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Cllrs reject Con court

- Demand that govt prioritize pressing national issues
- 'Those Councilors are out of order, could face disciplinary action' -Dr Molutsi
- 'Constitutional Court was a UDC priority ahead of 2024 elections' - Ramaotwana

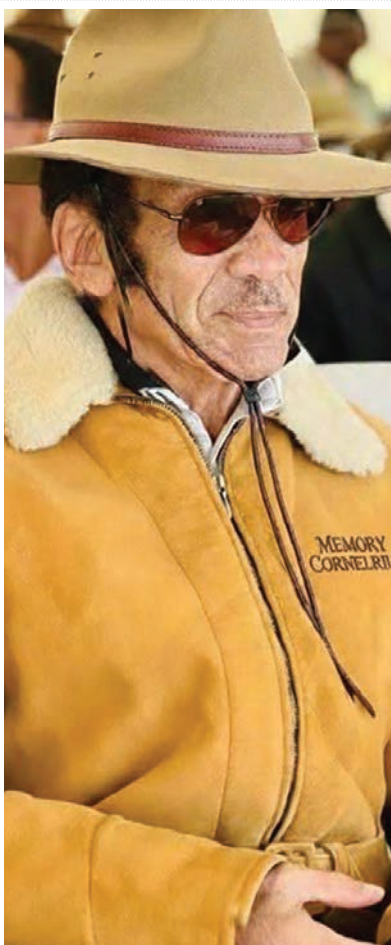
AMANDA DAVID & BAKANG TIRO

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THE UMBRELLA FOR Democratic Change (UDC) leadership could be headed for a showdown with councilors in Tlokweng and other parts of the country, after they openly defied the coalition leadership and rejected the proposed establishment of a Constitutional Court.

The Patriot on Sunday has established that the party is in the process of launching disciplinary action to rebuke the councilors for allegedly bringing the party

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Kgosi Khama IV

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BANGWATO PARAMOUNT Chief, Kgosi Khama IV has unleashed war on the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) administration at the ongoing session of Ntlo ya Dikgosi, signaling his return to settle old scores with those he accused of persecution in the past regime.

In his line of questioning, Khama

Khama mocks Boko

- Jabs at failed 'declaration & decree' of Air Botswana, BAMB, BMC, BR profitable
- Scoffs at DIS Office Romance, accuses UDC of protecting human rights abusers
- 'There can never be new Botswana that governs with old abusers' - Khama
- UDC not bothered by Khama. 'He has a right to express his views' - UDC

has placed President Duma Boko in cross hairs, accusing cabinet ministers and senior government officials of dishonesty, as he takes no prisoners in holding political leadership accountable.

Khama became the toast of the party at Ntlo ya Dikgosi this week, enjoying the limelight as he bashed the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DIS) leadership. Unflinching, he took a swipe at cabinet ministers, accusing the UDC

government of hypocrisy as they continue to harbour, and protect human rights abusers under the new administration.

He said this contradicts the position the UDC held before being elected into power. Khama demanded to know what happened to the promised profitability of Botswana Railways, Air Botswana, Botswana Meat Commission (BMC), and Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board



President Duma Boko

(BAMB), which were made by President Boko. The President had 'declared and decreed' that the parastatals would be profitable by the end of 2025.

In an interview on Friday, Khama said he is humbled by the appreciative feedback from Batswana after demanding accountability from the government. He said in the days of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) regime, there was a massive

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'We do not recognize Nyalala' -Sekai

- He is too low in bogosi hierarchy of Bakgatla ba Kgafela
- Northwest Premier (SA) grants Nyalala Pilane recognition



Kgosi Bana Sekai

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THE LEADERSHIP DISPUTE among Bakgatla Ba Kgafela in Botswana and South Africa has deepened following the official recognition of Nyalala Pilane as Kgosi of Bakgatla in Moruleng (SA) by the North West Provincial Government.

On Wednesday, Nyalala Pilane was presented with a certificate of recognition by the North West Premier, Lazarus Kagiso confirming him as Kgosi of Bakgatla ba Kgafela



Kgosi Nyalala Pilane

in Moruleng. The recognition effectively replaces Kgosi Kgafela II who recently fled Moruleng amid assassination fears and sought refuge in Cape town, South Africa. Kagiso also announced that the Baloyi Commission, which earlier declared Kgosi Kgafela II as the rightful Kgosi for Bakgatla ba Kgafela in Moruleng (SA) and Mochudi, Botswana had been set aside by a Judge of the High Court.

Speaking during the handover of the recognition certificate to Nyalala,

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BHC engages Mabutsane residents

BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION (BHC) held a kgotla meeting in Mabutsane to engage residents as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a proposed housing development in the area.

The planned project will be implemented in phases and includes the construction of 200 single-family residential units together with supporting infrastructure. During the meeting Ms Ipeleng Lennwe, pointed out that last year July the Government selected some places to do the groundbreaking for Bonno National Housing Program, and Mabutsane was lucky to be among the selected places. She shared that during the groundbreaking which was held on the 8th of July 2025, BHC started the construction of 20 housing units from the 200 plots that have been allocated and the project is progressing well. BHC and their consultant – Environmental Management Consultancy, highlighted the project's expected benefits, such as access to decent housing, job creation and economic growth. Key Environmental considerations, including waste management, noise and air pollution were discussed. Community members participated



BHC Acting CEO, Sekgele Ramahobo

actively raising questions about the project timeliness particularly the anticipated start and completion dates. After all the questions were addressed, the Consultant assured residents that all the feedback

gathered during the engagement will be incorporated into the final EIA report which will guide the project's approval and implementation. Source: Botswana Housing Corporation

Sunbet donates to Bona Naledi

SUNBET BOTSWANA HAS DONATED proceeds from a football match between Township Rollers and Gaborone United last year, to community organizations Bona Naledi and Cherished Being. The Sunbet Cup was played in August 2025. The beneficiaries were selected through a public vote conducted on the Sunbet Facebook page, allowing members of the community to decide where the funds should be channeled.

Sunbet Country Manager, Tsholofelo Makgoeng said the donation shows the company's responsibility to give back to communities, particularly within the regulated gaming industry. He said Sunbet, which was licensed in February 2025, understands that its license carries obligations beyond business performance. "For this CSI cycle, Sunbet has contributed over P278,000, including more than P195,000 in statutory contributions and P83,210 raised through the charity cab initiative," he said.

Head of People and Enablement, Ntombifuti Shongwe said Sunbet's community programmes are people-centered. "These are long-term commitments, not once-off gestures," she



Bona Naledi Development Manager, Boitshepo Nyathi receiving the donation

said. Bona Naledi Development Manager, Boitshepo Nyathi said they will use the donation for youth empowerment, using sport to promote health awareness, mental wellbeing, and life-skills development. For his part, Donald Chuma - the Cherished

Being caretaker said they will use the funds to roll out school-based programmes from January to November 2026, focusing on drug and alcohol abuse prevention and rehabilitation. "Our aim is to equip learners to say no to drugs and alcohol and grow into responsible citizens," Chuma said.

Zutshwa salt project to be ramped up

9th Hour Projects seeks partnership with QhaaQhing Conservation Trust



Represented by its CEO, Bernard Mutanga, 9th Hour Projects, is planning to invest and collaborate with Qhaa Qhing Conservation Trust to ramp up production at the Zutshwa Salt Project. The Zutshwa community and their leadership embraced the strategic partnership hailing it as a transformational project that can transform Zutshwa into a modern town.

The BITC delegation was led by Chief Operations Officer (COO) Anthony Sefako, while the Botswana Embassy in Zimbabwe delegation was led by Ambassador Sarah Molosiwa, On the other hand, the Kgalagadi North District Council delegation was led by Council Chairman Hon Lekgobero, District Commissioner Ms. Rabakane and Council Secretary Mr. Katera.

BOTSWANA INVESTMENT AND TRADE Centre (BITC), Botswana Embassy in Zimbabwe and the Kgalagadi North District Council leadership engaged the Zutshwa community on Monday (26th January 2026) about the envisaged 9th Hour Projects.

The main objective of the engagement was to discuss possible joint venture partnership between the Qhaa Qhing Conservation Trust and 9th Hour Projects.

Botswana declares war on FMD

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AMIDST THE GROWING threats of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak following the detection of a suspected case in North East, government and private players in the beef industry have intensified the internal response strategies to curb FMD threats as it continues to rise in the neighboring South Africa.

Government through the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture announced that there is a suspected positive case of FMD in Jackakals 1 in the crush near Tsamaya Extension in Masunga District (Disease Control 6B).

As a precautionary measure, the ministry said the movement of cloven-hoofed animals, animal products and related equipment into and out of the affected area is strictly prohibited until further notice. Tshere said government has set aside P97 million Pula for emergency response measures following the detection of FMD in neighboring South Africa and Zimbabwe.

On Thursday, Kaka Farmers Association (KFA) from Boteti Region announced a P30 000 pledge to the government emergency response measures initiative. Fielding questions from The Patriot on Sunday during a media briefing in Gaborone, KFA Chairman Mbigane Tlhalerwa said the Ngamiland suspected case is a big area of concern for Botswana.

Tlhalerwa said KAF is not

- Farmers financially boost Govt FMD response measures
- North East Zone 6B on alert as suspected case reported



KFA Chairman Mbigane Tlhalerwa

leaving behind communal farmers in protecting possible FMD spread in the region.

"We are ranchers and we don't want to leave behind our colleagues in the communal counterparts. The threats of the FMD are growing on daily basis. The Jackalas 1 suspected case require us to be on high alert and leave no room for error. It is a collectively response for all of us as farmers in Boteti," he said.

In addition, Tlhalerwa said Boteti West Region or Zone 5 has been less susceptible to FMD over the years, the current situation in South Africa isn't excluding the region from exposure.

North East threat

He said the past FMD situation in North East region should always remain as a critical lesson or experience to Botswana beef industry, adding that once FMD becomes a national pandemic it will plunge Botswana into economic crisis. He said North East District has proven to be a hotbed for FMD owing to number of factors such as porous borders between Botswana and Zimbabwe but said government is now closely monitoring the situation.

The rampant FMD outbreak or reoccurrence in North East in the past forced government to embark on killing small

stock and cattle in to prevent further spread into areas that were considered to be green at the time. Tlhalerwa also hailed the government for its well-coordinated response measures especially within farming communities alongside the border in the Southern part of the country.

For his part, KAF Treasurer Mthusi Tshetso said the P30 000 contribution to FMD response would assist to de-bush corridors and make the FMD response effective in the region. He said the contribution has been mobilized through several KAF partners, adding that the association will continue to generate more funds towards government FMD response measures.

The association said it will continue to actively engage and encourage its member farmers to make additional financial contributions, adding further that all funds received will be consolidated through the Association in support of coordinated national intervention measures.

"The Association believes that collective action by farmers, institutions, and stakeholders is critical in protecting Botswana's livestock sector and safeguarding food security and economic stability. Kaka Farmers Association remains fully committed to playing its part and calls upon all stakeholders to unite in the fight against Foot and Mouth Disease," the association said in a statement.

DEPOSIT & LENDING INTEREST RATES

As at February 2026
Interest earned is Tax- free

DEPOSIT RATES

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rate (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (Pula)
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

Fixed Deposits

Term	Nominal Interest Rate	Actual Interest Rate	Minimum Opening Balance
3 months	0.80% - 1.00%	0.80% - 1.00%	1,000.00
6 months	1.40% - 1.75%	1.41% - 1.76%	1,000.00
12 months	1.85% - 2.20%	1.87% - 2.22%	1,000.00
24 months	2.25% - 2.55%	2.27% - 2.58%	1,000.00
Over 24 months	3.35% - 3.80%	3.40% - 3.87%	1,000.00

PRIME LENDING RATE 8.01% 8.01% 8.01% 8.01%

LENDING RATES

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rate	Average Effective Interest Rate
MoPR	3.50%	3.50%
Prime Lending Rate	8.01%	8.01%
Mortgage Facility	Prime to Prime + 5.00%	Prime to Prime + 5.12%
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
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdraft, mortgage and credits cards)	Prime +12% to Prime +22%	Prime +12.68% to Prime +24.36%
Other Long - Term Loans	N/A	N/A

Khama mocks Boko

FROM PAGE 1

abuse of office, violating the rule of law, gross incompetence, and greed. "There can never be a new Botswana that governs with old abusers," Khama declared.

Political commentator, Frank Mogotsi, said Khama's crusade on the DIS is indicative of his displeasure over Boko for still keeping DIS Director General Peter Magosi in his job. He said Khama cannot hide his disappointment over some decisions taken by the UDC government, in particular to retain the DISS top brass, some of whom he believes tormented him under the BDP era. "He has found a platform at Ntlo ya Dikgosi to speak his mind, and he is particularly scoffing at the UDC administration, and its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in President Boko. He has publicly declared that the UDC government must fire Magosi. He wants to see Boko firing him as soon as possible," observed Mogotsi.

UDC Executive Secretary,

Dr Patrick Molutsi, said like any Motswana, Ian Khama has the right to express his views or oppose the government whenever he feels the need to do so. He said the UDC, as a human rights-centred government, is committed to giving Batswana their freedom of speech without any hesitation. He said the UDC understands the perspective that Khama is emphasizing when he calls for the removal of some high-ranking government officials from their positions.

"Yes, we are aware of what Kgosisigkgo Khama is expressing. But we cannot just remove people and resort, maybe, to cadre deployment. I also receive petitions from our own UDC people calling for us to fire some people. Governance is not like that. We are focused on nation building, and we listen to people and see how we can best address issues," said Molutsi on Friday.

DIS

Khama said he is totally disappointed by how ministers

responded to issues he raised about the DIS, indicating that it was clearly an exercise in evasion of responsibility. He said such conduct only serves to protect and entrench wrongdoing. "The government was leading the campaign against Magosi and the DIS when they were in opposition just over a year ago," said the seemingly disappointed Khama.

Speaking on how DIS can be reformed according to his view, he said the DIS is appropriate to exist as a state security organ and one that protects or enhances the sovereignty and democracy of Botswana. He said it was under the BDP regime of his successor, former President Mokgweetsi Masisi, that the DIS was converted into a discredited, ill-disciplined, and much-disliked mafia-like organisation led by deranged psychopaths.

Butterfly

Meanwhile, Khama reignited controversy by asking whether the government would issue an apology to DIS agent

Welheminah Maswabi, commonly known by codename Butterfly, after it turned out that the state fabricated charges against her. Khama said the defamation by the state had far-reaching impact on Maswabi as a professional and Motswana, whose human rights were also subjected to abuse.

Responding to Khama, Assistant Minister of Innovation and Technology, Shawn Ntlhaile, said the government issued a public apology and retraction to Ambassador Bridgette Motsepe. Ntlhaile said the apology followed a careful review of allegations contained in an affidavit deposited to in 2019, and this reflects the current government's commitment to accountability, fairness, and responsible governance.

Khama's fresh probe on Butterfly matter follows a settlement agreement sealed last year between the Government and Ambassador Bridgette Motsepe, over the P100 billion saga.

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Elephant society deny Khama ties

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■ Khama, EPS launched two-pronged opposition to trophy hunting

MAUN-BASED conservation NGO, the Elephant Protection Society (EPS), has dismissed claims that it is funded or sponsored by former President Ian Khama, stating that the organisation operates independently and relies solely on donations from both local and international supporters who share its conservation objectives.

Addressing the media yesterday, EPS Director Oaitse Nawa said the organisation has no political or financial ties to the former president. However, he noted that EPS would be open to working with Khama should such an opportunity arise. He described Khama as a globally recognised conservation icon and said EPS would be honoured to collaborate with him in efforts aimed at wildlife protection.

Speculation linking EPS to Khama has emerged as the organisation continues to oppose trophy hunting in Botswana, particularly in the Ngamiland region. EPS has been outspoken in its resistance to trophy hunting and has consistently advocated

for alternative conservation approaches. Nawa reaffirmed that EPS is firmly opposed to trophy hunting, arguing that the model does not meaningfully benefit communities living alongside wildlife. He said EPS supports photographic tourism, which he believes offers more sustainable and direct economic benefits to local communities. "Hunting safari companies make millions from trophy hunting, while communities are often left with only meat. We see this as exploitation of local people," Nawa said.

He further revealed that EPS has withdrawn its court case against the government. In December last year, the organisation had taken legal action challenging the draft 2026 hunting quotas. Nawa said the decision to withdraw followed engagements with government officials, who had committed to addressing the organisation's concerns.

"We are not fighting the government. We raised concerns about certain aspects of wildlife management, and since the government agreed to look into them, we decided not to proceed with the case,"



EPS Director, Oaitse Nawa

he said. Former President Khama is widely known for his opposition to trophy hunting. During his tenure, Botswana implemented a nationwide hunting ban in 2014. While conservation groups welcomed the move, it attracted criticism from some communities, particularly in Ngamiland, who argued that the ban contributed to increased human-wildlife conflict.

In 2019, trophy hunting was reintroduced under former President Mokgweetsi Masisi following nationwide consultations.

Khama has once again drawn national attention after recently questioning Botswana's conservation and hunting policies at Ntlo ya Dikgosi. Kgosi Khama IV of Ga Mmangwato has asked the Minister of Environment and Tourism to explain how Botswana's 2026 hunting quotas for elephants, lions and leopards were scientifically determined, including the proportion of each species' population to be removed and the evidence used to justify the sustainability of these quotas.

The former president further questioned whether the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP)

has up-to-date data on the population size, age structure and distribution of lions and leopards within hunting areas to support the approved quotas.

Khama also asked whether Conservation Force assisted in drafting Botswana's elephant and leopard management plans and, if so, why external lobbying organisations appear to influence national quota-setting and wildlife policy instead of independent Botswana scientists and local research institutions.

He raised concern over the Non-Detriment Finding (NDF), which reportedly states that annual elephant hunting quotas "must not exceed 0.5 percent" of the population within hunting blocks approximately 135 elephants. Khama noted that the 2025 quota stands at about 0.9 percent, roughly 410 elephants, nearly double the NDF guideline.

He asked whether the Ministry is aware of this discrepancy and how it justifies exceeding the stated limit.

Kgosi Khama further requested clarity on the scientific studies and datasets used to justify the 2026 elephant hunting quota and whether these studies are publicly available for independent scrutiny.

'We do not recognize Nyalala'

FROM PAGE 1

Kagiso dismissed claims that the provincial government or his office interfered in royal family matters. He said government does not choose traditional leaders but merely formalises decisions taken by royal families.

"There are allegations that the South African government influenced this appointment. That is not true. Our duty is not to decide who becomes chief. We listen to the royal families, who have the authority to choose their leader, and we only certify that decision," Kagiso said.

Despite the explanation, Bakgatla Ba Kgafela in Botswana insist that the matter remains unresolved and such the recognition does not change their position. "We do not recognise him as the chief of the Bakgatla Ba Kgafela in Moruleng," Mothusa Kgosi in Mochudi, Kgosi Bana Sekai said.

Bakgatla Ba Kgafela in Botswana have responded furiously, expressing shock and disappointment over the developments in Moruleng. Deputy Chief of the Bakgatla Ba Kgafela in Botswana, Kgosi Bana Sekai said the tribe is

still in shock and rejects the recognition outright. He said the decision contradicts findings of the Baloyi Commission, which had earlier ruled that Nyalala Pilane was not the legitimate heir to the throne.

"We do not recognise Nyalala Pilane as the rightful chief of the Bakgatla ba Kgafela in Moruleng. We were surprised to hear that another judge has nullified the findings of the Baloyi Commission. We do not know on what basis that decision was taken," Kgosi Sekai retorted on Friday.

According to Bana Sekai, traditional hierarchy places Nyalala Pilane low in the royal lineage. "In the hierarchy of our chieftaincy, Nyalala is at the bottom. He was appointed Motshwarelela kgosi by Kgosi Lentswe at the time, and only the latter had the authority to remove him," he said.

Following Kgosi Lentswe's death, the chieftaincy in Moruleng was naturally expected to revert to his son -Kgosi Kgafela II as the rightful heir. "Kgosi Kgafela II was supposed to step into his rightful position, which Nyalala was holding on his behalf," Kgosi Sekai explained.

TICANO invests in education

Ticano CSI

PATRIOT: AT THE END of 2025 Ticano went on a blitz, celebrating achievements of learners in several schools around the country by sponsoring top achievers in Prize Giving Ceremonies.

Tell us more about the initiative/ project, what was the motivation? And what is the end game (i.e. How long is this going to continue, and what do you want to achieve with this project)? How many schools have you reached so far and what is the way forward in 2026?

OPELO: At the end of 2025, we launched an initiative to celebrate the achievements of learners because we believe that economic empowerment starts early. As a business that works closely with entrepreneurs every day, we understand the value of discipline, excellence, and opportunity. Through this initiative, we supported top achievers at prize-giving ceremonies in four schools across Botswana, including Maitlamo CJSS, Matsiloje CJSS, Mosetha CJSS, and Kumakwane CJSS. Our focus is on subjects like business, mathematics, and accounting, helping students develop skills that are critical for their future success.

This is not a once-off effort. We are committed to growing the programme in 2026, reaching more schools, especially in communities where exposure and resources are limited. We work closely with the communities where we operate, including Maun, Bobonong, Matsiloje, Gaborone, and Kumakwane. In addition, Ticano provides specialised funding for school feeding programmes. Our ultimate goal is to nurture education, create opportunities, and inspire learners to aim higher, ensuring that this initiative has a lasting impact for years to come.

PATRIOT: On another level, you have also launched an initiative to give young graduates a platform to gain experience and test their skills at Ticano. Kindly elaborate on that project;

When did the programme start? Any specific courses you are targeting? How many graduates have you hosted so far, male or female? How long is the mentorship programme

As purchase order financing and invoice discounting firm, Ticano Group prepare to open their 5th service centre in Selebi Phikwe, scheduled for xxxxxxxx to give Small Mirco & Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) in the once vibrant mining town a lifeline, **STAFF WRITER DITIRO MOTLHABANE** caught up with the Executive Director Opelo Motswagae to chat about this and that.

and what happens to those who complete it?

OPELO: We launched our graduate mentorship programme in 2025 to address the gap between academic qualifications and practical workplace experience. The programme initially started with three graduates and targets young professionals in finance, business, data, and related fields. Running for six to twelve months, it provides structured hands-on exposure, mentorship, and practical skills development. We have hosted both male and female graduates, reflecting our commitment to inclusivity, and our primary aim is employability. Graduates who complete the programme leave with real-world experience and, where appropriate, opportunities to continue their careers with Ticano or within the broader market.

PATRIOT: How else are you giving back to communities you operate in as part of your Corporate Social Investment (CSI)?

OPELO: Beyond education and graduate development, Ticano's CSI focus is centred on economic empowerment. Our core business model itself is a form of social investment, because we provide working capital solutions that allow SMEs to survive, grow, and create jobs. We also support financial literacy initiatives, mentorship for small business owners, and community engagement activities in the areas where we operate. Our philosophy is that CSI should be impactful and aligned to our expertise, ensuring that we create long-term value rather than short-term relief.

Spreading wings

Perhaps related to investment in education and learning, you were a part of the De Beers Stanford Seed programme -a collaboration between De Beers and Stanford University that aims to empower entrepreneurs in Southern Africa. The program is touted as having helped over 650 young entrepreneurs in Botswana, building bridges between investors and African



Ticano Group Exec Director, Opelo Motswagae

businesses, in the process generating significant revenue, raising capital, and creating thousands of jobs across Southern Africa.

PATRIOT: Let us now bring the narrative closer home. Tell us about your experiences in the programme, what does it entail, what have you learnt from it, what have you implemented at Ticano and how has such knowledge helped the business grow.

OPELO: The De Beers Stanford Seed programme was a transformative experience, both personally and professionally. The programme exposes entrepreneurs to world-class business thinking, strategic leadership, and disciplined execution, while still being grounded in African market realities.

Through the programme, I gained deeper insights into scaling businesses, governance, operational efficiency, and building sustainable organisations. Most importantly, it reinforced the

logistics, construction, retail, and service-based businesses.

At the same time, we have been engaging with SPEDU as a key regional development partner, with the intention of strengthening collaboration around SME financing and enterprise support. Overall, this expansion is about improving access to finance, supporting business sustainability, and contributing to renewed economic activity in Selebi Phikwe.

Economy, technology

Government has decried depleted state coffers, and declared a moratorium on tendering processes opting for direct appointment to expedite service delivery. Further, government has called on cutting spending and invited the private sector to play a major role in economic transformation.

PATRIOT: As a business that will be mostly affected by these developments, kindly reflect on these latest developments. What do they mean for Ticano?

OPELO: The current economic environment presents both challenges and opportunities. Reduced government spending and changes to procurement processes directly affect cash flow for SMEs, which also impacts businesses like ours that finance these enterprises. At the same time, this highlights the importance of private sector participation in driving economic transformation.

For Ticano, it means being more innovative, selective, and collaborative in how we deploy capital. We provide working capital finance solutions that help SMEs manage liquidity while waiting for payments. These solutions support businesses across sectors such as healthcare, education, agribusiness, water and sanitation, and ICT. Our role is to help businesses manage cash-flow pressures and remain operational even during periods of uncertainty.

PATRIOT: Over the years you have entered into strategic partnerships with local and international organisations. Tell us a bit more about those,

and update us on the latest with those partnerships.

OPELO: Ticano's growth has been supported by a mix of strategic partnerships, both funding-based and operational. On the funding side, we have worked with local and international capital providers to strengthen our balance sheet and expand our ability to finance SMEs.

We have also engaged with large corporates such as Debswana and Morupule Coal Mine (MCM), where our focus has been on supporting suppliers within their value chains through structured financing solutions.

More recently, we have been engaging with SPEDU as a regional development partner, with the intention of strengthening collaboration around SME financing and enterprise support. Collectively, these partnerships allow us

to scale responsibly while remaining focused on impact.

PATRIOT: How many employees do you have countrywide (male, female)? What are some of Ticano's major milestones since inception over a decade ago?

OPELO: Ticano employs 27 full-time staff and 15 commission-based sales agents across the country.

Our workforce is 60% female, 96% under the age of 35, and 85% come from rural backgrounds.

Notably, 80% of our team joined us as graduates and were trained internally. Since our establishment in 2015, we have disbursed over BWP500 million to more than 8,500 suppliers, expanded nationally, earned Economic Diversification Drive (EDD) accreditation, and achieved strong growth while remaining a regulated, impact-driven financier.

PATRIOT: What are Ticano's plans for the future in a world becoming highly tech-based e.g. AI adoption, IoT, Automation, social media, digital platforms etc

OPELO: Looking ahead, Ticano is fully aware that the future of finance is digital. We are actively investing in technology to improve efficiency, transparency, and customer experience. This includes automation of internal processes, enhanced data analytics, and exploring the responsible use of AI in credit assessment and risk monitoring.

We are also strengthening our digital platforms to make access to finance faster and more user-friendly for SMEs. Our goal is to remain agile, tech-enabled, and relevant in a rapidly evolving financial ecosystem while still maintaining the human touch that our clients value.



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Mzwini wins again

BAKANG TIRO
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FORMER CABINET MINISTER DR Kefentse Mzwini on Friday scored another victory against state as the High court, for the second time this week, ordered the release of his seized assets pending corruption investigations against him by Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC).

Judge Oteng Motlhalo ordered the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to release Mzwini's properties that were placed under an interim restraining order on the 24th December 2025. The properties are at Tshwenetshwene measuring 10 hectares; Lot 8907 KO measuring two hectares; commercial shopping complex in Mmadinare; Industrial (catering equipment workshop at Gamodubu) and Lot No55433 Phakalane and a residential plot in Lecheng.

Meanwhile, the court held restraining order in some of Mzwini's assets including the cash amounting to P700, 900.62 held at absa bank, in the names of Dr Kefentse Cheungie Mzwini and money amounting to P14 080.00 which is a balance of the money which was due to be returned to Mzwini held by Maruapula School etc. Rights abused

Judge Motlhalo said Dr Mzwini's constitutional rights were violated, concurring with Judge Barnabas Nyamadzabo who had ordered DCEC

- Back-to-back victory over seized assets, flagged passports
- Court gives DCEC March deadline to wrap investigations



Mzwini

earlier in the week to return Mzwini's assets and that it stop unwarranted searches in his properties. The DPP had made an urgent application against Mzwini's properties saying that their investigations have led them to a suspicion that the couple has committed a crime.

Judge Motlhalo also ordered the DCEC to conclude their investigations by mid-March 2026. Judge Nyamadzabo had also ruled

that flagging the Mzwini family passports was unlawful. He further ruled that the state should stop 'warrantless' search and seizures on their properties. "The state is further directed to immediately return seized items together with a full account," the order further reads. The case emanates from a lifestyle audit of the former minister and his wife, Bridgette Mzwini, who are allegedly currently outside the country," he said.

Cllrs reject Con court

FROM PAGE 1

and government into a disrepute. The constitutional court consultations are ongoing nationally, undertaken by the ministers in different parts of the country. They are led by Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Nelson Ramaotwana.

Out of order

UDC Executive Secretary, Dr Patrick Molutsi said councillors who speak against the establishment of a Constitutional court are completely out of order and disrespect the party procedures. He said Councillors understand that UDC has structures including his office where they can properly relay their concerns or offer advice where necessary.

Dr Molutsi emphasized that Councillors and MPs understand better why a Constitutional court is a priority under the UDC administration, therefore they should educate Batswana about it. "First of all, we have been patient in dealing with indiscipline. We have developed a Code of Conduct for our MPs and Councillors on how they are supposed to conduct themselves. Our councillors are aware of this," said Molutsi, unable to confirm if the party would impose any disciplinary action against the dissenting councillors.

He said although there are challenges in the health sector currently, the UDC government is addressing them and they should not be used as an excuse to halt every development in the country.

"All things that we are pushing for, including a Constitutional Court are in our development agenda. They are packaged for a purpose. We are clear on what we are doing as government. I want to remind those who oppose the Constitutional court, including some of our own, that war of democracy is lost on the legal front. Development is not material things, it not just social components such as education or health. Development is also freedom," Dr Molutsi argued.

Councillors revolt

UDC councillors in different councils such as Kanye District Council, Gamalete



President Boko

District Council and Tlokwen District Council, this week openly rejected what Ramaotwana had just presented to justify the urgency for the establishment of a Constitutional Court. Some councillors told this publication that they had been informed of the looming disciplinary actions against them, claiming that Members of Parliament have been ordered to ensure that they tow the line and endorse the proposition.

"We received information that the minister wasn't happy about our deliberations on the constitutional court in Kanye District Council. We aware of mooted disciplinary actions. But we didn't just oppose him but proposed just as other Batswana that constitutional isn't a priority," said one councillor from Kanye.

The constitutional court is expected to be established with a budget of around P275 million, according to the Minister of State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Mohwasa. According to councillors, the constitutional court proposal came at the wrong time given the plight besieging the public health facilities which are grappling with shortage of medicines. The councillors are of the view that government priorities are not aligned to the current situations on the ground affecting voters.

Meanwhile, some UDC councillors stood firmly behind the establishment of the Constitutional court. But observers insist that there is clear resistance and objection inside the coalition.

Key priority

Responding to comments by councillors at Tlokwen District Council, Ramaotwana

reminded them to note that a constitutional court was a priority in the UDC 2024 manifesto that they were part of. He said the constitutional court is a priority in his ministry and as part of evaluation and monitoring, his ministry must deliver the constitutional court which is a priority as outlined in UDC government agenda.

"President Boko and Minister of Health, Dr Stephen Modise are attending to health issues. The problems that we are facing are very huge from health, education etc. However, each ministry is working around the clock to change the situations. Constitutional court is equally vital in government agenda," he said.

Ramaotwana said the constitutional court as a specialized court is necessary to overcome the limitations of the current generalist system whereby constitutional issues compete for attention within a backlogged High Court and Court of Appeal (CoA).

Backlash

Political analyst, Kitso Morekisi said government has received lot of public criticism over the constitutional court and UDC councillors are aware of the consequences - backlash from voters. He said expectation is that UDC councillors would endorse the constitutional court but appeared that they are against it, a development that portrays divisions in the coalition. "UDC MPs and councillors are supposed to speak with one voice the position of the party or government as it has been the norm under Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). The councillors or MPs are feeling the heat from the voters more so that the country face serious health issues. Its hot in UDC kitchen," he said.

On whether government could bind to public pressure and withdraw constitutional court proposal, Morekisi said: "Given wide criticism, it would be ideal to suspend it. The BDP in the past while it went through fire would strategically read in between the lines. remember how the controversial presidential benefits law under BDP was deferred after public uproar. UDC is undergoing a challenging time as well."

Gaolathe calls for youth self-reliance

- BETP poised to aid in economy revival

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AS THE COUNTRY CONTINUES TO grapple with an economic slowdown exacerbated by a downturn in diamond sales, Vice President and Minister of Finance Ndaba Gaolathe has challenged the youth to take initiative, lead, and move beyond dependence on the government, warning that such reliance is no longer sustainable for economic growth.

The Minister was speaking at the 2026/2027 Youth Budget Pitso, held under the theme "My Budget, My Right." The Pitso brought together youth and leaders for engagement and consultations in the national budgeting process.

Painting a grim picture of the country's economic state, Gaolathe explained that Botswana's main source of revenue, diamonds, no longer performs as strongly as it once did, contributing to the current economic decline. He warned that the country's heavy reliance on a single revenue source is no longer viable and calls for new approaches to economic development.

"The economic model that carried us for decades, anchored on diamonds and a strong central role for government, can no longer carry us into the next generation in the same way. Global uncertainty has increased, fiscal space has become tighter, and the room for inefficiency, dependency, and delay has narrowed significantly," he said.

Reduced Reliance

Gaolathe said addressing these challenges requires the active participation of the



VP and Finance Minister, Ndaba Gaolathe speaking at the Youth Budget Pitso. Photo credit: Gorataone Kgosimore

youth as future leaders, stressing that economic transformation can only be achieved through a shift in mindset and culture. He urged young people to step up and reduce reliance on government support. For decades, he noted, government policies have fostered a culture of dependency among citizens.

"That culture must begin to change with the youth, not because government is withdrawing support, but because a dependent youth cannot be expected to build an independent nation," he said adding that generations that build despite

constraints are the ones that brings meaningful change.

Despite the challenges facing young people in the current economy, Gaolathe assured them that government would continue to play a supportive role with youth-led initiatives. He cited programmes such as the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), which aims to diversify the economy beyond diamonds and has attracted significant interest from young entrepreneurs.

Path to Economy Recovery

Senior Policy Advisor at the Ministry of Finance, Naledi Madala, said the BETP has the potential to help transform Botswana into a high-income economy by harnessing youth innovation.

She explained that BETP labs are designed to turn young people's ideas into action, removing barriers for young entrepreneurs, creating jobs, and enabling meaningful youth participation in the country's future economy.

Madala revealed that the programme received numerous submissions from the youth, which went through a selection process resulting in 186 projects being chosen for implementation. While some of the projects still require funding, she said a dedicated website has been created to allow investors from around the world to access the projects and express interest.

"By doing that, we are exposing these projects to international investors. A lot of them are actually beginning to get people from across the world reaching out to have conversations to say I'm interested in your project, I'm interested in partnering with you," she said.

Madala expressed optimism that if properly implemented, the selected projects could play a significant role in transforming Botswana's economy.

Revive economy before Con court

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DURING A SPECIAL FULL COUNCIL meeting early this week in Francistown where Minister for State President, Defence and Security Moeti Mohwasa addressed Francistown city councillors on the establishment of a constitutional court, the city's councillors expressed concern over what they deemed government's rushed decision to introduce the constitutional court amid the country's current financial constraints and more pressing national issues.

In response to the minister's address, Councillor for Itsekeng ward in the Francistown East constituency Lesego Kwambala acknowledged that as opposition councillors they supported the introduction of the constitutional court; he however noted that he did not understand its urgency at a time that the country is faced with shortage of medicines. Kwambala further advised that government not make the same mistakes that the previous regime made by imposing things on Batswana.

"Do not impose things on the people, that is the mistake we made as BDP. What is the urgency when the people do not know about the constitution itself? Let us first go out and educate the people; Batswana deserve to know and understand so it does

not only benefit the elite. What we are doing is not democratic," he echoed.

For her part, councillor for Central Ward Lillian Griesmier concurred with Kwambala's sentiments emphasizing that she is not against the court's introduction but rather its introduction while the country is supposedly facing financial challenges. Griesmier echoed "You have mentioned that only P275 million will be used, but when you get to Nyangabwe Hospital any patient scheduled for surgery is expected to buy their own thread. What is the rush? These funds should be redirected to address urgent matters. We are now becoming suspicious of the true intentions of the ruling party. Public service officers did not get a salary increment last year because there is no money, but the introduction of this court shows that funds are available. The rushed introduction of the constitutional court shows that funds are available but government is not prioritizing the issues that Batswana consider to be more important."

Selolwe ward councillor Isaac Kelegetse also assured the minister that he is not against the constitutional court's establishment, but he believes that there is a need for a comprehensive constitutional review first. He further highlighted that the estimated P275 million budget that was mentioned is a lot of money but believed

that the establishment of these courts would require more millions from government coffers.

"We are pleading with you Minister, please advise cabinet and the president that the current situation does not allow us to take huge amounts of money like these to spend on constitutional courts. We can live another ten years without a constitutional court. Section 18 subsection 1 clearly states that anyone displeased with a ruling can approach the High Court and Court of Appeal. What is the hurry? The situation at Nyangabwe Hospital does not need a constitutional court, it needs medicines, our roads do not need a constitutional court, they need us to reflect and identify what our priorities are," he concluded.

In response the concerns raised by the councillors, minister Mohwasa indicated that he appreciated all the advice brought forth by the house, he however explained that the government is not one dimensional and does not have to focus on one thing at a time. He further noted that in government there is a budget for everything. Mohwasa further reassured councillors that the current shortage of medicines across health facilities is not because there are no funds, but because in the past government has been purchasing medicines at hiked prices and now government is looking to reduce expenditure.



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28 January 2025

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Comment

AMIDST POMP AND FANFARE, multitudes and distinguished guests- among them senior Government officials, convened in Kanye village in December 2025 to witness love birds joining in holy matrimony. The lovebirds were no ordinary mortals. They were Director General of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DIS), Peter Fana Magosi and Tilia Thupa – an agent in the same organization, who is a subordinate of the former. Their office romance was reported in local media to date as far back as 2020. The subordinate sweetheart is now Magosi's wife!

We congratulate the couple on their nuptials! However, it would be irresponsible of us to be blinded by the euphoria and the sleek dance moves of the groom, and fail to point out glaring gross violations of the DIS Code of Conduct due to this office romance. The office romance between Fana and Tilia – which they confirmed publicly, long before the wedding contravenes the DIS Code of Conduct, under Section 15 of the Intelligence and Security Services Act. The Code of Conduct prohibits intimate

Fire DIS boss and wife!

relations between officers of the DIS. Magosi blatantly flouted these provisions by engaging with Tilia in a romantic relationship.

According to the Code of Conduct, once guilty, the senior officer is liable to sanctions including a reduction in rank and any other penalty that may be determined to be appropriate.

On the other hand, the subordinate faces dismissal for comparable infractions.

Now, Magosi is displaying exactly the same arrogance of his predecessor – behaving as if he is above the law. He doesn't recognize the DIS Code of Conduct, which he is a custodian of. Or perhaps he believes it is designed for his charges, not him! These double standards breed the anarchy that the DIS is currently grappling with.

It is a result of erosion of morale within the DIS, and resentment among the ranks in an organization already plagued by accusations of politicization and patronage.

Magosi's scandalous romance with his subordinate also confirms long standing complaints that the DIS is a

rogue institution, where anything goes as they are a law unto themselves. In recent years, indiscipline has spread throughout the DIS, leading to spy agents and their superiors becoming regular customers of courts of law where disturbing revelations have been made in sworn affidavits.

The tell-all interview by the couple, published in a local newspaper recently, carries all the evidence of how a relationship between a boss and his subordinate compromised all forms of professionalism in the workplace.

One startling revelation is the sponsorship awarded to the missus to study in the United Kingdom using DIS funds, circumventing established policies for training within the organization.

This was followed by Tilia's promotion being fast-tracked from C scale straight to D and ultimately E scale, by-passing all established procedures for promotion.

DIS Act at Section 22 (s) is unequivocal in the prohibition against intimate relationships within the Directorate.

Specifically, Clause (ii) addresses relationships between a superior and

a subordinate officer, establishing a presumption that the superior facilitated and proposed the liaison. Upon conviction, the superior faces a mandatory penalty of reduction in rank, in addition to other appropriate sanctions.

If Section 22 (s) (ii) still holds, Magosi should face immediate investigation, conviction, and demotion. Anything less would confirm that the DIS operates as a rogue personal fiefdom rather than a professional security apparatus.

Boko must act swiftly: appoint an independent probe, enforce the code uniformly, and implement stricter disclosure and recusal mechanisms for intra-agency relationships.

Failure to do so, not only betrays the spirit of Section 22 of the Code but also jeopardizes Botswana's democratic credentials and security.

Magosi's romance may have ended in wedding bells, but for the DIS, it is a ringing alarm of institutional decay and indiscipline.

Magosi, as the Director General sits at the pinnacle of the DIS hierarchy,

making Tilia undeniably his subordinate. Their relationship, which began over five years ago (around 2020 or earlier), falls squarely under this provision. The Code does not offer exemptions for eventual marriage; it targets the act of engaging in such a relationship, which inherently risks conflicts of interest, favouritism and compromised decision-making in a high-stakes intelligence environment.

Considering Magosi's position as the custodian of the DIS Code of Conduct, makes the violation he has committed graver and more shocking.

As head of the DIS, he is responsible for upholding standards that prevent the erosion of trust, discipline and ultimately professionalism within the ranks. Yet, by maintaining an intimate relationship with a direct subordinate for years, Magosi has exposed the DIS to severe vulnerabilities.

Fraternization can lead to leaks of classified information, increased counter-intelligence risks, blackmail or espionage and biased operational decisions, including promotions, assignments, or evaluations. The scandal highlights glaring impunity,

and brazen arrogance! Just when the dust was settling on the controversial wedding between spy agents, boom there comes allegations that the UDC government cannot fire Magosi because him and the DIS helped them win the 2024 elections.

These allegations are made by the Leader of Opposition (LOO), who is the President of Botswana Congress Party (BCP) - Dumelang Saleshando, the Member of Parliament for Maun West. It is common knowledge that Saleshando is the former vice President of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) where Boko is President.

We ask: What hold does Magosi have on the current government? The continued retention of key personnel at DIS, who were previously accused of interference is gravely suspicious.

Former President Ian Khama has reignited the conversation at Ntlo ya Dikgosi around Magosi's conduct, particularly highlighting the flagrant abuse of office thereat.

Clearly Magosi and his DIS are a liability to Botswana, and the Boko led UDC government would do well to release him to go and enjoy the bliss of a new marriage!

'The Constitutional court, as proposed, is a disaster'

■ A comprehensive Analysis: Understanding the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2025 – Bill No. 14 of 2025

- PART 2

DR LETSHWITI TUTWANE*

The following review examines the Bill, clause by clause.

In this review, unless the context otherwise indicates—

“the Bill” means the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2025 – Bill No. 14 of 2025;

“the Constitution” means the Constitution of Botswana;

a reference to a “clause” is a reference to a clause of the Bill;

a reference to a “section” of the Constitution is a reference to a section of the Constitution as it currently is; and a reference to a “new section” is a reference to a new section that would be inserted into the Constitution by a clause of the Bill.

Clause 1 names the Bill as the Constitution Amendment Act 2025 and its commencement date. The bill shall only become law after a vote in parliament and a national referendum.

Clause 2 would amend section 8 of the Constitution. Section 8 of the Constitution provides for the protection of a person's rights where there is a compulsory acquisition of that person's property. It also secures a right of access by that person to the High Court to decide the legality of the compulsory acquisition and the compensation to which the person is

entitled.

Clause 2 would replace the High Court with the “Constitutional Court” as the court that would decide on the legality of the compulsory acquisition and the compensation to which the person is entitled. The Constitutional Court is a new court that would be created by clause 11 of the Bill (which would insert new sections 102A to 102E into the Constitution).

The Constitution provides for judgments of the High Court to be appealed to the Court of Appeal. However, clause 6 of the Bill (new sections 94A to 94D) states in the new section 94B that: “The Constitutional Court shall be the highest court and shall rank above all other courts”.

The Bill would not allow any appeal from the Constitutional Court on these, or any other matters, would be final.

As it would be a new court, the Constitutional Court judges would be appointed by the current President. However, as will be discussed later, the Bill is inexplicably silent on who would appoint those described as “Justices of Constitutional Court” in the new section 102C (1) (c).

Clause 3 would amend section 18 of the Constitution. Section 18 of the Constitution provides for the enforcement of the fundamental rights and freedoms to which every person in Botswana is entitled, under sections 3 to 16 of the Constitution, by giving any person who alleges that any provision of those sections has been contravened the right to apply to the High Court for redress.

Clause 3 would amend section 18 of the Constitution by replacing the High Court with the Constitutional Court as the court to which any application for redress of any contravention of the fundamental rights must be made.

Furthermore, clause 7(a) would amend section 95(1) of the Constitution by removing the jurisdiction of the High Court in respect of the enforcement of fundamental rights.

Section 95(1) provides that: “There shall be for Botswana a High Court which shall have unlimited original jurisdiction to hear and determine any civil or criminal proceedings under any law and such other jurisdiction and powers as may be conferred on it by this Constitution or any other law.”

The new section 95(1) that would be inserted by clause 7(a) of the Bill narrows the jurisdiction of the High Court by replacing “unlimited original jurisdiction” with “original jurisdiction”. It also adds a proviso which states that:

“the High Court shall not have jurisdiction to hear and determine any application or question arising out of a matter involving the enforcement or securing the enforcement of fundamental rights as contained in sections 3 to 16 of the Constitution or in any other law.”

This means that the envisaged constitutional court will be encumbered with a load that it is unlikely to manage. This would offend against the rule of law as there will be inordinate delays in disposing of cases. Justice delayed is justice denied. And

it could get worse, if as the President wishes, only advocates appear the Con court. The poor would be locked out (unless Legal Aid covers them). In *R v Lord Chancellor*, ex p Witham (1998), the court ruled that it offended against the rule of law to make access to the courts unnecessarily expensive.

Clause 11 of the Bill would create a “Constitutional Court”. It inserts into the Constitution a new Part (Part IIA – Constitutional Court – new sections 102A to 102E). The new section 102B (3) (c) and (d) provides that the Constitutional Court shall:

“(c) make a final determination on whether a matter is a constitutional matter or whether an issue is connected with a constitutional matter; and

(d) have original and final jurisdiction to hear and determine any application or question arising out of a matter involving the enforcement or securing the enforcement of fundamental rights as contained in sections 3 to 16 of the Constitution or in any other law.”

This is unfortunate. Botswana is not pioneer in establishing a constitutional court and therefore has no excuse in making amateur mistakes. We have many jurisdictions to learn from. South Africa provides valuable lessons. In that country, whilst they allow first instance jurisdiction, it is not as a matter of right, but a privilege in deserving cases. Their Con court is primarily an Appellate Court. In 1998, barely three years into operation, the court had already noticed the wisdom of having a matter start from lower courts before being escalated to it. In *Bruce and Another v Fleecytx Johannesburg CC and Others* (1998) (2) SA 1143 (CC) at para 8, the court said that “it is not ordinarily in the interests of justice for a court to sit as a court of first and last instance, in which matters are decided without there being any possibility of appealing against the decision given”.

The court added that ‘experience shows that decisions are more likely to be correct if more than one court has been required to consider the issues raised’. It is just logical that if a matter started at the High Court (sometimes before three judges) and went to the Court of Appeal, by the time it reaches the Con Court the issues will have been refined; they would clearly see mistakes, and benefiting from the collective wisdom of their fellow judges below and from counsel and witnesses, they are more likely to make legally correct decisions.

The Botswana proposal on the other hand is a bizarre, administratively unworkable arrangement. It is gambling with people's lives. Assuming the quorum is 11 judges per case like in South Africa, how many cases can the court hear in a month? What will be the costs of these hearings, especially on the administration of justice? It is also unfair on litigants not to have an appeal on their matters. Further, judges are human. They can simply miss the law.

And where there is no robust, transparent process of ‘examining’ candidates for the bench, intellectually challenged individuals will make it due to their connection with the appointing authority.

But one doesn't suddenly get imbued with super-intelligence because a president has appointed them to a constitutional court bench.

A comment on the clause 7(a) amendment: It is going to create uncertainty about which court (the High Court or the Constitutional Court) has jurisdiction. In each case, the issue that would first have to be determined is whether an application or question arose out of a matter involving the enforcement or securing the enforcement of any fundamental right (such as the right to life, liberty, protection of the law, freedom of conscience, expression, assembly and association, protection for the privacy of home and other property (which would include the protection of personal data), deprivation of property without compensation, etc.).

Note again that the Constitution provides for judgments of the High Court to be appealed to the Court of Appeal. However, the Bill would not allow any appeal from any decision of the Constitutional Court. The decision of the Constitutional Court on any matter would be final. It is concerning that the Constitutional Court would have both original jurisdiction (to hear and determine a matter in the first instance) and final jurisdiction (there would be no appeal to the Court of Appeal or any other court).

In respect of any case involving a fundamental rights matter, the High Court would no longer have jurisdiction (be allowed) to hear and determine such case. The Constitutional Court would hear and determine the case in the first instance, and its determination would be final.

By Section 102 (B) the Bill provides that, in the interest of justice, one can bring a matter directly to the con court. One can also appeal directly to the con court from any other court. This is unnecessary as the con court is a court of first instance. This is an attempt to borrow from the South African con court, which is primarily an appellate court.

In my view it would have been prudent to maintain concurrent jurisdiction between the High Court, Court of Appeal and the Constitutional Court. Concurrent jurisdiction is a scenario whereby two or more courts have authority to adjudicate the same matter. South Africa does that. The USA also has concurrent jurisdiction, even between state and federal courts.

The South African example should help. There are only two instances where the SA Con court will permit direct jurisdiction: where it has exclusive jurisdiction and where ‘it is in the interest of justice’ to intervene.

**Dr Letshwiti Batlhalefi Tutwane (PhD), Regulatory Law and Policy is with the Leeds Law School and has sat on the Freedom of Speech panel of the International Association of Constitutional Lawyers (IACL). In 2018, Dr Tutwane received extensive training on constitutionalism in Seoul (South Korea) under the auspices of the IACL and the Korean Ministry of Justice. He is well published in peer-reviewed academic journals across the world.*

The need for protection of Land Ownership Rights

■ The need of Constitutional Court Sistema Concentrado for such



Tony Ntlebe

GLOBALLY COUNTRIES SUCH AS USA, Canada, India run a “Modelo Difuso” where the apex court has a broad jurisdiction that extends into constitution and human rights matters, thus constitutional review jurisdiction. They don't have a constitutional court.

Britain's apex court has very limited powers or rather jurisdiction on review of constitutional matters, hence why you may find a sole Human Rights Act of 1998 sitting there, and currently that law is a subject for discussion to enable repeal and replacement. Holland, China apex courts do not have mandate for the subject review.

Botswana system from far looks like a diffused system, where High Court and Court of Appeal have very limited jurisdiction on constitutional matters. On test they don't have that jurisdiction at all. On access there is zero access. Why? It's costly, long process, at the end Justice XXXXX will deem the Court of Appeal very limited to review our Constitution which was poorly written, very tribalistic, very..... very weak in protection of rights of its people.

Case of customary land, case of Landboard with massive abusive powers used to relieve people of its customary right to tribal land. Remember Landboards threw in leaseholds on what was freehold, imposing 99 years on residential and 50 years on commercial etc. Tribal people were and are still denied to rent out their land. A monnamogolo with a tshimo just by Mmamashia is denied to rent out portion of his land to some RraMadi say for 50years, so that when that 50 years comes to an end he gets back his land. Landboard has that evil right. Non access to a court with full powers for constitutional review would have blocked this situation.

Currently inefficiencies of Landboards fail people in securing title deeds so the people can bond their land to access funding. Try this at either High Court or Court of Appeal, it will be definitely thrown out, then you will see that constitutional right breach. There were times when Landboards refused people to have titles under Customary Grant, they were forced to loose that freehold status to leasehold one. Both the High Court and Court of Appeal failed.

A right to ancestral land, those cases for such were kicked out of our very limited diffused system. In my sector there is some very stupid inclusion which is very wrongly interpreted by the regulator, that one must be a member of a certain association, thus

breaching ones freedom to associate with whoever, whomever, whatever. Like as I said for more than the professionals in that couldn't approach the courts with reasons I raised, of lengthy process, costly ones, facing Court Judges who maybe very incompetent with constitutional matters.

Land ownership rights are a very thorny issue, thanks to a very limited diffused system. Looking into Landlord and Tenants rights it gets worse, as Botswana still fails rights of these parties.

Those whom have been using certain meraka, are being blocked to titles on those meraka's. They can't think of approaching High Court or Court of Appeal, it's not worthy it.

Right within the Diamond Capital of the whole World, Gaborone on the northern parts, sits Kgaphamadi. The people see it not worthy to approach High Court and Court of Appeal for justification of their right to ownership of land so for provision of housing. Worse they can't do that for their right to access to very clear water distributed by WUC, right to connection to power grid, right to healthcare/ education. In those days it was worse our people, my people in Kgaphamadi were ignored.

These issues are very urgent, in the future we shouldn't have such basic hanging in there. Constitutional right has to be protected, preserved. Our constitution at all times has to be optimally proper to be relied.

Though not part of this, it was painful not being allowed to learn my mother's language at school, if a constitutional court was there, we would have long sort this.

Refusal of immediate creation of Constitutional Court, is a continual denial of rights of people of Botswana to ownership of customary land. It is a denial of rights to decent housing. It is a denial of rights for one to use his/her land at ease to source funding through securitisation. It is a denial of rights for our people to securitise meraka through a “Title Deed ya Moraka”.

More than 90s of cases at Land Board wouldn't be there had we long sorted out what led to the disputes, mostly its associated with “rights to ownership of land”.

I am for the Constitutional Court, our people have been subjected poverty due to deliberate very weakened diffuse system on most times issues being decided by Court Judges whom are very incompetent on constitutional matters.

Tony Ntlebe

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We invite readers to write Letters to the Editor on various issues, be they social, political, economic or entertainment related. Although we support and encourage healthy debates and sharing of alternative views, we will not publish any letter that is slanderous or libelous.

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Choppies opens store in Gerald Estates, Francistown



Choppies CEO Ramachandran



Assistant Minister Moswaane officiating at the opening of the store



Kgosi Motlatsi Kediseng giving welcome remarks



Francistown city Mayor Gaone Majere applauding Choppies Group



District Commissioner Chabongwa Matsheka



Assistant Minister Moswaane unveiling the plaque



Choppies also donated school shoes to the Gerald estates community



New Choppies staff ready to serve



Amid pomp and fanfare, Gerald Estates residents in Francistown spent Thursday celebrating the official opening of a Choppies supermarket store in their area. The community and city leadership celebrated the milestone, which will bring an end to the suffering and lack of amenities for residents over many years. Officiating at the occasion, Member of Parliament for Francistown West, Mokwaledi Ignatius Moswaane – who is the Assistant Minister for Local Government and Traditional Affairs applauded the Choppies Group for working closely with different community leaders to ensure the setting up of the store was a success. He reiterated that opening a Choppies supermarket in Gerald Estates would save residents time and travel expenses as they would no longer need to travel to the city centre for basic groceries. Moswaane urged private companies to continue partnering with the community for the empowerment and betterment of Botswana, and further encouraged Choppies Group leadership to consider the less privileged members of the community as they give back through their Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. “As you continue to support our community, we will also support you as a business,” he echoed. In his remarks, Gerald Estates Customary Court President, Motlatsi Kediseng also emphasized that the Gerald Estates community was overjoyed to have a Choppies store in their area, highlighting that the opening of the store is evidence that forming collaborations bears fruits that benefit the community, one such benefit being employment creation for locals. “We are going to benefit from this store, benefits such as employment creation. The people of Francistown are going to be employed here. I have been told that 70 people have been employed here. It does not end there. Countrywide, Choppies is a loyal partner because it allows everyone including vendors to set up in front of their store which also helps us grow our economy,” he added. For his part, Francistown City Mayo, Gaone Majere said: “I would like to appreciate the collaborative efforts of stakeholders from the groundbreaking of this building, until today as we see the store in full operation with people employed. This collective effort is admirable, and I hope going forward we will continue to remain united for the betterment of our people, for the betterment of our community, for the development of our area. Even tomorrow let us remain united to ensure we take services to the people.”



Business

Sefalana nets P5.8 billion revenue

- Up 9% despite tough economic conditions, PBT 10% down
- Misses P225 million as Govt cancels Tsabana-Malutu tender
- Sefalana pursuing diversification strategy for optimal value

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HOME GROWN RETAILER, Sefalana Group said despite the 2025 economic year presenting difficult trading conditions they posted a 9% growth on its revenue reaching P5.8 billion for the 26-week period (half-year) ended 26 October 2025.

The Group Managing Director Chandra Chauhan while presenting the half year results on Friday in Gaborone said the company has been kept afloat by diversified business amid tough economic spell. He said the revenue growth was achieved in the context of inflation rates of between 3-5 in the region.

He said top line growth is an indication of market share penetration, adding that the Group is pleased with the level of growth despite the challenges being experienced in the various economies.

Chauhan said the business diversified into the region in countries such as Lesotho and Namibia, adding that it is the first time the business report negative growth in profits in 15 years – thus signaling how rough the market conditions are.

He said the diamond market has completely disappeared and that makes the local economic conditions highly volatile.

“Our profit before tax has gone down by 10% to P197 million during the period under review. Consumer spending patters have drastically dropped.

We will continue to pursue our diversifications strategy to derive



Sefalana Group Managing Director, Chandra Chauhan

optimal value from across our markets,” said the upbeat Chauhan.

Chauhan also said in 2025 they opened 20 new stores in Botswana, six (6) in Namibia and two (2) in Lesotho.

According to him, despite tough current economic conditions, the business expects to catch up this year, noting that naturally February is the toughest month for the business while from March-April is time for

improvement. On the widely debated P4000 minimum wage, Sefalana boss said the company remains committed to paying the proposed minimum wage, indicating that the company will

implement that within three years. He said progress has already been made with phased adjustments to lower tier employees receiving 23% percent in their wages last year.

FOODS BOTSWANA

Meanwhile, Chauhan said the Foods Botswana business arm didn't perform well because of government's decision to cancel Tsabana/Malutu feeding scheme tender late in December 2025.

As a result, the business lost a lucrative P225 million income. “Foods Botswana's profitability is dependent on government placing orders and paying effectively. Due to the cancellation of tender, we had a terrible December.

We didn't produce anything in December. The tender brings in P225 million in revenue and we are sitting in losses now,” said Chauhan.

Chauhan said they don't know whether the tender will be brought back, adding that at this point in time they are holding P131 million worth of sorghum and soya beans in their silos which were procured in anticipation of the tender.

Furthermore, Sefalana said overall, Botswana business units which usually represents around two thirds of Group business, have generated just over half the Group's profit at P107 million of PBT for the period. This is compared to P157 million in the prior period.

Fuel, food lead imports as copper tops exports in Q3



Food and basic household items featured strongly among imports

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BOTSWANA SPENT MOST OF ITS import bill in the third quarter of 2025 on fuel, electricity and everyday consumer goods, while copper products emerged as the country's biggest non-diamond export, official figures show.

According to Statistics Botswana's November 2025 trade data, total imports reached P7.3 billion, with non-diamond goods making up P6.6 billion, or just over 90 percent of all imports. Diamonds accounted for P685.1 million.

Fuel was the country's biggest import expense. Distillate fuel, used mainly for transport and power generation, topped the list at P618.7 million, followed by petrol worth P409.7 million.

Together, fuel imports alone took a large share of the country's import spending, reflecting Botswana's heavy reliance on imported energy.

Electricity imports were also high, with P305.7 million spent on electrical energy, showing that the country continues to depend on power from outside its borders to support homes, businesses and industry.

Food and basic household items featured strongly among imports.

Botswana brought in large quantities of rice, wheat and maize, as well as cooking oil, beer and processed foods, highlighting ongoing pressure on local food production. Medicines worth P55.9 million were also among the top imports, pointing to steady demand in the health sector.

Building materials and machinery parts, including cement, vehicle parts and construction equipment, made

up another significant portion of imports, reflecting continued activity in construction and infrastructure projects.

In total, the top 50 imported non-diamond goods were valued at nearly P3 billion, accounting for almost 45 percent of all non-diamond imports.

On the export side, Botswana earned P3.9 billion from exports during the same period.

Non-diamond exports contributed P1.6 billion, while diamond exports stood at P59.3 million.

Copper ores and concentrates were by far the biggest non-diamond export, bringing in P803.3 million. This single product accounted for more than half of all non-diamond export earnings, showing the growing importance of copper mining to the economy.

Other exports included vehicle wiring components, industrial chemicals, meat products, coal, salt and selected manufactured goods, though these were produced in much smaller amounts compared to copper. The figures show that while Botswana is earning more from non-diamond exports, these earnings are still concentrated in a few products. At the same time, the country continues to spend heavily on fuel, electricity and food imports a reminder of the ongoing challenge of reducing import dependence and broadening local production.

Bolokwe is CAAB Board Chairman

THE CIVIL AVIATION Authority of Botswana (CAAB) has appointed seasoned capital markets executive, Kopano Bolokwe as the new Board Chairperson. He was appointed on 19th January 2026, on a three-year term.

With more than 15 years of senior-level experience in capital markets across Botswana, South Africa and the United States, Bolokwe brings deep expertise in operating within complex and highly regulated environments. He currently serves as Head of Product Development at the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) and previously held the position of Acting Chief Executive Officer at the Exchange.

CAAB says the appointment is a



Bolokwe deliberate move aimed at enhancing institutional leadership at a time when Botswana is seeking to improve aviation safety, regional

and international connectivity, and the sector's overall contribution to economic development. “Mr Bolokwe's extensive background in institutional governance, regulatory reform and commercialization will be instrumental in advancing CAAB's strategic objectives,” reads part of the statement from CAAB.

Beyond his role at the BSE, Bolokwe has accumulated significant boardroom experience, having served on the boards of the Okavango Diamond Company and Southview Limited, a subsidiary of BOMAID. He is also the Secretary General of the Botswana Bond Market Association, and is widely regarded for his focus on innovation, sustainability and performance-driven leadership.

MMG Khoemacau opens three new mines

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MMG KHOEMACAU, A MAJOR copper mining company operating in north-western Botswana, will hold a groundbreaking ceremony marking the development of three new mines next week.

The milestone event signals a significant expansion of the Khoemacau Copper Mine and reflects the company's continued commitment to Botswana's socio-economic development and the improvement of livelihoods in surrounding communities.

The expansion is expected to create more employment opportunities, strengthen local supply chains, and generate long-term value for stakeholders.

The Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo, is expected to officiate at the ceremony.

In December last year, the company's Board of Directors announced the completion of a feasibility study and approved the decision to proceed with construction of the large-scale expansion project.

The expansion is designed to increase



Khoemacau Copper Mine CEO and ED, Zhao Jing Ivo

annual copper production capacity to approximately 130,000 tonnes of copper in concentrate, with associated silver production exceeding 4 million ounces.

Mining operations will be extended to the Zone 5 North, Mango and Zeta North-East deposits, alongside the construction of a new 4.5 million tonnes per year processing plant. Once completed, total milling capacity at the mine will rise to over 8 million tonnes per year.

Total capital expenditure for the project is estimated at around US\$900 million, including pre-2026 spending.

First copper concentrate from the expansion is expected in the first half of 2028.

The project is also expected to significantly reduce operating costs. Life-of-mine average C1 costs are projected to fall below US\$1.60 per pound, compared to US\$2.05 per pound recorded in the six months ending 30 June 2025. The expansion is seen as a strategic move to enhance the long-term profitability and scale of the company's copper portfolio.

Looking ahead, Khoemacau has identified further expansion potential of up to 200,000 tonnes of copper per annum, supported by ongoing exploration activities. A pre-feasibility study for the next phase of expansion is scheduled to begin in 2026, with further announcements to be made in line with disclosure and shareholder approval requirements.

Meanwhile, in June last year, Chinese mining services provider JCHX Mining Management Co Ltd was awarded a five-year underground mining contract at the Khoemacau Copper Mine, effective from 1 July, taking over from Perenti's Barmenco. The contract, valued at approximately US\$805 million, covers underground mining works at Zone 5.

Rail freight revenue holds firm in 2025



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BOTSWANA RAILWAYS GENERATED P60.5 million in freight revenue in the third quarter of 2025, according to the latest Transport and Infrastructure Statistics Brief released by Statistics Botswana, as attention intensifies on the parastatal's financial performance following public commitments by government.

The Q3 revenue, while slightly lower than the P62.3 million recorded in the same period last year, remains well above

main revenue driver, contributing P17.7 million, followed by exports at P17.4 million. Imports accounted for P16.9 million, while transit traffic generated P8.5 million.

In volume terms, Botswana Railways transported 242,067 net tonnes of goods in Q3 2025, a slight decline from 249,877 tonnes in Q3 2024. Despite the decrease, freight volumes remain considerably higher than levels recorded between 2020 and 2022, suggesting that rail continues to play a key role in the country's logistics network.

The revenue performance comes against the backdrop of heightened public expectations, following remarks by President Duma Boko, who publicly stated that Botswana Railways is expected to be financially sustainable by the end of the year. While the Statistics Botswana report does not include cost or profitability data, the revenue figures provide an indication of the organisation's progress in strengthening its income streams.

Overall, the latest figures suggest that while Botswana Railways has yet to surpass its recent peak revenue levels, 2025 remains a stronger year in revenue terms compared to most previous years, even as pressure grows for sustained improvement in the months ahead.

earnings posted in earlier years, pointing to a sustained improvement in revenue mobilisation over the medium term.

Statistics Botswana data shows that third-quarter rail freight revenue has trended upwards since 2020. Revenue rose steadily through 2021 and 2022 before reaching P65.9 million in Q3 2023, marking the strongest third-quarter performance in recent years. Although revenues have softened marginally since then, the 2025 figure still reflects a more stable and higher revenue base than that seen prior to 2023.

During the July to September 2025 period, local freight traffic emerged as the

Bank Gabs on ESG, Sustainability



OLEBILE MAKHUPE
BANK GABORONE MD

BANK GABORONE IS COMMITTED TO being a responsible financial institution that creates long-term

value for our customers, employees, shareholders, communities, and the environment. Our approach to Sustainability and ESG is clearly articulated through a suite of Bank Gaborone policies, frameworks and governance structures that together form our ESG Policy. These include our Sustainability Framework, Environmental Risk Management Framework, Corporate Social Responsibility Policy, Stakeholder Relationship Management Policy, Code of Ethics and Conduct, Procurement Policy, Strategy, Employee Wellness Policy and our Risk Appetite Statement.

Our purpose is to be a connector of positive change in the communities where we operate. We do so by creating economic

value responsibly, investing in community development, promoting inclusion, and embedding sustainable practices across our operations. This aligns with our board-approved risk appetite, which recognizes that failing to act sustainably constitutes a long-term risk to the bank.

Environmental Stewardship

We are committed to integrating environmentally responsible practices across our lending, operations, and procurement. We support projects that promote renewable energy, resource efficiency, and low-carbon initiatives. Through our Environmental Risk Management Framework, sustainability considerations are applied in credit assessments, ensuring that our financing activities align with national priorities and

sustainability imperatives.

Social Responsibility

Our Corporate Social Responsibility efforts focus on creating lasting community impact. The bank invests in education, skills development, entrepreneurship, health, and the needs of vulnerable groups. Our CSR funding supports non-political, reputable organizations that demonstrate measurable impact and responsible governance. We invest 1% of net profit after tax towards CSR, guided by principles of shared value, local relevance and collaboration with stakeholders. Our people are central to this commitment. We promote diversity, inclusion, fairness, and dignity, ensuring that our workplace culture empowers our employees to contribute meaningfully to our

sustainability journey.

Governance and Ethics

Our governance structures provide clear oversight and accountability. The Board Risk & Compliance Committee oversees our sustainability framework, supported by the Company Secretary and Sustainability Manager. We apply the highest standards of ethics, transparency, and responsible corporate citizenship, guided by the Bankers Association Code of Practice, internal policies, and regulatory requirements. Our policies ensure that all operations meet the standards of regulatory compliance, stakeholder engagement, and ethical conduct.

Looking Ahead

As we continue to evolve our sustainability agenda, we are refining our measurement and reporting of environmental and social impact, aligned with global standards and national priorities. We remain committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals which are SDG2, SDG4, SDG7 and SDG8, and will advance initiatives that support financial inclusion, citizen empowerment, and climate resilience.

Bank Gaborone's sustainability journey is ongoing. We recognize the privilege and responsibility of being entrusted with people's financial futures. Together with our partners, stakeholders, and communities, we will continue to build a bank that is resilient, responsible, and relevant for generations to come.

Know Your Corporate Leader

Full Name: Mr. Moses Macheke

Position: Senior Talent Acquisition Manager

Institution: Cavista Technologies Botswana

Date Started: February 2024

Nature of business: Healthcare Technology. Cavista's vision is to be the most innovative and respected technology solution provider in the market



SAA connects Gaborone to regional travel powerhouses

KITSO RAMONO

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SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS (SAA) HAS moved to strengthen Gaborone's position on the regional travel map by hosting a business speed-networking session that directly linked the city's tourism players with the region's most influential travel sellers.

The closed-door meeting brought together 20 high-performing travel agents from Southern Africa, alongside Botswana-based hotels, car rental companies, tour operators and tourism authorities. The focus was simple: create fast, direct business connections that translate into bookings, packages and increased traffic into Gaborone.

The session comes at a time when destinations are competing aggressively for regional travellers, particularly business and conference traffic that can quickly convert into revenue.

Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) Acting CEO Justice Ofentse said the initiative was about positioning Gaborone as an easy-to-sell destination for travel agents operating in the region.

He said the city has steadily built capacity to host business travellers, meetings and conferences, supported by improved accommodation, infrastructure and professional services. According to Ofentse, Gaborone's advantage lies in its ability to offer business travel without congestion, while still giving visitors access to wildlife, nature and cultural experiences within a short distance.

"This creates opportunities for agents to extend stays and build flexible packages that combine work and leisure," he said.

Ofentse also stressed the importance of reliable air access, noting that strong regional connections are key to converting interest into actual travel. He said SAA's presence on the Johannesburg-Gaborone route strengthens confidence among travel sellers and corporate clients planning trips into Botswana.

For SAA, the engagement was part of



SAA Botswana Sales and Marketing Specialist, Masego Matsila

a broader strategy to actively stimulate demand on the route rather than simply operate flights.

SAA Botswana Sales and Marketing Specialist, Masego Matsila, said the airline sees itself as a partner in growing regional travel and trade, not just a transport provider.

She said SAA operates twice-daily flights between Johannesburg and Gaborone, offering both business and economy class options, making the route suitable for corporate, leisure and conference travellers.

Matsila said the airline is working with travel agents and tourism partners to develop products that respond to changing travel trends, including bundled fares, combined Johannesburg-Gaborone

itineraries and future leisure packages.

She added that SAA offers specialised fares for different market segments, including corporate travel, tour operators, conferences and group travel, allowing agents to price products more competitively.

The speed-dating format allowed participants to engage directly, exchange products and explore immediate partnership opportunities, reducing the gap between destination marketing and actual sales.

Industry players at the event included travel management companies, destination marketers, hotels, car rental firms and tourism authorities, all looking to unlock new business within the regional travel market.

Absa is a Top Employer across six African markets

- Absa Ghana further achieved the number one Top Employer ranking in its market



Jeanett Modise, Absa Group Chief Human Capital Officer

FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, Absa has been recognised as a Top Employer for 2026 by the Top Employers Institute (TEI), following an independent assessment of its people practices across Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, and Mauritius, with Absa Ghana further achieving the number one Top Employer ranking in its market.

Absa achieved an overall group score of 93.66%, an increase from 90.15% in 2025 and materially above the global benchmark of 85.9%. All markets recorded overall scores above 87%, with Absa Bank Botswana delivering the largest year-on-year improvement of 5.53 percentage points. Ghana recorded the highest overall score at 97.38%, while notable improvements were also recorded in Kenya and South Africa, each improving by 4.94 percentage points. Absa Bank Zambia improved by more than 4 percentage points, showcasing Absa's relentless focus on people-focused policies and processes. Achieving the certification across all six markets signifies the effectiveness of Absa's approach to human capital management within the financial services sector in Africa, as assessed against international standards. "The way people think about work is fundamentally changing, and this shift is redefining the relationship between employers and employees. Organisations must be clear and deliberate about the value they offer, ranging from purpose and culture to growth and flexibility, while being

equally transparent about the standards, accountability and performance they expect in return. This clarity is essential to building trust, attracting top talent and creating workplaces where people can truly thrive," said Jeanett Modise, Absa Group Chief Human Capital Officer. "We have focused on sharpening how we define and communicate the Absa employee value proposition, so that it reflects the realities of how people want to work and build their careers. Being recognised as a Top Employer for the fifth consecutive year provides independent validation that this approach is resonating with our people and being applied consistently across our markets."

Charles Russon, Group Executive for Africa Regions, said, "The continued growth in the number of Absa markets achieving Top Employer certification is a powerful endorsement of our people-first strategy and our commitment to building workplaces where excellence, inclusion and high performance can thrive. We are particularly proud of Absa Ghana's achievement as the number one Top Employer in its market, which reflects the depth of our leadership capability, the strength of our culture and our deliberate investment in our people across the region to deliver for our clients."

A notable outcome of the assessment was Absa's achievement of full scores of 100% in Business Strategy, Leadership, and Performance, demonstrating a high degree of consistency in how strategy is translated into leadership practice and organisational

performance. Strong results were also recorded in Ethics and Integrity, with Absa achieving a score of 99.49%, outperforming the global benchmark by 1.45% and the industry benchmark by nearly 2%. The Work Environment score rose to 98.41%, positioning Absa more than 10% above the global benchmark and almost 8% above the industry benchmark. The largest year-on-year gains were recorded in offboarding (+18%), diversity, equity and inclusion (+11.34%), rewards and recognition (+8.78%), sustainability (+7.35%), and employer branding (+5.28%).

TEI is a global authority on recognising excellence in Human Capital practices. Through their globally recognised Certification Programme, using data-driven insights, they enable companies to advance their talent attraction, development, engagement, and retention strategies.

The progress seen in this year's assessment has been underpinned by a more deliberate and data-led approach to understanding the employee experience. Absa continues to strengthen how it listens to its people, introducing more robust benchmarking and analytics that provide deeper insight into trust and engagement across the organisation. This has enabled more focused intervention where it matters most, supporting improvements across the employee lifecycle and reinforcing a culture of openness and accountability. Alongside this, the Group has sharpened how it defines and delivers its employee value proposition, with a clear emphasis on sustaining a high-performance culture while prioritising wellbeing. Ongoing investment in leadership development, supported by refreshed frameworks and coaching approaches, has reinforced consistency in how strategy is led and delivered. At the same time, the Group has advanced its work on inclusion, skills development, and data-driven retention, ensuring that critical capabilities are built and sustained over time. Together, these actions have supported the broad-based improvements recorded across markets and underpinned the Group's overall performance in the assessment.

"Being recognised for the fifth consecutive year gives us a clear line of sight into how our culture and people practices have evolved over time. Aligning to our group strategy, we continue to strive to be customer obsessed, equipping our employees to deliver excellence for our customers. Over this period, we have been deliberate about strengthening our employee value proposition, focusing on the quality of work people do, how they are led, how they learn and grow, and how we support their wellbeing," said Modise.

"That foundation is shaping the kind of workplace we are building for the future, one that is fit for a changing world of work and able to attract and develop the talent our organisation depends on, the talent that enshrines our purpose of empowering Africa's tomorrow, together, one story at a time."

BOD awarded eight copper focused exploration licenses



John Teeling, Botswana Diamonds Chairperson

BOTSWANA DIAMONDS PLC, LISTED on the AIM and the Botswana Stock Exchange, is pleased to announce the award of eight prospecting licences covering approximately 7,000 square kilometres in north-western Botswana. The licence areas, which are valid through to 31st December 2028, were selected following an extensive AI-driven assessment of the Company's 95,000 square kilometres (including 375,000 line kilometres of geophysics) Botswana focused exploration database, which identified significant prospectivity for copper, with additional potential for gold and other critical minerals. Application of the same proprietary technology to diamond exploration has previously highlighted six previously unreported kimberlite-prone

areas, over which the Company also holds licences. The Company's expansion into copper reflects the current weakness in the diamond market, combined with the strong and growing demand for copper and other energy-transition metals. Botswana, as a country, continues to provide a highly stable operating environment with significant geological prospectivity. There is already significant copper activity in Botswana, including both MMG and Sandfire Resources operating newly discovered copper mines, alongside active exploration by Cobre Ltd (which has a JV with BHP), Kavango Resources, Galileo Resources and Aterian plc. Initial discussions have commenced with potential partners regarding a joint venture to advance exploration across the newly

awarded copper-prospective licences. Meanwhile, the Company is planning to undertake close interval geophysical and geochemical surveys designed to define drill targets. The Company continues to monitor the diamond market and associated deployment of capital into its diamond projects. John Teeling, Chairman of Botswana Diamonds, commented: "The further AI analysis of our extensive Botswana exploration database continues to deliver exceptional results. Following the highly successful identification of kimberlite-prone ground, which led to the discovery of six previously unknown anomalies, we extended our analysis to copper and related minerals. The outcomes were outstanding. We have now secured eight prospecting licences covering many of these areas. Copper and other energy-related minerals are critical to the energy transition for a greener future. "The mission of Botswana Diamonds was and still is diamonds. But the market environment for diamonds is poor at present. These market conditions will improve, and this approach allows us to continue progressing the business as a mining company while remaining committed to diamonds over the longer term. "In the meantime, interest has been shown by third parties in both our technology and in the results and we see clear potential to progress these licences efficiently through partnerships and structured exploration programmes." [bse.co.bw]

Botswana, Ghana show how Africa's mining agenda is moving inward



Thuso Tseetse

*THUSO TSEETSE & REINDOLF OFOSU-HENE

IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT AFRICA HOLDS close to a third of the world's known reserves of the minerals essential to the energy transition and to emerging industrial technologies. The figure appears so frequently in policy papers and investor decks that it has become almost rhetorical, a shorthand for potential rather than a measure of realised strategy. But that is beginning to shift, at least at a discernibly faster pace.

Over the past year, policymakers across several of the continent's major producers have advanced new mining frameworks built around local content and domestic participation. The aim is to draw processing and manufacturing capacity closer to the resource, creating beneficiation within national economies and attracting investment into the wider mining ecosystem rather than into extraction alone.

The direction has been welcomed by those who see it as a long-overdue alignment between resource ownership and national development. It remains important to attract capital and create a friendly investor environment for mining and capital-intensive projects.

Countries like Botswana and Ghana have become emblematic of policies and strategies designed to strengthen the mining industry by building national participation, diversifying away from historically dominant commodities, and improving regulatory coherence.

Botswana, for example, is actively diversifying its mining sector beyond diamonds, largely in response to sustained headwinds in the diamond market. Diamonds still dominate the economy – accounting for about 80% of export earnings, one-third of fiscal revenue, and roughly a quarter of GDP – making Botswana the world's largest diamond producer by value. But policy and investment attention are now shifting toward critical minerals such as copper, nickel, soda ash, salt, manganese, lithium, uranium, and gold, driven by global demand for clean-energy inputs. Exploration activity in the Kalahari Copper Belt and Tati Greenstone Belt has intensified, increasingly supported by new geological and data-driven techniques, with multinational firms such as BHP and domestic operators committing capital to battery-metal and gold projects intended to move the industry closer to value addition and long-term sustainability.

In October of 2025, Botswana's Mines and Minerals (Amendment) Act No 14 of 2024 officially came into effect, introducing reforms to promote beneficiation and enhance citizen participation in the country's mining industry. Among its provisions: a 24% citizen equity participation requirement – including a clause that, if the State does not exercise its interest, the block shall be offered to citizens or citizen-owned companies; and a mandatory environmental rehabilitation trust fund or financial guarantee from a Botswana-registered bank. For investors, Botswana's trajectory offers a study in how regulatory tightening can coexist with opportunity.

The country retains one of the most liberal financial regimes in Africa, with no exchange controls and straightforward capital repatriation, which simplifies cross-border investment structures. Its political stability and consistent policy execution continue to rank it among the continent's most reliable jurisdictions for mining capital.

New opportunities are emerging for investors attentive to the ecosystem outside extraction. Skills development and technology adoption are becoming priority areas, with increasing use of AI-driven exploration, digital geological modelling, and automation to improve safety, efficiency, and resource recovery while reducing costs.

The same can be seen in Ghana. Last year, Africa's top gold producer announced plans to shorten mining licence durations and introduce direct revenue-sharing with local communities – its most far-reaching overhaul of mining law in nearly two decades. The reforms aim to tighten accountability and anchor mining benefits more visibly in local economies. Licences will be time-bound rather than open-ended, with renewal tied to environmental, social, and production performance. Revenue flows, once centralised, will now be partially redirected to host communities through fixed-percentage contributions, replacing the older system of discretionary development agreements. The framework also proposes a clearer licensing structure for mid-tier operators and a review of stability agreements, aligning fiscal terms more closely with project lifecycles. The other side is the existence of the local content law, which prescribes that certain aspects of mining activities are the preserve of Ghanaian owned entities. E.g. all surface mining contract activities are the preserve of 100% owned Ghanaian companies. For underground mining operation, ownership must be not less than 30%.

At the same time, policymakers are acutely aware of the risk that comes with Ghana's dependence on gold, which accounts for close to 90% of total mineral export revenue. High prices have shielded the economy in recent years, but they also mask the vulnerability of relying on a single commodity exposed to global cycles and geopolitical shifts. In response, government strategy has turned toward broadening the mineral base. Lithium discoveries in commercial quantities have opened a new frontier, though subdued international prices have delayed full-scale development. The state has also renewed focus on manganese and bauxite, directing new investment into production and downstream capacity, while exploration for copper is beginning to attract interest from both domestic and international firms.

The underlying intent is clear: to use the current gold windfall to finance a transition toward a more balanced and resilient mining economy.

These reforms, combined with a more stable macroeconomic environment, have strengthened Ghana's investment climate. The recent appreciation of the cedi and the rebuilding of foreign reserves have improved financial predictability, while policy has remained pragmatic and growth oriented. For investors, this signals a jurisdiction where regulation and macro management are beginning to reinforce each other; a market in which both capital and long-term participation can be reasonably protected.

What is unfolding in Botswana and Ghana forms part of a broader continental pattern, and it is being shaped with intent. Last year, the African Union released its Africa's Green Minerals Strategy, a plan to use the continent's mineral wealth to drive value addition at source, regional industrialisation, and climate resilience. The strategy recognises that Africa must move beyond raw exports and build integrated value chains that support jobs, skills, and diversified growth.

What stands out is that the continent is not closing itself to global capital in the process. It is making partnership more transparent, access more structured, and alignment with national priorities more deliberate – reshaping the terms of engagement between African resource holders and international investors. For those able to adjust to this new order, Africa's mining sector offers the chance to participate in one of the most important industrial transitions of the coming decades.

**Thuso Tseetse is Head of Natural Resources, Absa Botswana while Reindolf Ofosu-Hene is Head of Natural Resources, Ghana*



Reindolf Ofosu Hene

VACANCIES AT BA ISAGO UNIVERSITY

BA ISAGO University is a registered Private Tertiary Education Institution, offering Certificate, Diploma Undergraduate and Post Graduate Degree programmes. The University is inviting suitably qualified candidates to apply for the following positions tenable at its campuses in Gaborone, Francistown and Maun:

SENIOR LECTURERS/PROFESSORS

1. DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (1 POST)

The ideal candidates should meet the following minimum requirements:

Qualifications and Experience: Must be a Senior Lecturer and holder of PhD in Business Management or related fields.

Must have at least 10 research outputs in peer reviewed referred journals and at least 3 of these publications must be produced within the past 5 years.

Must be able to teach at least 2 of the following modules:
Scientific writing, philosophy of science, analysis of arguments, decision support modelling, current topics in risk or decision analysis. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

LECTURERS/SENIOR LECTURERS/PROFESSORS

1. QUANTITY SURVEYING (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in the following modules at undergraduate level: Construction Quantities, Quantity Surveying Practice, Construction Economics and Information Technology using WinQS. The incumbent will assist undergraduates with Quantity Surveying related research.

Qualifications: At least an upper second (2.1) undergraduate degree class in Quantity Surveying/ Building or Construction Economics. A Master's Degree in Quantity Surveying / Civil Engineering / Architecture / Construction Management / Project Management or its equivalent. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Teaching/ training Quantity Surveying, Engineering or Architectural practice. Evidence of research work and community engagement. Professional registration with a recognized body such as the Botswana Institution of Quantity Surveyors / Quantity Surveying Registration Council of Botswana / Association of South African Quantity Surveyors / Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors etc. is desirable.

2. RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three (3) of the following modules at undergraduate level:

Reinsurance Principles and Practices, Applied Risk Management, Employee Benefit Plan, Design and Financing, Financial Services Regulation and Insurance Law, Risk Financing and Insurance.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Risk Management and Insurance or its equivalent. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Risk Management and Insurance and also Teaching/training experience required.

3. ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three (3) of the following modules at undergraduate level: General Financial Reporting, Group Financial Reporting, Distinctive Financial Reporting, Auditing Theory and Practice and Corporate Governance in Accountancy.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Accounting and Finance or its equivalent. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Accounting and Finance and also Teaching/training experience required.

4. BANKING AND FINANCE (2 POSTS)

Applicants should be able to teach the following modules:
Financial Systems in Botswana, Bank Lending and Credit Risk Management, Treasury Management, Money and Banking, Corporate Finance and Investment Evaluation.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Banking and Finance or its equivalent. A PhD will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Banking and Finance and also Teaching/training experience required.

5. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least five of the following modules at undergraduate level: Stochastic Analysis and Optimisation in Finance, Financial Modelling, Behavioural Finance, Investment & Portfolio Management, Derivatives/Financial Engineering, Investment Evaluation and Fund Management.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Investment Management / Finance or its equivalent. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Investment Management and also Teaching/training experience required.

6. REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three (3) of the following modules at undergraduate level: Property Marketing, Property Valuation, Property Auctioneering, Estate Agency, Real Estate Investment & Finance and Property Management.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Real Estate or its equivalent. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Membership of Professional body is a prerequisite. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Real Estate Management and also Teaching/training experience required.

7. SAFETY MANAGEMENT (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in the following modules at undergraduate level:

Occupational Hygiene, First-aid Procedures, Environmental Impact Assessment, Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management, Concepts and Principles of Climate Change, Radiation safety, Occupational Health, Ergonomics, Safety Law, Safety Principles & Practice and Safety Management.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Safety Management, Occupational Health and Safety & Environmental Health. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant experience in Occupational Health and Safety needed and also Teaching/training experience required.

8. TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three (3) of the following modules at undergraduate level:

Procurement and supply chain management, Transport economics, Management in Logistics transport theory, Warehousing and Inventory Management.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Transport and Logistics or its equivalent. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Transport and Logistics and also Teaching/training experience required.

9. LAW AND PARALEGAL STUDIES (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three (3) of the following modules at undergraduate level:

Construction Law, Law Relating to Banking, Commercial Law, Business Law and Litigation, Civil Procedure, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, Corporate Law.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Law. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Law and Paralegal Studies and also Teaching/training experience required.

10. LAW AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three (3) of the following modules at undergraduate level:

Development administration and Policy, local governance, sociology, Public Policy, Political science

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Public Administration. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Law and Public Administration and also Teaching/training experience required.

11. ACTUARIAL SCIENCES (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three (3) of the following modules at undergraduate level:

Actuarial Mathematics, Actuarial Statistics, Survival Models and Stochastic Processes.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Actuarial Sciences or its equivalent. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Actuarial Sciences and also Teaching/training experience required.

12. GENERAL MANAGEMENT (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three (3) of the following modules at undergraduate level:

Business Environment, Production and Operations Management, Principles of Management and Global Business Environment.

Qualifications: Master's Degree in Business Management or its equivalent. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in General Management and also Teaching/training experience required.

13. GENERAL EDUCATION (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three (3) of the following modules at undergraduate level:

Educational Psychology, Philosophy of Education, Comparative Education, Professional ethics in Education, Measurement and Evaluation, Guidance and Counselling.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Education or its equivalent. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in General Education and also Teaching/training experience required.

14. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three (3) of the following modules at undergraduate level:

Design Studio 1: Introduction to Design, Outline of the Built Environment Landscape Architecture, Context and History 1: The Garden and Parks, Arts and Conceptual Design Development, Computer Literacy (CAD Based Programmes) and professional practice, Environmental Assessment 2: Scoping and Managing Stakeholders, Land Architecture Design Construction Drawings and Land Architecture Design 5: International Design

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture or its equivalent. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Landscape Architecture and also Teaching/training experience required.

15. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in the following modules at undergraduate level:

Computing and Information Skills, Computer Skills and Introduction to Computers.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Computer Science / IT. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Information Technology and also Teaching/training experience required.

16. COUNSELLING (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three (3) of the following modules at undergraduate level:

Applied neuropsychology in Education, Counselling and Psychotherapy in Applied Psychology, Psychological Assessments & Measurements, Psychology of Childhood & Youth, Psychology courses

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Counselling and Human Services or its equivalent. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Counselling and also Teaching/training experience required.

17. INCLUSIVE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION LECTURER (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three (3) of the following modules at undergraduate level:

Children with Special Needs and the society, Physical and Health Impairment, Assessment of children with special needs, Instructional methods in Special or inclusive education, Assistive Technology for Learners with Special Needs.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Special and Inclusive Education or its equivalent. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage. Registration with BQA as a trainer, assessor and moderator is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Inclusive and Special Education and also Teaching/training experience required.

18. DIGITAL MARKETING / ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (2 POSTS)

Applicants must be able to lecture in at least three of the following modules at Undergraduate level:

Web Design & Development, Social Media Marketing, Data Analytics, Content Marketing, Digital Marketing Strategy, Marketing Technology.

Qualifications: Master's Degree in Digital Marketing or Artificial Intelligence or a related field (PhD is an added advantage)

Experience: Strong industry experience in digital marketing tools and platforms. Demonstrated research interest in Digital Marketing or Artificial Intelligence.

19. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (1 POST)

Applicants must be able to teach all the modules related to Early Childhood Development and supervise research at undergraduate level.

Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Early Childhood Development. A relevant Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage.

Experience: At least 1 year relevant work experience in Early Childhood Development and also Teaching/training experience required.

Closing Date: 16th February 2026

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted after the closing date.

Please send your application letters, CVs, certified certificates with names and contact details of three referees to: Director-Human Resources, Administration and Facilities;

Private Bag BR 94, Gaborone
Tel: +267 3957744
Email: recruitment@baisago.ac.bw

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 Gaborone International Finance Park

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF UNEMPLOYMENT, HEALTH AND EDUCATION CRISES IN THE COUNTRY

Gaborone, Botswana – 24 January 2026. It is a saddening experience for the working class to continue enduring the perils of a crisis they did not create. Unemployment and underemployment in our country are not unfortunate accidents nor did they emerge mysteriously. They are the predictable result of policy confusion and an exclusionary developmental model that sidelines labour while enriching a few. This reality has tormented the working class and the poor for a very long time. However, we have since observed that challenges of unemployment and underemployment will continue unabated in the new republic. Except for the upcoming Employment and Labour Relations Act, there is little or no radical policy shift from the mainstream ideas that created the crisis.

As a national trade union, we reject the normalization of joblessness, precarious work, and poverty wages. This is a national emergency. Currently, scores of young people continue to graduate into idleness. They ultimately relapse back into illiteracy. Skilled workers are stranded in casual contracts without benefits. Public vacancies remain frozen while critical services continue to strain painfully. Despite this, we have observed a disturbing pattern of bloating the civil service at the top, creating duplications and failing to cater for operational positions in lower and middle management. The result is a top heavy civil service, with redundant at the top and less vacancies at the bottom. Private sector outsourcing and short-termism have hollowed out stable employment. Meanwhile, stagnating wages, rising living costs, and widening inequality are pushing families to the brink.

We demand a concrete, time-bound national employment plan anchored in decent work. This must include: rapid public sector hiring in health, education, and infrastructure; a local procurement regime that prioritizes firms that create permanent, unionized jobs; enforceable anti-labour-brokering regulations; and a living wage floor across sectors. Industrial policy must target value addition, not raw export dependency. This will link incentives to job creation, skills transfer, and worker protections. Informal workers must be brought under social protection, with access to pensions, healthcare, and unemployment support.

We further call for transparent labour market data, a public registry of vacancies, and mandatory disclosure of job creation outcomes for any entity receiving state contracts or incentives. Collective bargaining coverage must expand, and labour inspection must be funded to enforce the law, not merely advise on it. Botswana's prosperity will be built by workers or it will not be built at all. We are ready to partner in good faith, but we will mobilize relentlessly against complacency and exploitation. That is the role of a progressive labour movement. The dignity of work is not negotiable. Jobs with rights, wages with dignity, growth with equity.

The enduring rot in the education sector.

Botswana's education sector is collapsing under the weight of persistent leadership failure, negligence, and empty rhetoric. Classrooms are overcrowded, infrastructure is crumbling, teachers are demoralized, and learning outcomes are in free fall—yet leaders offer cosmetic fixes and photo opportunities instead of decisive action. This crisis is not accidental; it is the direct result of chronic underfunding, policy flip-flops, and a refusal to confront hard truths with courage and competence.

Our children deserve qualified teachers, safe schools, books, broadband, and a curriculum aligned to the future. Instead, they receive broken promises and shifting blame. The leadership's silence in the face of deteriorating standards is an indictment of priorities that places politics above pupils and prestige above progress. We also reject authorities' impression of labour issues from a top-down approach, excluding recognized unions and making unilateral decisions. The recent pronouncement of freezing of temporary teaching positions is a hostile and ignorant one. We demand the enrolment of temporary teachers on a fulltime basis.

We demand an emergency recovery plan with time-bound targets: stabilize teacher recruitment and retention, restore essential resources to every school, fix infrastructure with transparent procurement, strengthen school leadership, and inspectorate, including publication of annual, independent performance data. Funding must match ambition, and accountability must be non-negotiable. In 2026, Botswana cannot afford another lost year. Education is the backbone of our economy, the guarantor of dignity, and the engine of national cohesion. Leadership must act now – weed out poor leaders, make way for capable young and progressive leaders.

The state of public health sector: ICU

We are outraged by the persistent leadership failures that have pushed Botswana's health care system to the brink of collapse. Hospitals are under-resourced, clinics are understaffed, and essential medicines run out with alarming regularity. In the midst of this, authorities offer excuses instead of solutions. Since the transfer of clinics from the center to local authorities, the stark realities of lack of a proper fleet management system continues to affect the provision of ambulance services. The facilities remain delapidated, members of staff reside in housing with no maintenance plans, falling ceilings, leaking water taps and broken windows. The same staff's emoluments such as overtime pay for overtime worked remains in months of arrears. The deplorable deficiency of vital medicines is an eyesore, as health workers cannot help but watch patient succumb to preventable and curable maladies.

These consequences are the obvious painful experience of preventable deaths, demoralised health workers, and communities losing faith in a system that should protect them. This crisis is not the result of fate; it is the product of neglect, poor planning, and a lack of accountability. Budgets are announced but not delivered where needed, procurement is opaque, and critical infrastructure is allowed to decay. Our political leadership tends to be negligent, and often pronounce untruths and half-truths about the prevailing situation. The tendency towards silence, inaction, excuses and blame game will only postpone the resolution of the crisis faced by suffering patients. This is utterly unacceptable.

We demand immediate, measurable action by the new administration, most of which we have been promised: emergency funding for essential supplies, transparent procurement with public reporting, rapid recruitment and retention of health professionals, and rehabilitation of primary and referral facilities. As we have mentioned in the past, there's also need to establish an independent oversight body with the power to audit, publish findings, and enforce consequences for non-performance as well as enhancing accountability. Botswana deserve competent leadership that treats health care as a national priority, not a political talking point and pontification. Every day of delay costs lives. The time for platitudes is over.

In workers solidarity

Cde Robert R. Rabasimane (LLB) Secretary General

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Sefalana GROUP
Your basket of opportunities

Revenue **9%**

EBITA **-14%**

Total Comprehensive Income **63%**

PBT **-10%**

Employment **5%**

Total **8,555**

New Stores **6**

UNAUDITED GROUP FINANCIAL RESULTS

For the 26 week period (half - year) ended 26 October 2025

	Unaudited 26 weeks ended 26 October 2025	Unaudited 26 weeks ended 27 October 2024	Audited 52 weeks ended 27 April 2025
	P'm	P'm	P'm
Revenue	5 819.4	5 356.4	11 173.7
Cost of sales	(5 466.2)	(4 994.6)	(10 381.3)
Gross profit	353.2	361.8	792.4
Other income and gains	33.0	28.0	155.9
Administrative expenses	(193.1)	(165.8)	(394.2)
Earnings before interest, tax and amortisation (EBITA)	193.1	224.0	554.1
Amortisation	(3.2)	(3.8)	(6.7)
Investment income	35.1	17.5	47.4
Finance costs	(25.4)	(14.2)	(38.1)
Profit before share of results of associates	199.6	223.5	556.8
Share of results of associates	(2.7)	(4.2)	(6.7)
Profit before tax	196.9	219.3	550.1
Income tax expense	(57.1)	(60.8)	(124.1)
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	139.8	158.5	426.0
Other comprehensive income:			
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss			
Net gain on revaluation of land and buildings			20.0
Gross gain on revaluation of land and buildings			25.4
Income tax on gain on revaluation of land and buildings			(5.4)
Items that may be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss			
Currency translation differences	170.3	31.5	(3.2)
Other comprehensive income for the period (net of tax)	170.3	31.5	16.8
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	310.1	190.0	442.8
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD ATTRIBUTABLE TO:			
Owners of the parent	138.6	156.4	423.8
Non - controlling interests	1.2	2.1	2.2
TOTAL PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	139.8	158.5	426.0
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO:			
Owners of the parent	308.9	187.9	440.6
Non - controlling interests	1.2	2.1	2.2
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	310.1	190.0	442.8
Number of shares in issue at beginning and end of the year	250 726 709	250 726 709	250 726 709
Dividends per share (thebe) - ordinary - interim		12	12
Dividends per share (thebe) - ordinary - final	n/a	n/a	38
Basic earnings per share (thebe)	55.2	62.4	169

	Unaudited 26 October 2025	Unaudited 27 October 2024	Audited 27 April 2025
	P'm	P'm	P'm
ASSETS			
NON - CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	1322.9	1130.3	1261.6
Right of use asset	297.8	216.0	239.0
Investment in preference shares	220.8	225.8	207.1
Intangible assets	109.9	106.4	103.0
Investment in associates	38.2	43.5	39.2
Loan to associate	68.8	55.0	58.2
Investment in preference shares	344.5	344.5	344.5
Deferred lease assets	4.2	5.4	3.9
Deferred tax assets	38.5	35.4	35.5
Trade and other receivables	1.5	3.4	4.1
Total non - current assets	2 439.1	1 821.2	2 252.1
CURRENT ASSETS			
Inventories	1 659.8	1 417.6	1 487.5
Trade and other receivables	384.1	437.5	404.3
Short term investments	120.9	280.2	76.3
Current tax assets	14.8	16.7	5.3
Cash and cash equivalents	668.9	707.3	528.2
Total current assets	2 848.5	2 859.3	2 501.6
TOTAL ASSETS	5 287.6	4 680.5	4 753.7
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
EQUITY			
Stated capital	686.4	686.4	686.4
Other reserves	459.8	304.2	289.5
Retained earnings	1 865.4	1 584.7	1 822.1
Equity attributable to owners of the parent	3 011.6	2 575.3	2 798.0
Non - controlling interests	27.8	26.5	26.6
Total equity	3 039.4	2 601.8	2 824.6
NON - CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liabilities	255.9	155.2	179.7
Loans and borrowings	311.7	261.2	310.0
Deferred tax liabilities	134.6	129.6	131.7
Total non - current liabilities	702.2	546.0	621.4
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	1 258.3	1 228.4	972.7
Lease liabilities	67.2	82.7	80.2
Loans and borrowings	22.0	23.0	23.5
Contract liabilities	11.2	13.9	12.2
Current tax liabilities	33.9	43.1	34.0
Bank overdrafts	65.1	47.7	66.9
Provisions and accruals	86.6	74.9	119.2
Total current liabilities	1 546.0	1 512.7	1 307.7
Total liabilities	2 248.2	2 078.7	1 929.1
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	5 287.6	4 680.5	4 753.7

	Unaudited 26 weeks ended 26 October 2025	Unaudited 26 weeks ended 27 October 2024	Audited 52 weeks ended 27 April 2025
	P'm	P'm	P'm
Net cash generated from operating activities	323.2	325.9	281.4
Net cash flows utilised in investment activities	(90.3)	(201.5)	(299.4)
Dividends paid	(95.3)	(132.9)	(163.9)
Loan funding for investments including preference shares		200.0	250.0
Net cash flows from other financing activities	(43.6)	(31.1)	(76.3)
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	94.0	160.4	(7.3)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	528.2	533.9	533.9
Effect of exchange rate on cash and cash equivalents	46.7	13.0	1.6
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	668.9	707.3	528.2

	Equity attributable to owners of the parent					Non-controlling interests	Total equity
	Stated capital	Reserves	Retained earnings	Total	Equity		
	P'm	P'm	P'm	P'm	P'm	P'm	
At 27 April 2025	686.4	289.5	1 822.1	2 798.0	26.6	2 824.6	
Profit for the year			138.6	138.6	1.2	139.8	
Other comprehensive income for the year:							
Currency translation differences		170.3		170.3		170.3	
Dividends paid - 2025 final dividend			(95.3)	(95.3)		(95.3)	
At 26 October 2025	686.4	459.8	1 965.4	3 011.6	27.8	3 039.4	

	Botswana	Zambia	Lesotho	Namibia	South Africa	Australia	Group
For the 26 week period ended 26 October 2025							
Revenue	2 976.9	64.7	321.9	38.9	2.9	497.0	2 117.4
Cost of sales	(2 875.6)	(53.9)	(239.2)	(29.9)	2.9	(470.0)	(2 010.7)
Gross profit	101.3	10.8	182.7	38.9	2.9	27.0	106.7
Other income and gains / (losses)	18.4	3.5	2.0	1.7	(0.6)	0.1	11.2
Administrative expenses	(68.1)	(11.2)	(44.7)	(7.6)	(0.8)	(18.4)	(37.9)
Earnings before interest, tax and amortisation (EBITA)	51.6	3.1	40.0	33.0	1.5	8.7	145.1
Amortisation	(0.5)						(0.5)
Investment income	4.2	0.6	0.2	2.5	0.7	5.1	16.6
Finance costs	(13.9)	(0.7)	(3.2)	(3.3)	(0.3)	(4.0)	(24.4)
Profit before share of results of associates	41.4	3.0	30.6	32.2	1.5	5.0	69.3
Share of results of associates	81.8	8.4	43.6	22.7	2.0	12.0	63.1
Profit before tax (PBT)	41.4	3.0	30.6	32.2	1.5	5.0	69.3

	Botswana	Zambia	Lesotho	Namibia	South Africa	Australia	Group
For the 26 week period ended 27 October 2024							
Revenue	2 829.4	102.4	261.8	34.6	2.4	453.5	1 827.6
Cost of sales	(2 699.6)	(79.8)	(194.4)	(24.2)	2.4	(425.2)	(1 732.1)
Gross profit	129.8	22.6	67.4	34.6	2.4	28.3	95.5
Other income and gains / (losses)	15.2	2.4	1.7	1.3	0.1	0.1	9.0
Administrative expenses	(59.2)	(15.7)	(25.8)	(7.3)	(0.5)	(13.7)	(30.6)
Earnings before interest, tax and amortisation (EBITA)	85.8	9.3	43.9	26.6	1.9	14.7	73.9
Amortisation	(0.4)						(0.4)
Investment income	3.2	0.7	1.4	0.3	0.1	(2.5)	12.5
Finance costs	(6.8)	(1.6)	(1.7)	(4.2)	2.0	(0.6)	(4.1)
Profit before share of results of associates	81.8	8.4	43.6	22.7	2.0	12.0	63.1
Share of results of associates	81.8	8.4	43.6	22.7	2.0	12.0	63.1
Profit before tax (PBT)	81.8	8.4	43.6	22.7	2.0	12.0	63.1

	Botswana	Zambia	Lesotho	Namibia	South Africa	Australia	Group
For the 52 week period ended 27 April 2025							
Revenue	5 839.1	126.2	599.5	65.7	4.9	1 005.1	3 813.9
Cost of sales	(5 521.2)	(105.2)	(442.2)	(67.4)	4.9	(943.8)	(3 619.2)
Gross profit	317.9	21.0	157.3	65.7	4.9	261.3	194.7
Other income and gains / (losses)	26.2	7.1	2.2	13.8	(0.3)	0.3	18.3
Administrative expenses	(133.5)	(21.8)	(78.7)	(15.7)	(1.3)	(26.1)	(70.1)
Earnings before interest, tax and amortisation (EBITA)	210.6	6.3	80.8	63.8	3.3	36.5	142.5
Amortisation	(0.9)					(1.6)	(1.6)
Investment income	5.6	1.3	2.2	0.6	1.4	9.8	15.3
Finance costs	(14.8)	(0.5)	(6.9)	(8.2)	3.3	(5.8)	(25.7)
Profit before share of results of associates	200.5	7.1	76.1	56.2	3.3	29.5	122.9
Share of results of associates	200.5	7.1	76.1	56.2	3.3	29.5	122.9
Profit before tax (PBT)	200.5	7.1	76.1	56.2	3.3	29.5	122.9

	Botswana	Zambia	Lesotho	Namibia	South Africa	Australia	Group
26 October 2025							
Assets	1 792.5	92.5	503.5	705.8	59.3	282.5	1 266.9
Liabilities	(1 172.5)	(24.9)	(206.5)	(140.3)	(0.7)	(230.7)	(885.5)
27 October 2024							
Assets	1 655.1	145.5	377.8	734.2	46.3	256.3	1 111.2
Liabilities	(1 108.3)	(69.6)	(122.1)	(206.3)	(0.6)	(185.5)	(805.9)
27 April 2025							
Assets	1 589.7	99.1	556.2	712.3	47.6	277.4	1 089.9
Liabilities	(970.1)	(30.3)	(265.2)	(193.8)	(0.9)	(189.1)	(761.6)

COMMENTARY

Basis of preparation and accounting policies
The unaudited abridged consolidated financial results of Sefalana Holding Company Limited and its subsidiaries ("Sefalana" / the "Group") are extracted from the Group financial information that has been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), under the historical cost convention except for the revaluation of certain non-current assets, being land and buildings and investment in properties, which are carried at fair value.

The accounting policies applied in the preparation of the unaudited financial information for the 26-week period ended 26 October 2025 ("the period" / the "half year"), are consistent with those applied in the preparation of the audited financial statements for the 52-week period ended 27 April 2025.

Trading overview and context for Group results
Although we report our highest top line Group revenue in our 51 year history, for the first time since 2017, we report negative growth in profit compared to the prior period. This is largely due to the incredibly difficult economic trading conditions in Botswana following the decline in worldwide demand for diamonds and the related liquidity crunch which has allowed borrowing significantly more expensive for the consumer, impacting spending power.

In July 2025 the Botswana Pula depreciated 8% against the ZAR following an adjustment made by the Bank of Botswana. This has made imports of product more expensive. The majority of product consumed in Botswana is imported from South Africa. Consequently, the Group's settlement of creditors in that month cost the business an extra unanticipated P16 million. Stripping out the impact of this one-off additional cost during the period, the Group's profit would have been less than 3% below that of the prior period.

Consumer spending has dropped and our customer base is closely managing available spend and prioritising low margin necessities and essentials. Demand for the higher margin luxury items has diminished resulting in an overall dilution of gross margin.

The Namibian economy, where we have our second largest business, is also experiencing some strain, albeit not at the levels being seen in Botswana. Pressure on consumer affordability has been impacted by general inflation and persistent unemployment.

Financial highlights
For the 26-week period to 26 October 2025, the Group achieved:
 • Revenue of P5.8 billion - up 9% on prior period;
 • Earnings before interest, tax, and amortisation ("EBITA") of P193 million - down 14% on prior period;
 • Profit before tax of P197 million - down 10% on prior period;
 • Total Comprehensive Income of P310 million - up 63% on prior period; and
 • Total employment of 8,555 - up 383 individuals - up 5%.

Key performance indicators

Revenue - top line growth
Revenue of P5.8 billion was our highest reported half year results with an increase of 9% compared to P5.2 billion in the prior period. A similar trend is being experienced across the Region as many suppliers are common to all our business units and competitive pressures have heightened during the period. The impact of the July 2025 Pula depreciation had a significant adverse impact on the reported GP of the Botswana business, as we honoured the pricing put out in the market such that our customer base was not disadvantaged.

Gross profit and impact of July currency adjustment
Group Gross Profit (GP) of 61% was achieved compared to 6.8% in the prior period, illustrating the increased competitive environment in all the territories in which we operate. Absolute GP reported of P353m was 2% down on the prior period.

GP percentage for Sefalana Botswana was 3.4% compared to 4.6% in the prior period, Metro Namibia at 5.0% compared to 5.2% previously, and Sefalana Lesotho at 1.4% compared to 1.2% in the prior period. PBT and EPS are being experienced across the Region as many suppliers are common to all our business units and competitive pressures have heightened during the period. The impact of the July 2025 Pula depreciation had a significant adverse impact on the reported GP of the Botswana business, as we honoured the pricing put out in the market such that our customer base was not disadvantaged.

Inventory holding
Inventory levels are at our historic high at P1.7 billion. The Group has grown and there has been an increased need to strategically pre-order buffer stock to avoid stock-outs in-store. To support this additional inventory holding, we were expecting to embark on the construction of a 10,000 sqm warehouse in Gaborone North in the prior year. This new facility with an estimated cost of around P90 million has been put on hold given the increased cost of borrowing. We will revisit this once the interest rates have normalised.

Administrative expenses
Administrative expenses accounted for 3.3% of revenue compared to 3.1% in the prior period. Careful cost reduction and management of expenditure took place to mitigate the lower GP generated. Third party supplier cost increases were limited wherever possible. The main increase relates to the above average pay increments awarded to the lower paid staff in the Botswana business as we look to increase their overall packages. All our staff continue to be paid above the minimum wage, in all our territories. Electricity tariffs have increased significantly during the period and amounted to some P9 million higher than the comparative period.

Profit before tax and earnings per share (EPS)
PBT of P197m was down 10% on the prior period. EPS of 55 thebe was below that of the prior period of 62 thebe. The effective tax rate for the period was 29% compared to 28% broadly in line with the prior period.

Balance sheet strength
Our net asset position grew from P2.8 billion at April 2025 to P3.0 billion at October 2025. This is after paying our highest dividend to date to our Shareholders in respect of the April 2025 period. The market capitalisation of the Group on 26 October 2025 amounted to P4 billion, placing Sefalana as the largest in the Retail and Wholesale sector on the Botswana Stock Exchange.

Cash position
Given the Group's investment in new stores to support long term growth of the business, and the related cash investment in inventory, the Group's cash position has continued to be under pressure. At the end of October 2025, this amounted to P0.7 billion and was well below our trade payable position of P1.2 billion. Normal working capital movements in November allowed for the settlement of amounts due to suppliers. We are now generating and preserving our cash resources to support our ongoing operations.

Employment
We are pleased to report that despite the difficult trading conditions, and a continued focus on strategic growth, our Group has created employment for an additional 632 persons during the last 12 months taking our total number of staff to 8,555. We continue to focus our employment on citizens in all our areas of operation and report under 1% non

lifestyle

Beauty reset, a lifestyle experience

NANCY MOLEFE
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BEAUTY IS NOT ABOUT perfection but about alignment. When you understand who you are and how you want to show up, everything else follows. Professional makeup artist, beauty educator and entrepreneur Jessica Molefe has curated the new year's beauty reset brunch as an invitation for women to step into clarity with confidence.

Working at the intersection of beauty, self-image and personal development, the renowned makeup artist seeks to help women use beauty not just as aesthetics, but as a tool for confidence, self-expression and personal growth. This February 7th, beauty reset will convene women from various backgrounds and professions in one setup, for an intentional lifestyle and beauty experience designed to refresh and reset how they see themselves. Molefe is of the belief that all this goes far beyond surface level beauty by combining practical beauty education, mindset conversations and wellness insights, creating space for realignment, growth and reinvention. "Attendees can expect a curated, high-end experience that includes expert-led conversations, a practical makeup masterclass, networking and carefully selected brand activations. Most importantly, they will leave with knowledge, skills and clarity, not just a good time."



Jessica Molefe

The event will allow women a chance to be engaged in a practical masterclass on office-ready makeup, teaching women how to confidently

apply makeup beginning with proper skin preparation. As shared by Molefe, beauty should be intentional and not confusing. Moreover, the beautician will share how she evolved from self-doubt and limitation into alignment, confidence and intentional living, with no scripts, no pretence but truth, growth and lived experience.

"This is not about perfection. It's about realignment. It's about becoming." As shared by the host, many lifestyle events focus mainly on aesthetics and experience. Therefore, beauty reset is different as it intentionally integrates skill-building and self-perception work. The makeup artist explained that when a woman's self-perception shifts, her standards, decisions and lifestyle follow.

The event is hence designed to spark that internal shift. The 2026 edition is curated specifically for women, as the conversations and experiences are tailored to women's lifestyle, beauty and wellness needs.

The event is an annual experience, with each edition building on a new theme around growth, alignment and intentional living. "What makes beauty reset truly special is the authenticity behind it. It is built from lived experience, not trends. Every session, speaker and partner is intentionally selected to add value." The event is set to be held at gamecity rooftop in Gaborone from 11am to 5pm and tickets are on sale for P400.

Ga Nkuku nurtures parenthood

AMANDA DAVID
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IN FRANCISTOWN, A BEACON OF hope for expectant parents and new moms, Ga Nkuku Parental and Baby Wellness Centre is redefining birth stories by pioneering a revolution of prenatal care that focuses on empowering expectant parents using unorthodox but effective methods to nurture parenthood. The Managing Director of the center, Tiny Tlhabologang boasts of 42 years in practice as a midwife and general nursing practitioner coupled with work experience from both local and international health facilities, also having worked in government and private entities. Ga Nkuku, Tlhabologang's brainchild is the only licensed midwifery-led care facility in the country which not only focuses on ante natal care and post natal care, but also offers parent craft classes, couples and mom's coaching on pregnancy, labour delivery and breastfeeding, as well as nursing services for home based care clients which is uncommon in Botswana's health care. In her many years of experience in the industry, Tlhabologang has observed that Botswana's maternal mortality rate is significantly high, something that she believes is avoidable by employing basic soft skills.

"Parent craft classes are where we teach someone to be aware of what is happening in their bodies and how they can do things better to prevent complications, especially first time moms who are clueless. We go through pregnancy with them from scratch to birth. I prefer for them to come as couples," she added.

Tlhabologang explained that initially she preferred to host the parent craft classes in groups to allow expectant parents to engage with one another and share experiences, also adding that it is crucial for expectant mothers to have a strong support system and attend classes with a support person from registration to labour. In couples, she explains that the classes also prepare the expectant mother's partners on what to expect throughout the journey as well as how they can be supportive to the mother. In her observation over the years, a patient who is aware of what to expect and prepares for the journey is less likely to have complications.

In their endeavor to be a birthing center of excellence, the center ensures clients are prepared for labour, and are taught how to handle the pain, they are able to make birth plans which allow the expectant mother to choose a pain relief method prior to labour. At Ga Nkuku, Tlhabologang gives expectant couples a chance to co-plan their parenting journey, strengthening their bond and encouraging shared responsibility.

"They respond very well to the program, if they both understand what is happening, they are able to share responsibilities," she added.

Ga Nkuku offers birthing options, breastfeeding prep as well as virtual consultations and classes- a refreshing approach that is breaking Botswana's health care norms.

A former client of the center who had a bad experience in a public facility during her first pregnancy, Charity Nzala had nothing but praises for the uniqueness and professionalism she received at

Ga Nkuku during her second pregnancy, "The one on one classes are very informative, they help ease anxiety because you are told what to expect and what to do especially new mummies and daddies. I and my partner were taught about pregnancy, delivery, breastfeeding, what to do and what not to do to avoid complications, as well as good parenting. The environment at Ga Nkuku is comfortable and inviting, the journey was bearable you are free and open. They were with us every step of the way." In support of initiatives and facilities such as Ga Nkuku Parenting and Wellness Center that promote partnerships and shared responsibility, Support-parents.org published a report titled Voices on Parenting Support Initiatives on Parenting support and initiatives in Botswana are diverse, targeting various aspects of child development and family well-being. The government and numerous organizations have been working to address the needs of parents and caregivers through a range of programs and policies. For example, UNICEF and the World Health Organization, in collaboration with local entities, have emphasized universal access to parenting support to enhance the well-being of children across all age groups (I-CEPS).

Botswana faces significant socioeconomic challenges, including high unemployment rates, especially among youth, and substantial inequality. In fact, 84 percent of children in Botswana are born into single-mother households, more than half of which are grappling with poverty. These issues exacerbate the stress on families, making parenting support programs crucial.

China to the rescue

Chinese medical team strengthens partnership to improve Healthcare services

IN RESPONSE TO ONGOING challenges in Botswana's healthcare system—particularly the shortage of medical supplies—the Gaborone Branch of the 17th China Medical Team partnered with San Fu Trading Company to support Princess Marina Hospital (PMH) through a meaningful donation of medical consumables.

On 16 January 2026, medical supplies worth over P510,000 were officially donated to PMH. The handover ceremony was attended by hospital management and clinical leaders, representatives of the China Medical Team, and delegates from San Fu Trading Company, reflecting strong cooperation across sectors.



During the event, PMH representatives expressed sincere appreciation for the timely support. Speaking on behalf of the China

Medical Team, Dr. Luo Jinying, Branch Team Leader, emphasized that the donation represents not only much-needed supplies, but also



solidarity, partnership, and shared commitment to improving patient care. This collaboration highlights

the importance of expanding cooperation channels and working together to enhance healthcare service quality. By joining hands and



sharing resources, partners reaffirm their dedication to supporting frontline medical services and contributing to a healthier future for

Botswana. Source: Chinese Embassy in Botswana

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference: ESHGB-001 | 180-25

IN THE ESTATE of the late **FREDA KGAKGAMATSO WADIKGOSI** who died at Kebuang Ward, Kanye, Ngwaketse District, Republic of Botswana on the 1st October 2024.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

DATED at Kanye on this 29th Day of JANUARY 2026.

The Executor Testametary
Thapelo Mphala
C/O Thapelo Mphala Attorneys
P O Box 150279
KANYE
Tel: 5480049/72660789

SKMTH opens to outpatients

Govt buys three mobile X-ray clinics

ON THURSDAY EVENING President Duma Boko hosted a dinner for members of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi where he briefed dikgosi on the status of public health in the country and announcing major reforms that government is embarking on to improve services in the healthcare sector.

Boko said government has purchased three Mobile X-Ray Clinics that would be dispatched to Pandamatenge clinic, Bobonong and Gumare Primary hospitals to assist patients who would otherwise travel long distances for the services. He



also announced that Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital (SKMTH) will immediately transform into a

public hospital to service outpatients and would operate as a referral hospital for patients from Princess

Marina Hospital and other hospitals around the country to clear long-standing surgical backlogs.

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Sport

Tennis breeds global stars

KITSO RAMONO
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BOTSWANA TENNIS Association (BTA) President Oaitse Thipe says Botswana's rise in junior tennis is no accident. It is the result of strategic planning, relentless guidance, and bold leadership. His vision was on full display as teenage sensation Ntungamili Raguin made history at the Australian Junior Grand Slam.

For Thipe, nurturing world-class athletes goes beyond coaching; it's about creating a complete ecosystem where talent, education, and international exposure intersect. "We work closely with parents and players to implement the College Pathway, placing our athletes in US universities so they can continue competing at a high level while pursuing their education. Every tournament we host is designed to push players toward their goals," Thipe said.

The results speak for themselves. Ntunga's back-to-back ITF J100 and J60 titles in November 2025 earned him a spot in the Australian Junior Open qualifiers, a historic first for a Botswana player. At Melbourne

Park, he proved he belonged; after advancing through qualifying rounds, he defeated Bulgaria's Dimitar Kisimov and then topped the 15th seed Gavin Goode, reaching the Last 16. Although his journey ended against second seed Luis Guto Miguel of Brazil, Ntunga left a mark as a young competitor with world-class potential.

Reflecting on the experience, Ntunga said he appreciates the love he is getting from every Motswana worldwide.

"It's a lot of pride because it's historic what I'm doing. People in Botswana have been coming to support me, and the crowd today was amazing. The Australian Open is my favorite Grand Slam. I didn't reach the quarterfinals this time, but this week and my last tournament in Tragan have shown me I have the level to compete with the best juniors. Next time, I'll do even better."

Thipe's vision doesn't stop with one player. His bold plans for 2026 aim to expand opportunities and raise the bar for all Botswana athletes. "This year, we're hosting 12 weeks of international competitions, from professional events to under-14



Rising tennis star Ntungamili Raguin

tournaments, including wheelchair tennis. We want every player in

Botswana to have the chance to compete on the world stage.

Ntungamili's performance proves that with the right guidance, our players

can challenge the best in the world," he said.

Thipe revealed that under his leadership, the BTA is transforming Botswana tennis. By combining structured athlete development, global exposure, and educational pathways, the association is producing players who are competitive, disciplined, and ready for international success.

Ntunga to the world

Ntunga's historic Australian Open run is just the beginning, a clear signal that Botswana tennis is poised to shine on the world stage.

Raguin – the 19-year-old first Botswana grand slam player was defeated in the last 16 round of the Australian Junior Open with a score line of 6-4, 6-3, losing to World No.3 - Brazil's Luis 'Guto' Miguel in a tightly contested match that lasted 1hr 38mins. The Francistown born Raguin is tipped for a high-ranking career following a successful run at the Australian Junior Open grand slam.

Botswana Tennis Association praised the teenager's breakthrough Grand Slam appearance. "This result does not define the run – the journey does," BTA wrote, highlighting that Raguin defeated

Fish revives Popa popa!



Pabalinga

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INCOMING TOWNSHIP ROLLERS Chairman -Thapelo 'Fish' Pabalinga has promised to take

the Gaborone West giants, arguably the most successful team in Botswana football history, back to glory days after grappling with financial quagmire aggravated by player revolt due to unpaid dues.

At his first media briefing last week, Pabalinga was already announcing several major sponsorship and partnership deals, among them global sports gear brand- Umbro who are the new technical partner,

Emergency Assist 991 to will handle medical services while DC Tours will be responsible for transporting the team. The icing on the cake was the confirmation of the return of key players in the team like Papama, Mathumo etc ahead of the Gaborone derby. Promising good times ahead, before the minor setback in the Gaborone derby last Saturday against Gaborone United, Pabalinga declared: "Botswana football needs Township Rollers. When Township Rollers is doing well, football in Botswana generally does well." The declaration rings loud and true.

Against traditional rivals Gaborone United, Mochudi Centre Chiefs, Extension Gunners of Lobatse, and Tafic FC of Francistown, Township Rollers games are crowd pullers that often fill-up stadia, regardless of whether they are plying their trade in the premier league or in the lower first division. Beyond teams making a killing on match day, through boosted gate takings, improved merchandise and replica sales, and membership registration, Township Rollers fixtures provide a platform for a wide array of SMMEs among them hawkers, mobile operators, food vendors, street vendors, pubs and restaurants.

Defender Rally makes history

▪ Makes debut Dakar 2026 victory



Champion in its debut year

DEFENDER RALLY HAS WON the 2026 Dakar Rally, the toughest off-road challenge in the world, in its debut year, as drivers Rokas Baciūška and Oriol Vidal win the Stock class in the Defender Dakar D7X-R.

After two weeks of racing over relentlessly tough terrain, fellow teammates Sara Price and Sean Berriman finished in second place, whilst 'Mr Dakar' Stéphane

Peterhansel and co-driver Mika Metge finished in fourth position in the Dakar Rally Stock class rankings.

The overall Stock class win followed Rokas and Oriol claiming victory in the weekend's Stage 13 competition in just 55 minutes and 51 seconds, with Stéphane and Mika finishing second, and Sara and Sean completing the day's result in third.

The trio of Defender Rally crews achieved a '1-2-3' result across 10 of the 13 stages, demonstrating

dedication, precision and unwavering spirit. And over the 14-days of grueling competition, the three Defender Dakar D7X-Rs racked up a combined total of 24,000km traversing the Saudi Arabian desert.

Defender Rally will compete at the next round of the World Rally-Raid Championship at the bp Ultimate Rally-Raid Portugal from 17-22 March 2026.

Source: Land Rover South Africa

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