managing Director of Health4all Advisory, UK and Mr. Vishal Bali, Executive Chairman of Asia Healthcare Holdings & Senior Advisor, TPG Growth, and General Council Member, Neonates Foundation of India.

Aster has appointed Ernst & Young LLP (EY) to assess the applications, overseeing shortlisting with an independent panel, and presenting finalists to the Grand Jury.

Reflecting on the entries this year, Dr. Azad Moopen, Founder Chairman of Aster DM Healthcare, said "It has been inspiring to observe the evolution of the platform, and its impact on the global nursing community. The remarkable response to the 4th edition, with over 100,000 registrations from 199 countries, underscores the global significance of this initiative. We eagerly anticipate meeting the top 10 finalists, distinguished nurses from around the world, as they compete for the esteemed award and a \$250,000 prize."

In the previous edition, Philippine-based Nurse Maria Victoria Juan emerged as the winner for her exceptional contributions in leadership, nursing education and community service.

Founded in 1987 by Dr. Azad Moopen, Aster DM Healthcare is a leading integrated healthcare provider, with a strong presence across seven countries. Aster is committed to the vision of providing accessible well."

Source: AETOSWire

Africa well equipped to beat malaria, but...

DUMA GIDEON BOKO AND SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN**

MALARIA REMAINS ONE OF Africa's greatest threats to health, prosperity and the future of our children. We must act, and we must act now.

Today, malaria claims over half a million African lives each year, the vast majority being children under five. Over 95 per cent of all malaria deaths occur on our continent.

We are dangerously off track to meet the African Union's target to eliminate malaria by 2030, with cases rising once again.

This crisis is worsened by funding cuts from key donors. In 2023, reductions in US foreign aid, historically a cornerstone of malaria elimination through the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund, have disrupted programmes, causing dangerous stockouts of essential malaria commodities.

Without urgent course correction, Africa could face 112 million additional malaria cases and up to 280,000 more deaths over the 2027-2029 period. A low Global Fund replenishment could make the

situation even graver.

Yet malaria punishes hesitation. Without steady leadership and investment, the gains we have fought so hard to achieve will quickly erode.

Tanzania and Botswana demonstrate what national leadership can achieve. Tanzania has expanded community-level interventions, integrated malaria services into primary health care and ensured timely access to treatment.

Botswana, now nearing elimination, has maintained robust surveillance and rapid response strategies. These examples show that progress is possible even amid growing threats.

Today, a perfect storm threatens our continent's malaria fight: climate change expanding transmission zones, rising insecticide and drug resistance, funding gaps and humanitarian crises disrupting health services.

Africa needs an additional US\$5.2 billion annually to fully implement national malaria eradication strategies. Without it, we risk a reversal that would undo decades of progress.

But there is hope. Countries are deploying new tools, including



dual-insecticide nets, seasonal chemoprevention and the rollout of malaria vaccines.

Community health workers, often the first line of defence, are saving lives daily. Strengthening their support and integrating malaria into broader health services including antenatal care and school programmes is vital.

Eliminating malaria will not happen through incremental steps. It requires a bold, urgent and coordinated push across all sectors of society – health, finance, education, the environment and beyond.

Governments must prioritise malaria in national budgets and mobilise domestic private sector resources. Innovation must be

made accessible swiftly, cutting procurement delays and fast-tracking approvals for lifesaving tools.

The African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), created under the leadership of former Tanzanian president Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete and proudly hosted in Tanzania, stands as a symbol of African solidarity and action.

Through scorecard tools, youth mobilisation and local resource generation, ALMA is helping African nations turn political will into real-world impact. But this work must be scaled. Africa has never been better equipped to defeat malaria. We have the tools, the knowledge and the frameworks. What we need now is unwavering leadership, united action, and the courage to complete what we started.

The next chapter in Africa's history will be defined by the choices we make today. Let us choose action over hesitation, unity over division – and victory over malaria.

**This is a joint World Malaria Day commemorative piece penned by the Heads of State and Government of Tanzania and Botswana in marking World Malaria Day 2025 – April 25. This year's theme for the Day is "Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvent, Reimagine, Reignite" – which underlines the importance of shared responsibility and calls for renewed efforts in the fight against the deadly disease.

<https://www.ippmedia.com/the-guardian/features/read/africa-well-equipped-to-beat-malaria-but-2025-04-24-173857>

Wings for Life World Run comes to GC

– Become part of global efforts to help find a cure for spinal cord injury

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, Botswana will join the globally celebrated Wings for Life World Run, taking place in Gaborone. This event marks a significant expansion of the event across Southern Africa, and local participants now have a chance to contribute to a global cause and help break a world record – all by running for those who can't.

With just a few more registrations needed to surpass the current record of 265,818 participants, every entry counts toward making history. Even more inspiring, 100% of all entry fees and donations go directly to spinal cord research. Botswanans now have the opportunity to be part of this momentous world run by registering to run from wherever they may be located.

What makes the run special? Unlike traditional races, the Wings for Life World Run has no fixed finish line. Instead, participants of all fitness levels are pursued by the event's signature "Catcher Car" – a moving finish line that makes the race inclusive, fun, and completely unique. Whether you run, walk or roll, the goal is simply to stay ahead of the car for as long as you can.

Join global supporters such as Jürgen Klopp, Eileen Gu, Primož Roglič, and a host of other sporting legends as they take part in this one-of-a-kind event.



Now, Botswana joins the list of over 400 locations worldwide taking part in this massive show of solidarity, with already over 400 registered participants.

Why it matters To date, over 1.55 million people from 195 nationalities have run in the Wings for Life World Run, collectively raising €51.93 million (approx. BWP 801 million). These funds have gone directly to 213 spinal cord research projects, including clinical trials where participants have regained use of their hands and even taken steps again after paralysis.

Just last year, the run's 265,818 participants collectively covered

2,036,495 km and raised €8.1 million (approx. BWP 124.9 million) for spinal cord research. These efforts are helping individuals like Michel Roccati, who, after a life-altering accident, regained the ability to walk through a trial funded by the run.

"To stand up and walk again means liberty – independence in daily life," Roccati shared. "The Wings for Life World Run gives hope, and it's fun to participate in."

Says passionate local ambassador for Wings for Life (SA): and motorcycle accident survivor, Sandile Mkhize: "Every stride I take in the Wings for Life World Run is not just for me, but for every life waiting to move freely again. As a South

African – and proudly African, I run with hope, purpose, and the unshakable belief that together, we can cross the finish line for those who can't"

Be part of the movement With Flagship Runs in cities like Munich, Vienna and Ljubljana filling up quickly, Botswana offers a unique opportunity to be part of a world record-setting movement from Southern Africa.

Runners in Gaborone will be joining others from Tokyo, Sydney, London, Dubai, Cape Town and beyond, all taking off simultaneously around the world.

Whether you run solo or with friends using the Wings for Life

World Run App or gather at the Township Rollers FC venue for the official event, you'll be running for something bigger than yourself.

How to register

The Wings for Life World Run starts at 11:00am UTC (1PM Botswana Time) on Sunday, 4 May 2025, with registration open until one hour before the race begins. Register now at www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com and help bring the world closer to a cure for spinal cord injury.

Participants around the world Colin Jackson (GBR), Wings for Life World Run Global Sports Director and record-setting former hurdler: "You know, as I've watched the whole run develop as a movement – a real global movement, a global community – it excites me still. Every single year, I feel proud to be a part of this. And I just love to see it grow."

Jan Schwab, MD, PhD, Scientific Director of the Wings for Life foundation: "I very much look forward to the Wings for Life World Run 2025 – participation is always something special for me. It's big fun [and] it's also great to see all the runners around the globe participating. Again, this year we will break a new record of runners, which will then allow us to find even more diverse projects in spinal cord injury research. Your support allows us to

fund groundbreaking, front-runner research across the globe. Every step is hope, and we couldn't do this without you. Thank you."

Dawid Godziek (POL), BMX and MTB pro, Crankworx triple crown winner and Slopestyle World Champion 2024: "I don't remember how many times I've started in the Wings for Life World Run, but every year I am amazed at how many people start in Poznań and with the App. In this run, there's always a relaxed atmosphere. There's no "pressure." Here it's more about fun. I'm definitely running it again!"

Nick Fellows, Wings for Life World Run broadcast commentator: "The Wings for Life World Run is about running at your own pace, speed, time – talking, walking, whatever you want to do. It is not about winning a race; it's about running for those who can't. And it's about finding the cure for spinal cord injury."

Aron Anderson (SWE), three-time Wings for Life World Run Men's Global Champion, who uses a wheelchair due to spinal cord injury: "With the Wings for Life World Run and the Wings for Life foundation, the obvious dream is that we're going to find a cure for spinal cord injuries. And for me personally, the dream is that one day I would be able to run this race. How amazing would that be?"

BTC delivers 4th Francistown Marathon

BOTSWANA Telecommunications Corporation Limited (BTC) successfully hosted the 4th Francistown Marathon at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium over the weekend. The BTC Francistown Marathon brings together thousands of athletes, enthusiastic participants, spectators and other key stakeholders into the City of Francistown. This year, BTC hosted over 4000 runners, who competed across distances such as: 3km, 5km, 10km, 21.1km, 42.2km and wheelchair athletes. A total of 183 athletes have qualified for the Comrade Marathon from this year's 4th edition of the BTC Marathon. Additionally, this year's marathon registered international athletes from 17 countries such as United States, Japan, Kenya, South Africa, India, Uganda etc.

Welcoming athletes and runners at the marathon prize giving ceremony, the Mayor of the city of Francistown, Gaone Majere encouraged all stakeholders to keep supporting this initiative that is such a great boost to the economy of the city and thanked all participants who took part in the marathon.

Giving the overview of the marathon, the BTC Acting Chief Executive Officer, Boitumelo Paya said they have a long-standing commitment to giving back to the communities they operate in, stating that over the years BTC has donated proceeds from the annual BTC Francistown Marathon to entities based in the North as follows; from the 2nd BTC Francistown Marathon 2023, proceeds amounting to P298,218 were donated. Last year, BTC announced and donated a total of P379,792.88 to the beneficiaries of proceeds from the 3rd BTC Francistown Marathon 2024. "In the past two years, 2023 and 2024, BTC has donated over P600,000 to beneficiaries in the Northeast,



Tonota, Tutume districts, and our technical partner, Francistown Athletics Club", she said. She further announced that this year "we have committed to donating an additional P500,000, bringing the total donation to over P1 million for the three years since the return of the BTC

Francistown Marathon", she said. The 42.2km seniors race category female was won by Nancy Ropafadzo Madzima of Zimbabwe who walked away with P35,000 and a Huawei watch, followed by Oratile Mhlhali who won P25,000 and a watch, while Kago Tladi walked away with

P15,000 and a watch on position 3. The male category was won by Moses Tarakinyu of Nedbank Zimbabwe Club who pocketed P35,000 and a Huawei watch. On second position is Israel Mudimba who won P25,000 and a watch while Tawanda Bvunzawabaya took third position

and won P15,000 and a watch. The 42.2km masters category female was won by Ethel Pangiso of Eagles Runners Club pocketing P7,500 and a Huawei watch. The second position went to Rosina Kiboino who pocketed P5,000 and a watch, while the third position

was taken by Elizabeth Chimweno with a prize money of P2,500 and a watch. On the males' side, the first position was clinched by Israel Mudimba of Whiteline Club walking away with the prize money of P7,500 and a Huawei watch and followed by Nkosiyazi Sibanda on second

position who scooped P5,000 and a watch while position three was clinched by Lucky Munsaka, walking away with P2,500 and a watch.

The 10km women's wheelchair category, Thandiwe Ndhlovu of ZRP PPU Club clinched position one, worth P5,000 and a watch, Boitumelo Ditsshupo Tshotlego took position two, receiving P4,000 and a watch while Moleen Majoni took position three and won herself P2,500. On the 10km men's wheelchair category, Samson Muroyiwa of ZRP PPU took position one and clinched P5,000 and a watch, followed by Gofaone Lesetedi on position two who received P4,000 and a watch. Position three went to Godknows Dziripi who won P2,000 and a watch. The full marathon results are accessible on the link <https://bit.ly/4izr9Et>

The success and growth of the 4th BTC Francistown Marathon 2025 continue to reaffirm the marathon's status as a cornerstone of community unity, athletic prowess and social progress. The number of runners continues to grow on an annual basis. The year 2023, the target registration of athletes was set at 2248, in 2024 the target was 3295 participants and this year 2025, the target registration was 4000 runners across the country and the region. The following are key notable milestones of the marathon namely; In 2023 the marathon routes, which cover 5km, 10km, 21.1 km and 42.2 kilometers, were certified by World Athletics and became a Comrade Marathon qualifier.

In 2024, BTC included the wheelchair category for 5km and 10km for inclusivity. In 2025, we introduced the 3km Peace Run for children from the ages of 7 to 14 years. As the marathon continues to grow in stature and impact, sponsors and organisers remain committed to fostering a culture of health, wellness and inclusivity for all.

Chinese EV makers' foray into AI: Redefining the Future of Mobility

DIANA WOLF TORRES, GRACE SHAO

Who are the major players, why have they become market leaders, and how do we move forward together as a society?

THE CHINESE ELECTRIC vehicle (EV) market is no longer just about battery power and range. Leading players like Li Auto, XPeng, Nio, BYD, and Zeekr are increasingly incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) into their vehicles and overall business strategies, effectively repositioning themselves as AI-driven companies. This shift is driven by the growing demand for intelligent features, the rapid advancements in AI technology, and the ambition to lead the future of mobility.

After a slow start to the year of the Snake, they all gave consumers incentives to convert and commit. But things changed with DeepSeek's R1 release. All of a sudden, China seemed "investible" again after a long hiatus. International and domestic confidence was boosted by China's clear innovation and the founder's largely optimistic and idealist views of focusing on innovation over commercialization, rallying young talents to keep believing in the process.

In fact, according to Rest of World's reporting, more than

20 Chinese automobile brands have announced plans to embed DeepSeek models, supercharging the AI transition. Much of the adoption remains on the consumer-facing end, such as improving existing AI features, including voice control, high-precision mapping, and smartphone-like access to music, web search, and messaging services.

The Chinese EV industry will benefit as DeepSeek elevates the consumer experience of its products, making its cars even more attractive globally. China is already competitive in the EV manufacturing chain, including the production of lithium batteries

and robotics, Grace Shao, founder of AI-industry newsletter AI Proem, told Rest of World.

"Chinese EV market leaders have all their ducks in a row, and now DeepSeek is accessible to them, perfectly positioning them to excel as the

various components come together along the supply chain," Shao said.

Why Have Chinese EVs Done Well?

Let's first take a step back. China's dominance in smart electric vehicles has taken two decades of innovation and reiteration. It isn't merely a story of

manufacturing prowess (which sometimes people like to point fingers at) but rather a strategic government-encouraged technological coup years in the making.

The world's second-largest economy has masterfully leveraged its unique advantages: a vast network of industrial clusters that can source any component within hours, control critical raw materials like lithium and rare earth elements, and an unmatched charging infrastructure

network of over 10.2 million stations. But before that, China has also rolled out various top-down policies to

encourage

the development of lithium batteries, lidar sensors technology, robotics, push for electrification of things, and mandate the transition to greener energy solutions. All of that is on top of the founding of domestic OEM makers. With years of experience producing automobiles under the JV brands of leading European carmakers such as Audi, Mercedes, and so on, a generation of car designers, makers, and engineers were trained. With lowered costs, Chinese OEMs such as SAIC, BAIC Dongfeng, and Changan dominated the lower price range of cars for middle-class households. Grace has written an analysis of the impact of governmental support and "real economy" innovation that have propelled China's EV and robotic sector here.

This ecosystem has enabled Chinese automakers to iterate new models at breakneck speed—every 1.3 years compared to traditional automakers' four-year cycles—while maintaining tight control over costs and innovation. These moving parts

laid the foundation for a nutrient-rich environment for Chinese smart EVs to grow in their initial stages.

What truly sets Chinese EVs apart is their evolution beyond simple transportation into sophisticated mobile computing platforms. In a fiercely competitive market and a mobile-native user demographic, companies have been forced to cater to tech-savvy Chinese consumers who demand advanced features like autonomous driving and "smart" cockpits.

These smart cockpits are integrated systems that combine cutting-edge digital displays, AI-powered controls, and advanced connectivity features to enhance the driving experience and safety. This pressure, combined with substantial government support and cross-industry collaboration between tech giants, automakers, and research institutions, has created a perfect storm of innovation.

The result is a new generation of vehicles that seamlessly integrate artificial intelligence, entertainment systems, and transportation functionality—making Chinese EVs not just cars but rolling smartphones that have left traditional automakers scrambling to catch up.

Countdown to SA Safari Rally

THE ANTICIPATION OF THE world's best rally-raid teams competing in the first-ever South African Safari Rally, brought to you by Toyota Gazoo Racing, is building at a rapid pace.

It's now less than a month before the World Rally-Raid Championship (W2RC) descends on South Africa, as the country will host round three of the championship from 18-24 May 2025 at the Sun City resort in the North West Province.

The South African Safari Rally is guaranteed to thrill motorsport fans as the leading W2RC competitors in the car category, and the stars

of the motorcycle and quad classes have confirmed their places on the starting line-up for this event.

There are currently 36 registered crews on the provisional entry list encompassing the top international W2RC teams including Toyota Gazoo Racing, Overdrive Racing, Dacia Sandriders, X-Raid MINI JCW, Ford M-Sport and Team STR.

Having won both of the opening W2RC rounds overall and in the top-level Rally GP class this year, Australian rider Daniel Sanders is sure to be a top contender for the South African race on his Red Bull KTM Factory Racing 450. He will

be up against eight Rally GP rivals, including local crowd favourite and reigning W2RC champion Ross Branch from neighbouring Botswana on his Hero Motorsports Team Rally 450. Branch withdrew from this year's Dakar Rally due to injury, followed by a mechanical issue that saw him retire from the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge, so he will be fighting for a strong finish at what is essentially his home race.

Issued on behalf of the South African Safari Rally
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Sport

Popa popa: Investors' nightmare

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TOWNSHIP ROLLERS FC HAVE experienced a prolonged lack of success over the years particularly after 2018/19 season which was the club's last league title. Unsurprisingly, the silverware drought has coincided with a high turnover of investors at the biggest football club in Botswana by supporters. In the last four years, Township Rollers FC has changed hands between no less than four investors, some of them lasting only six months on the hot seat.

Many believe the stranglehold on the ownership of the football club by its supporters, trading as Township Rollers Society—who always take a minority shareholding in the club's investment venture, has proven to be repulsive to investors who cannot exercise full control despite being the sole financiers.

Somerset Gobuiwang

Following a seven year tussle between Township Rollers' financier Jagdish Shah and his estranged partner Somerset Gobuiwang, they finally parted ways in 2020. After



many years at the helm,

Gobuiwang roped in Shah to assist him run the team in 2012. The pair formed Township Holdings, a company in which each held a 40%

while Rollers (the society) owned the balance of 20%.

Banished from Township Rollers, Somerset later acquired Molepolole City Stars.

Jagdish Shah

On May 31, 2023, Jagdish Shah himself resigned from Rollers.

Jimmy Kereng

Towards the end of the same year,

in September 2023, a new suitor had arrived at Township Rollers promising all the goodies. He was businessman Jimmy Kereng, a long time Township Rollers supporter.

Six months into his ten-year agreement with Township Rollers, around June 2024, Kereng jumped ship and crossed the road to archrivals Mochudi Centre Chiefs where he had a short stint before vanishing from the face of local football to concentrate on Prestige Parlours Group.

Tendani Sebata

A month later, on 18th July 2024 — Zimbabwe-born transport operator, Tendani Sebata was announced as the new Township Rollers president, on a five-year-long agreement and acquiring 80% of the club's shareholding. Nine months later, on April 29th, 2025 Sebata tendered his resignation from the club at the end of the 2024/25 season for undisclosed reasons.

Sebata dumps Popa

Township Rollers Football Club executive committee held a consultative meeting with the national branches on April 26th 2025 to update them on the status of the team. Two days later, on

Monday, April 28th, 2025, the team received correspondence from Sebata Consolidated Holdings confirming that Tendani Sebata had tendered his resignation to part ways with the club effective May 31st 2025.

"We will prioritise managing the transition internally, and not resort to addressing sensitive internal issues publicly. We will endeavor to engage further with the Sebata Group for a smooth transition. The club is thus not able to release further public information as this is still an internal matter.

We thank Mr Sebata for his contribution to TRFC for the duration he has been with the club," wrote Pako Lebanna, Township Rollers Public Relations Officer.

Unconfirmed reports allege that Sebata proposed a 100% takeover of Township Rollers managing company since he is main financier, but Township Rollers Executive declined.

He is also alleged to have complained about the disappearance of gate takings, particularly during sold out games against TAFIC, Mochudi Centre Chiefs.

In addition, Township Rollers Executives allegedly complained about interference by Jacob Sakala and Siphon Shaven at the club.

VAR is here

- Match officials grilled on VAR usage starting next month



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BOTSWANA FOOTBALL Association (BFA) will introduce the use of VAR during the Orange FA Cup Final next month (in June), ahead of its full roll out in the 2025/26 premier League season.

BFA President, Tariq Babitseng has been engaged in discussions with FIFA and COSAFA instructors as they provided an overview of how VAR technology operates, during a five-day training for local referees during the week at Lekidi Football Centre in Gaborone.

Local referees were grilled in a comprehensive 5-day Video Assistant Referee (VAR) training workshop, where they were engaged in hands-on practical sessions at the national stadium, using the actual match venue to simulate real-game scenarios. The setup provided participants with an authentic, hands-on experience of VAR implementation.

The training marked a significant step towards ensuring accuracy, fairness, and integrity in the game as the BFA seeks to elevate the standards of officiating in local football. The program was designed to equip local match officials with the latest knowledge and hands-on experience required for implementing VAR technology effectively and confidently.

"As we continue to elevate the standards of officiating in our football, this training marks a significant step toward ensuring accuracy, fairness, and integrity in the game," Botswana Football Association posted on their social media page.

Day 2 of the VAR Training Workshop delivered a taste of elite refereeing as participants tackled live-action drills at the National Stadium. Powered by FIFA, COSAFA, and Botswana Television, the sessions pushed referees to the limit, testing their instincts, judgment, and control. With real-game scenarios unfolding in real time, Botswana's match officials are embracing the demands of VAR with sharp focus and relentless drive.

Wanda Diamond League 2025

Ndori shines in Shanghai

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ON SCINTILLATING FORM, Bayapo Ndori and Colleen Kebinatshipi were scheduled to run the men's 400m at the Shanghai Diamond League on Saturday (May 3) while Letsile Tebogo was to take another shot at the 100m.

Ndori will be looking to continue his sterling performance and stretch the lead in 2025, after a blistering opener last week powering to a 44.25 meet record to win the 400m in Xiamen Marta Gorczynska for Wanda Diamond League. Surprised at how fast he ran so early in the season, Ndori told CITIUS MAG that his goal for 2025 is to make the podium at the World Championships in Tokyo.

Botswana's emerging sprint sensation, Colleen Kebinatshipi will line up alongside cc in the 400m in Shanghai on Saturday.

Men's 400m entries

Quincy Hall
Bayapo Ndori
Christopher Bailey
Colleen Kebinatshipi
Kirani James
Vernon Norwood
Alexander Doom
Håvard Bentsdal Ingvaldsen
Lythe Pillay



Letsile Tebogo

Ndori

Kebinatshipi

Stumble in Xiamen

Tebogo will be making a second attempt in the 100m race this year (2025) after he struggled against tough opponents in Xiamen last week Saturday. He will be looking to redeem himself after finishing a disappointing 7th with a sluggish 10.20s in a tightly contested affair that saw Akani Simbine of South

Africa storm to a 9.99 win ahead of Ferdinand Omanyala of Kenya who came second clocking 10.13.

Nobody expected the season opener in Xiamen to shake the sprinting world the way it did. In a race filled with heavy hitters, it was Akani Simbine who stole the show, tearing down the track with a ruthless 9.99s to claim the first

100m final of the Diamond League season. The South African veteran wasn't just running against the clock; he was running against the future itself — and for at least one night, he reminded everyone that experience still cuts the deepest. But what about the man everyone came to see, Letsile Tebogo?

Tebogo, Botswana's pride and

Olympic 200m champion, had arrived with the weight of soaring expectations and the buzz of a new beginning. Yet under the bright lights of Xiamen, his usually effortless speed never quite clicked. Seventh place, 10.20 seconds — a season's best on paper, but a bitter pill in the heat of battle. After an early-season stumble in Pretoria, this wasn't the bounce-back he or his fans were hoping for. But true champions don't hide when things go wrong — and Tebogo didn't.

In a raw media interview, Tebogo didn't dance around the disappointment. He laid it out plainly: the travel, the excitement, the misfires. But through the frustration, there was a spark — a reminder that even on a bad night, he sees the road ahead. "It's a great season opener for us," he added, already dissecting the race with the steady hands of someone who knows that the climb back up is only just beginning.

The margins were brutal. Simbine's 9.99, Omanyala's 10.13, Azu's 10.17 — in races like these, a fraction of a second is the difference between glory and questions. Tebogo's 10.20 was not enough, but it was a step, and steps matter. He knows it. "I'm just going to correct a few things," he said, refusing to overreact, refusing to panic. That's the dangerous thing about athletes like him — they learn faster than they fall.

And how could anyone doubt him for long? Letsile Tebogo's journey from Gaborone's dusty tracks

to global stardom is already the stuff of legends. His 19.46-second masterpiece in Paris didn't just break records; it rewrote the story of an entire nation. Two houses from the government, a national holiday in his honor — Tebogo isn't just an athlete in Botswana; he's history in motion.

He didn't stop there. A 9.86 in the 100m. A 30.69 in the 300m — the fastest ever recorded. He crashed through barriers that once seemed unbreakable, standing toe-to-toe with legends like Noah Lyles and being crowned the 2024 World Athletics Male Athlete of the Year. Yet here's the truth that makes him different: Tebogo knows the mountain has no summit. When he decided to test himself at 400m earlier this year in Melbourne, it wasn't about easy victories. It was about growth, even if it meant falling.

The stumble in Melbourne, the tough night in Xiamen — they're not setbacks. They're pages in a bigger story, a story of a sprinter who refuses to be defined by one distance, one race, or even one year. Letsile Tebogo's best isn't behind him. It's just getting started.

Men's 100m entries

Kishane Thompson
Akani Simbine
Christian Coleman
Letsile Tebogo
Ferdinand Omanyala
Jeremiah Azu
Emmanuel Eseme
Rohan Watson
Xie Zhenye



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