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Balopi declares war

Denies auctioning the party to Khama or Bangwato

- Balopi aware of sinister plan to topple him from BDP presidency
- Insists that his seat not under any threat as tension boils in BDP
- Unhappy democrats accuse Balopi of dictatorship, one man show



Balopi

BAKANG TIRO
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THE BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC Party (BDP) president Mpho Balopi said he is unmoved by growing criticism from some members of his party, with some allegedly plotting to topple him from the presidency as BDP factions align. The maverick BDP leader has been on the receiving end of internal critics, who accuse him of ruling by iron fist and of auctioning the party to former president Bangwato Kgosisigolo Ian Khama.

Addressing the media on **TO PAGE 3**

CONTROL YOUR MAN

UDC demands action on MP Lesedi

This follows his outburst when debating the Budget Speech, dismissing UDC as weaker than the dethroned BDP, as they have no new programmes. BPF is in a strategic partnership with the UDC with two of its MPs serving in Cabinet

FULL STOPRY ON PAGE 4



I will not be silenced Lesedi

Rent-to-own houses in block 8



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THE MINISTER OF WATER AND Human Settlement Onneetse Ramogapi has officially launched The Residency by Letsema Property Fund (owned by BPOPF), a major Botswana investment presented by Messidor Investments, positioning serviced land, modern housing infrastructure-led growth as a clear national priority.

The launch marks a response to the country's human settlement delivery, offering an affordable rent to own model for Botswana in Gaborone block 8. The project presents 135 modern residences, with an entry level unit price being P3500. Additionally, the project has created local employment as more than 236 Batswana were involved in the construction of the development.

TO PAGE 3

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Botswana, Poland medicines regulatory authorities sign MoU

REPRESENTATIVES OF the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA) visited the Office for Registration of Medicinal Products, Medical Devices and Biocidal Products (URPL) in Warsaw, Poland. The meeting concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two authorities.

This milestone marks an important step in strengthening international cooperation in the regulation of medicinal products and medical devices. The President of the Office for Registration of Medicinal Products, Dr. Grzegorz Cessak, hailed the visit as historic the first ever by representatives of an African National Regulatory Authority (NRA) to the URPL office. Its significance was further enhanced by the formalisation of cooperation through the Memorandum of Understanding.

The MoU highlights the commitment of both authorities to long-term cooperation across multiple regulatory areas and establishes a broad framework for collaboration, including: Exchange of knowledge and experience in the marketing authorisation of medicinal products; Cooperation in pharmacovigilance systems; Regulatory support and oversight of clinical trials; Exchange of information on medicinal product shortages and preventive measures; Regulation and supervision of medical devices; Organisation of joint workshops, conferences, study visits, and expert consultations; Collaboration on



regulatory harmonisation and the protection of public health; Establishment of mechanisms for regular working-level meetings and designation of contact points responsible for coordinating ongoing cooperation.

A Strategic and Long-Term Partnership

The Office for Registration of Medicinal Products views this cooperation as extending beyond the duration of the current collaboration between the two authorities, supported by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) project,

“Medicines Regulatory Systems Strengthening in Sub-Saharan Africa.” Participation in this initiative provides BoMRA with an opportunity to build lasting institutional links to support the Authority’s capacity-building and reliance and recognition initiatives. Both institutions share a common objective: strengthening regulatory systems to safeguard public health and ensure access to safe, effective, and high-quality medicinal products and medical devices.

The signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) forms

part of the broader project “Medicines Regulatory Systems Strengthening in Sub-Saharan Africa,” implemented under the European Medicines Agency grant programme in collaboration with BoMRA and the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority. This project is part of the Team Europe initiative, which aims to strengthen regulatory systems worldwide through coordinated action by European institutions, the exchange of knowledge and best practices, and the development of sustainable regulatory competencies.

BOTEPCO hosts 13th AFTRA Conference

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THE BOTSWANA Teaching Professional Council (BOTPECO) is set to host the 13th conference and 15th roundtable of the Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA) in May.

The hosting of the high-level conference was confirmed by BOTPECO Registrar Dr Raphael Dingalo during a media briefing in Gaborone on Monday.

Dr Dingalo said Botswana has been awarded the hosting rights by AFTRA at a time when BOTPECO is only three years old, a development which he said means a lot to BOTPECO and Botswana at large.

Dr Dingalo said the conference will be beneficial



Dingalo

to Botswana in many ways, as AFTRA is an apex body for teaching regulation in Africa.

Dr Dingalo said Botswana is a member of AFTRA and therefore AFTRA supports BOTPECO in developing codes of ethics and professional standards while also promoting teacher mobility, exchange programmes, as well as fostering partnerships and

collaborations.

He noted that about 400 to 500 delegates are expected to attend the conference, adding that this would boost the education sector and also add immense contribution to the logistics and tourism sector.

Dr Dingalo said teachers would also be part of the conference and they would actively participate.

Meanwhile, AFTRA Executive Director Dr Steve Nwokeocha said AFTRA comprises 55 member states of the African Union (AU) and the awarding of hosting rights to Botswana speaks a lot to the country’s resilience from many facets being political stability, good governance, and economic prosperity etc.

He said Botswana has been highly committed as a AFTRA member and has never missed any single activity of the body, one of the metrics that contributed to Botswana being awarded hosting rights.

Dr Nwokeocha described BOTPECO as a towering regulatory body amongst its peers and is willing to engage with AFTRA for mentorship and learning purposes as BOTPECO is only three years.

Ba Isago, Seth sign energy sector training MoU

Five-year partnership to roll out Gas and Oil programmes

GORATAONE KGOSIMORE
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BA ISAGO UNIVERSITY has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with South African oil and gas firms Seth Resources Petroleum and eMangweni Business Solutions to develop a Gas and Oil Training Short Course.

The five-year partnership aims to enhance skills and knowledge in the energy sector through specialised training programmes, with a strong focus on empowering youth, women and citizens.

Speaking during a signing ceremony on Friday, Ba Isago Managing Director Odirile



The programme is set to equip youth and women with knowledge on the oil and gas industry pic Gorataone Kgosimore

Gabasiene said the university is grounded in forging meaningful collaborations and delivering programmes that respond to current industry demands and realities. He noted that Ba Isago has produced outstanding graduates who now hold high-level positions across various sectors. Gabasiene added that the latest collaboration was

undertaken with intentionality and thorough research to ensure it addresses existing gaps in the energy industry.

Baxolile Zwane, Chief Executive Officer of eMangweni, a specialist consulting and training firm focused on empowering individuals and businesses within the oil and gas, LPG and

broader energy sectors, said the partnership will help bridge critical skills gaps.

She said the programme will equip youth and women with safety knowledge and entrepreneurial skills required in the oil and gas industry, ultimately capacitating them to run sustainable businesses within the oil and gas sector.

FNB Foundation pours P586 000 into Kingdom Arts



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FIRST NATIONAL BANK Botswana (FNBB) Foundation in partnership with Kingdom Arts Academy, a local music school have joint together to change lives of young people through music for change programme. The programme has enrolled 20 students into studying music with Kingdom Arts, through an open call for registration where over 200 participants applied.

The programme exists to impart music skills into young people aged 16 to 25, who live in areas inclusive of White city, New Naledi and New stance, which are areas particularly located near the school. The two-year programme is fully sponsored by FNB Foundation at a tune of 586 thousand Pula which covers tuition and exam fees as well the purchase of music instruments among other expenses.

FNBB’s Board of Trustees Chair Myra Sekgororoane said by funding Music for change with just over half a million, the collaboration will go a long way in helping young people, particularly the unemployed.

“It is well known that our country is going through rising issues of unemployment, especially among young people, both graduates and non-graduates. The music and arts field is a very successful industry and therefore we wish these young ones well,” she said.

As revealed by the school’s principal Akhutleleng Kekwaletswe, the programme will grow to reach more communities, create more opportunities and with continued FNBB Foundation support, it will leave a long-lasting legacy. “Music for change is not a once off experience but a long-term commitment. We are not just training musicians but we are developing individuals who can contribute positively to the society,” Kekwaletswe noted.



DO YOU LOVE WORKING WITH PEOPLE? CAN YOU BE A

Job Title: Wildlife Ranger
Reports To: Team Leader
Function: Great Plains Foundation-Wildlife
Location: Maun - Remote Camp-Based Position

PURPOSE

To contribute to conservation and environmental protection by serving on the frontline of wildlife protection efforts. Conducting extensive patrols by vehicle, boat, and on foot to ensure conservation efforts are adhered to. Upholding environmental protection standards and preserving biodiversity.

KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Daily monitoring of environmental variables and focal species.
- Conduct patrols to locate and identify wildlife.
- Maintain and safeguard equipment, including vehicles, radios, and GPS telemetry systems.
- Assist with camp maintenance, ensuring cleanliness and hygiene.
- Collect and record data according to protocols.
- Work closely with Team Leaders to meet conservation goals.
- Always Adhere to safety protocols and the GPF Code of Conduct.
- Provide reports and content to management in a timely manner.
- Uphold the GPF’s professional reputation through high standards of behavior and appearance.

NB: Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of duties

QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum BGCSE
- Possession of Botswana Class B Driver’s License
- Basic written and spoken English
- Tracking or bush-based experience.

COMPETENCIES

- Communication Skills
- Discipline
- Committed

Interested applicants should email a cover letter and updated CV to the below listed email address. The subject heading of the email should be written as: **Wildlife Ranger Botswana.**

To: opportunities@greatplainsconservation.com or **hr@greatplainsconservation.com** .We do not accept hand deliveries.

Closing Date: 05/03/2026

PLEASE NOTE, DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUMES OF APPLICATIONS ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SHORTLISTED WILL BE CONTACTED

Job Title: Trainer
Reports To: HR & Training Manager
Function: Training
Location: Maun: Camp-Based Position

PURPOSE

is to develop staff so they can perform their roles effectively, confidently, and in line with organizational standards. Helps bridge the gap between current performance and the skills, knowledge, and attitudes required for success.

KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Plan, coordinate, and deliver training programs for junior staff, monitor progress and ensure continuous skills development.
- Uphold company standards, reinforce policies and procedures, and ensure hygiene, service, and operational compliance
- Identify training needs, develop structured training plans, prepare training materials, and submit regular progress and performance reports.
- Support departmental operations, maintain effective internal relations, assist with trainee recruitment, and provide relief between Training and Camp Manager roles when required.
- Enhance individual and team performance by addressing skill gaps, improving work quality, and increasing overall productivity.
- Ensure work is done in a uniform, professional, and high-quality manner across teams, departments, or lodges.
- Assess performance gaps, recommend training interventions, and help implement improvement plans.

NB: Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of duties

QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

- Degree in hospitality management or related
- Assessor and Training of trainers
- At least 5 years’ experience in training and development.

COMPETENCIES

- Communication Skills
- Problem-Solving
- Organizational Skills
- Computer & Technical Skills

Interested applicants should email a cover letter and updated CV to the below listed email address. The subject heading of the email should be written as: **Trainer.**

To: opportunities@greatplainsconservation.com or **hr@greatplainsconservation.com** .We do not accept hand deliveries.

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Gaborone

On or before the 15th March 2026

Teachers shun Licensing Council

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

Only 1060 registered; 39 000 teachers yet to comply – facing possible jail term of three years or P5000 fine

TEACHERS' REGISTRATION AND licensing body, Botswana Teaching Profession Council (BOTPECO) is grappling with slow registration and licensing of teachers, with close to 39 000 teachers reluctant to register and officially accredit with the council.

BOTPECO has embarked in an intensive process of accrediting and licensing teachers under its mandate of professionalising teaching in Botswana.

The council registrar or Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Raphael Dingalo earlier this week said BOTPECO has so far licensed 1060 teachers. He was briefing the media on the upcoming Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA) conference.

Dr Dingalo said teachers who fail to comply and register are liable to a P5000 fine or three (3) years imprisonment. He said education organisations that would be found employing unlicensed teachers will be subjected to P15 000 fine or face 12 years imprisonment.

"We are dealing with change, and we have to manage this change. The number of registered teachers so far is a disappointment, and to some extent they are promising. We expect all the teachers to have registered by next year," said Dr Dingalo.

Additionally, Dr Dingalo said BOTPECO would not rush to impose stipulated fines but will continue to find



Dingalo

meaningful ways to motivate teachers to register, citing engagement with the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education (MCBWA) and teacher trade unions.

He said the council, as it is dealing with change, would want the teachers to appreciate the benefits of registering with BOTPECO, adding that the registration would improve with time.

Despite the current hurdles, Dr Dingalo noted positive achievements in line with the process of licensing teachers, citing that the council has managed to complete the online registration system within two (2) years,

a record development.

He said BOTPECO is also embarking on positive partnerships with other regional councils, adding that the Zambia teaching regulatory body has seconded two of its officers to assist BOTPECO with the technical know-how. Going forward, the expectation is that professionalisation of teaching would enable teachers and their organisations to participate in defining and maintaining their professional standards.

Furthermore, it facilitates BOTPECO to establish a code of ethics for morally upright and fit-to-teach individuals.

BOTPECO was established in 2019 through an Act of Parliament, with its main functions being to regulate the teaching profession; maintain professional and ethical standards, including teaching knowledge etc.

AFTRA ADVISE

Dr Steve Nwokeocha – the Executive Director of the Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA) said it was important for Botswana to have taken the route of regulating teaching.

Sharing his experiences, Dr Nwokeocha said regulated teaching would position Botswana in the global competitiveness, citing that if licensed, Botswana teachers would be globally recognized.

He also said the Nigerian teaching regulatory authority has been able to license 2.5 million teachers, encouraging BOTPECO to exercise caution as well as determination in its bid to license teachers, as the process is not easy.

Dr Nwokeocha said today, Nigerian teachers are globally competitive and are working around the world as they are formally accredited. He said it is important for BOTPECO to ensure that the license certificate is designed in a way that would open up Botswana teachers to the international world teaching standards.

BPOPF offers

Rent-to-own houses in block 8

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According to Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) Board of Trustees Chairperson Gaone Macholo, through the partnership between Letsema Property Fund and Botswana Railways, strategically located land is being activated to meet real urban demands.

She said this supports efficient infrastructure utilisation and strengthens the logic of building integrated, liveable neighbourhoods, outcomes that align strongly with government's human settlements and infrastructure agenda. "Decent shelter is a foundation for dignity, family stability and productivity. Yet for many middle-income Botswana including

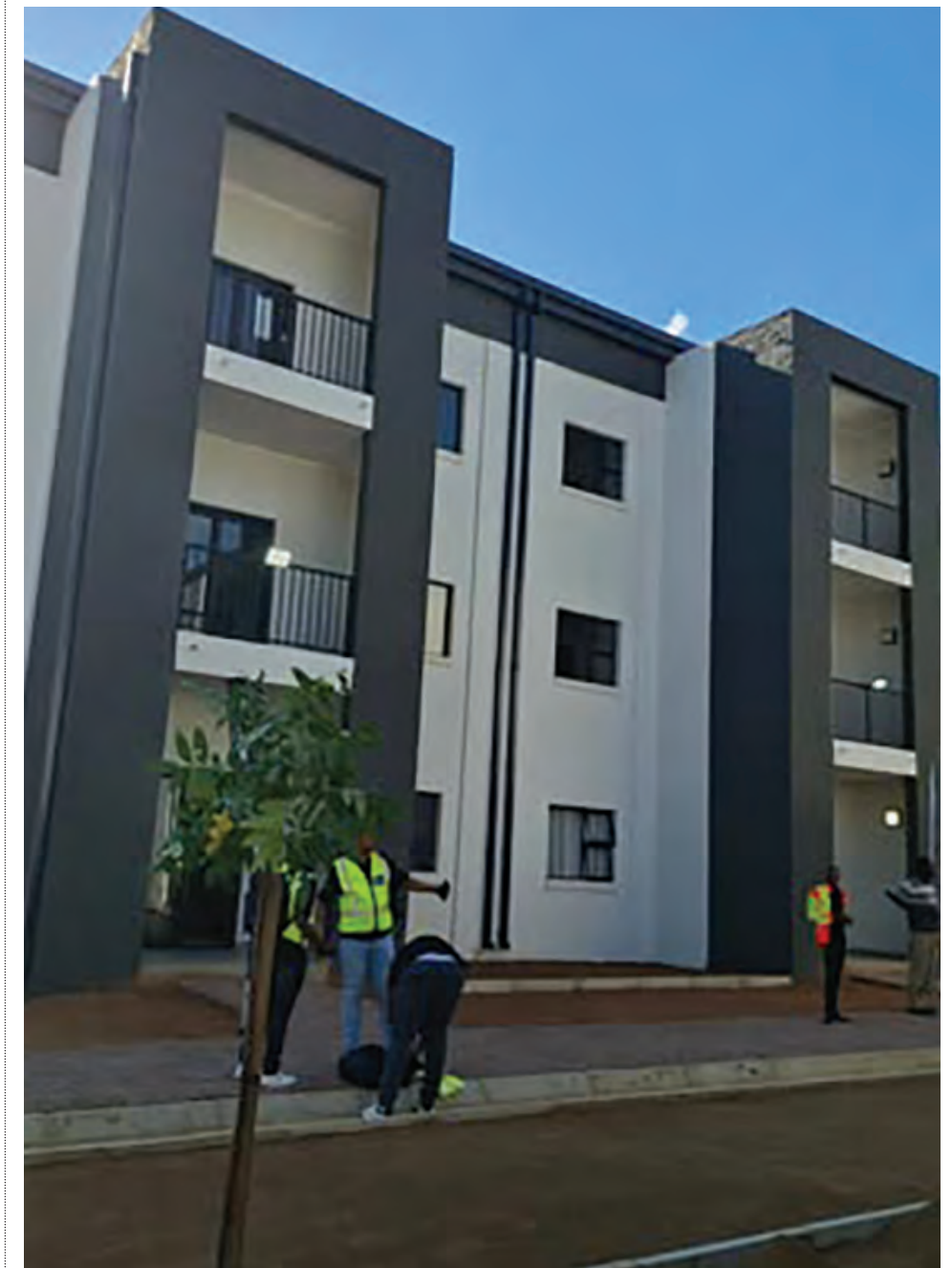
many of our own members, access to quality, well-located housing remains challenging. The Residency responds to this need in a practical, market-based way," Macholo noted.

Ramogapi said dignified housing, water security and modern infrastructure are the foundation of a productive and inclusive economy.

"The collaboration between Botswana Railways, Letsema Property Fund and project partners is particularly instructive unlocking strategic land for real urban demand and supporting better land use outcomes. Let us replicate this model at scale, across the country, so that housing delivery becomes community building and so that every investment in the built environment strengthens Botswana's competitiveness," Ramogapi explained.

He expressed excitement towards the development and has commended the private sector. "As the government, we are not competitors of the private sector but we are supporters. Therefore, for many young working Botswana this comes as an opportunity for them to be able to own property."

The residents include studio pads, 1 bedroom house, 2-bedroom luxe residence and 3-bedroom townhouse. The nearly finished development currently at about 95% completion will be opened in phases with the first set of houses expected to be in use by May 2026. Information regarding housing price lists and registration processes will be shared with the general public in due course.



Balopi declares war

FROM PAGE 1

Wednesday, Balopi reminded his detractors that he navigated difficult storms in the past as BDP Secretary General (SG) for many years.

Balopi said he is not surprised that his presidency could be under threat from some BDP members, but said democracy is the order of the day in the BDP tradition. He said the current central committee has been democratically elected and won't be bullied by anyone.

"Leadership requires patience. I have been tried and tested during my leadership era in the BDP. I am not threatened that some people are regrouping to topple me. BDP is a democratic institution," said Balopi.

In addition, Balopi said the BDP is intact, and it shall remain so.

For his part, BDP Secretary General Kentse Rammidi downplayed claims that the central committee is at war with itself, insisting that the central committee is united with the President having cordial relations with all members of the central committee.

The media has been awash with information that the BDP central committee is in disarray, with some members threatening to also resign following the earlier resignation of additional member Dr Alfred Madigele.

Rammidi said the BDP welcomed the resignation of Dr Madigele and respects his right to freedom of association.

"Our central committee is cohesive, and I still maintain that. We work together as



Rammidi

a team, and our president is also engaging with the committee without fail. If there is any war in the CC, I would be the first person to inform you. Our Central Committee members are assigned roles nationally as we speak," said Rammidi.

Commenting on the Palapye retreat, Rammidi said the party would use the retreat to introspect and formulate ideas and strategies that would position the party on the path towards reclaiming state power come 2029 elections.

He reiterated that all former BDP presidents were invited for the retreat, buttressing that Khama has been invited as kgosikgolo of GaMmangwato, denying claims that his invitation caused divisions in the party.

According to Rammidi, BDP has officially written to Khama as kgosikgolo of GaMmangwato to assign representatives from bogosi to come and welcome the party in his territory, as it is a traditional norm elsewhere in Botswana.

Some members of the BDP central committee told this publication last week that they are against the idea of BDP inviting Khama to its function, citing that even the apology extended to him last year was not necessary at all.

Balopi said it is important for the party members to remember that GaMmangwato or the central district is historically the foundation or the base over which the party was built; hence there should be no concern over why the party leadership seem to be leaning towards it or so.

Economic Disaster

Meanwhile, Balopi said the country's economy is poised for disastrous status under the watch of the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) administration.

Balopi said the economy is poised to collapse; taking into consideration that the government expenditure was higher than the income, noting that there was a need for government to cut spending more.

He said the vice president and minister of Finance Ndaba Gaolathe made a disturbing revelation that the government borrowing against Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is currently sitting at 33% against the statutory 40% threshold.

"And the minister said that by the end of this financial year, they would be at 44.6%. This scenario is scary for our economy. Also, the issue of adjusting taxes, while the economy is suppressed, is very bad. We are surprised that the UDC is doing though its President Duma Boko was against such a move," said Balopi.



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2. Tender documents will be sent to Bidders after paying a non-refundable fee of **P560.00** from 08:00hrs to 1530hrs on weekdays with effect from **19th February 2026**. The tenders will be closing for selling on the **04th March 2026**.

3. For more information on the invitation kindly visit: BDC Social media pages

Botswana Development Corporation
 @BDCLimited

Control your man

BAKANG TIRO
editor@thepatriot.co.bw

THE BOTSWANA PATRIOTIC FRONT (BPF) is grappling with a big demand from the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) that it takes action against its Serowe South Member of Parliament (MP), Leepetswe Lesedi over his firm criticism of the UDC administration.

It is alleged that Lesedi could be hauled over hot coals by his party, the BPF. The Patriot on Sunday is reliably informed that the UDC parliamentary caucus has shown unhappiness with MP Lesedi and if some of them had their way he would have to face some reprimand.

The UDC Parliamentary Caucus is led by Chief Whip, Sam Digwa, who is said to raise the matter with the BPF president and MP for Nata-Gweta Lawrence Ookeditse.

Ookeditse is the Assistant Minister of health, one of the BPF legislators who serve under Duma Boko administration. Another BPF MP in cabinet is Baratiwa Mathoothe, Serowe North MP and assistant minister of Trade and Industry.

Digwa is said to have raised the UDC parliamentary caucus' displeasure against Lesedi to the BPF leadership.

"BPF is part of the UDC government by virtue of having two of its members in cabinet. Lesedi's tone against the government is concerning and the UDC has demanded that the BPF address him to stop his attacks or institute disciplinary action against him," said a UDC MP close to the developments in Parliament.

Contacted for a comment, Digwa was cagey with details but admitted that the UDC has noticed Lesedi's criticism to government. He could not be drawn to confirm whether the UDC has filed a complaint against him to his party.

Digwa briefly said the BPF is not part of the UDC and even the appointment of its two members was at the power of Boko as president.

He said two BPF members who are in



Lesedi

cabinet are attending UDC parliament caucus by the virtue of serving in UDC, adding that UDC couldn't force other BPF MPs to attend the caucus meetings of UDC.

BPF Publicity Secretary Ogaufi Nthobelang on Friday said the BPF was yet to receive any formal complaint from the UDC regarding Lesedi.

He assured that the BPF would look into the contents of any complaint sent to them. Nthobelang said BPF MPs are currently participating in the budget speech debate and any MP could criticise the government as a result of frustration for not getting developments for their people.

He said the BPF has not given guidelines to its MPs on how to debate, but said the party is always putting into consideration

that some things that are said by any BPF member should not jeopardise its relationship with the UDC.

Quizzed on tension between Lesedi and BPF as well, Nthobelang said he was not aware of any fallout between Lesedi and the BPF Central Committee. He said he is not aware of Lesedi being targeted by some people in the BPF and the UDC.

"He is our member and MP in good standing. The current NEC is open to him and there is no way we can be targeting him for his parliamentary seat. He is in Parliament to serve his constituents and remains an integral member of BPF," he said.

LESEDI FIRM

In an interview on Friday, Lesedi said he

was not surprised over how some people view him as enemy or number one critic of the UDC government but said all what he wants is accountability from the ruling party.

Lesedi said he is not bothered whether the UDC is unhappy about him because he is not a UDC MP to start with.

The outspoken Lesedi said two of the BPF members in cabinet are expected to defend UDC policies even though they are not substantial and are not offering Batswana any benefits.

"I am speaking out against the UDC government because it has failed to account for its electoral promises. Also, I am constitutionally elected MP for the BPF. I will not be afraid or silenced by anyone from the UDC or even in BPF to speak for my constituents or Batswana at large. I am not afraid of anyone," said Lesedi.

BPF Factions

Political analyst, Kitso Morekisi said the UDC/BPF developments concerning Lesedi in Parliament could be traced to ongoing BPF factional battles.

He said Lesedi sympathises with a faction that has dragged the BPF central committee to court challenging the constitutionality of last year's elective congress in Serowe.

Morekisi said Lesedi is viewed to be not supportive of the current BPF central committee led by cabinet members Ookeditse and Mathoothe.

"Ookeditse is BPF president and Mathoothe is the chairman. They are in government. When Lesedi criticises government that means he is also taking an aim at his BPF colleagues. The factions in the BPF are indirectly destabilising the UDC. Both parties need each other," said Morekisi.

Moreover, Lesedi said he has not been attending the UDC parliamentary caucus meetings though invitations are made, indicating that his reluctance is as result of tension between him, some people in the BPF and in the UDC too.

Govt holds grip on Delta prime land

Parley defeats the motion to have the land return to the Tawana Land Board

BAKANG TIRO

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PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY VOTED against a motion presented by the Maun North Member of Parliament Dumelang Saleshando in which he requested the government to abandon the construction of a presidential lodge in the prime land in the Okavango Delta.

The ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) relied on its numerical strength to defeat the motion, with 29 MPs voting against the motion while 15 supported it.

Saleshando has demanded that Parliament support him so that the government can abandon the construction of a Presidential lodge on the land and return it to the Tawana Land Board.

Saleshando proposed that the land be redistributed to the Ngamiland District Council.

The Minister of State President, Defence and Security Moeti Mohwasa pushed back against the motion, saying it wasn't necessary because the government itself would not partake in the construction of the lodge, but would leave that to private investors.

Mohwasa argued that any plea to request the government to abandon the construction of a Presidential lodge in the Okavango Delta is misplaced. He said the government has no plans to build a resting resort for the president, and it doesn't have any budget to commit to such development.

The majority of UDC MPs said the motion wasn't holding any water, describing it as a political gimmick by Saleshando.

Saleshando on Friday expressed disappointment in the UDC for using its majority to shoot down the motion, adding that it amounts to impoverishing the people



Saleshando

of Ngamiland.

He argued that tourism in Ngamiland is what agriculture is to other Batswana in different places. The land in dispute is 22 000 hectares and was taken over by the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) administration despite strong opposition from the people of Ngamiland.



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Senior Electromechanician: Botswana - Maun

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Location: Botswana - Maun

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- Inspect, repair, replace, install, adjust and maintain mechanical equipment and components across the operation.
- Review and improve (develop) blueprints, schematics and detailed drawings related to all electrical sites in the business as well as design and plan for any new camps.
- Dismantle and reassemble equipment for repair, servicing or transportation.
- Align and calibrate machinery and equipment parts to ensure efficient and safe operation.
- Replace defective parts and accurately adjust clearances and alignments of moving parts.
- Carry out electrical fault-finding and repair electrical circuitry and components (motors, starters, relays, control wiring).
- Maintain and service refrigeration and HVAC systems (fault diagnosis, compressor service, evaporator/condenser maintenance).
- Test units to evaluate mechanical and electrical operations using appropriate tools and test equipment.
- Maintain accurate maintenance records, update work orders and report on asset condition.
- Develop and implement planned preventative maintenance and continuous improvement initiatives.
- Support internal stakeholder relations and communicate clearly with camp teams.
- Follow and promote safe working practices, participate in lockout/tagout, confined space and other safety procedures.
- Develop team of maintenance professionals to be able to fault find and remediate any issues in the electrical operation of the camp.

Required Skills and Qualifications:

- Trade Test certificate or equivalent qualification as Millwright / Electromechanician / Mechanical Fitter.
- Formal electrical qualification (e.g., trade-tested electrician or electrical artisan) or demonstrable electrical artisanship experience.
- Proven experience working on refrigeration systems and basic refrigeration trade certification or documented experience in refrigeration/HVAC maintenance.

- Demonstrable experience creating and reading blueprints, schematics and detailed repair drawings.
- Strong hands-on experience with mechanical fitting, alignment, calibration and dismantling/reassembly of equipment.
- Experience testing and repairing electrical circuitry, motors (including VSDs), starters and control panels.
- Minimum experience: 10 mid-level; 5+ years for senior level
- Strong problem-solving, diagnostic and fault-finding skills.
- Good communication skills and ability to work with teams and train team members
- Physically fit and able to perform manual handling tasks; comfortable working at heights and in confined spaces when required.
- Experience with automation troubleshooting.
- Experience with refrigeration and electrical installation/commissioning.
- Welding/fabrication skills (MIG/TIG/arc).
- Experience using CMMS (Computerized Maintenance Management Systems).
- Experience in the repair and management of Solar Systems
- Experience leading small teams or training apprentices

Personal Qualities:

- Strong problem-solving and analytical thinking to diagnose faults in machinery
- Excellent attention to detail and precision for accurate repairs
- Effective communication for collaborating with teams and reporting issues
- Adaptability to work with diverse systems and adapt to changes
- Dependability and integrity to follow safety protocols reliably
- Ability to resolve conflicts or operational problems in a calm, effective manner.
- Participate in sharing of ideas to improve upon offerings would be valuable

Interested applicants should email a cover letter and updated CV and trade certificates to the below listed email addresses. The subject heading of the email should be written as:

Senior Electromechanician To: opportunities@greatplainsconservation.com

The remuneration package will be offered according to experience and qualifications of the successful candidate. We do not accept hand deliveries.

Closing Date: 10 March 2026



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Botswana Unified Revenue Service
Plot 54379 CBD - Tower Block, 5th Floor
Private Bag 0013
Gaborone

For more information regarding this position, please contact the Human Resources office at these numbers: **Ms. M. Bothata @ 363 8472 and Ms. E. Mmereki @ 363 8924**

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All Matimela cattle to be slaughtered



Acting Director of Veterinary Services, Dr Kobedi Segale

■ Slaughter resumes in unaffected zones under strict rules, but businesses say two-week shutdown has already crippled them

KITSO RAMONO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

AS BOTSWANA INTENSIFIES ITS fight against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), stray livestock, matimela, are now at the centre of a tough containment strategy that government says is necessary to stop the virus from spreading further.

The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, working with the Department of Veterinary Services, has announced that matimela will be rounded up, quarantined for 14 days and then slaughtered as part of emergency disease-control measures.

The move follows confirmed FMD cases in Zones 3c and 6b, with outbreaks recorded at Moroka, Kgari, Nlapkwane and Mulambakwena crushes. Authorities maintain that the outbreak remains confined to those zones, but say stray cloven-hoofed animals pose a serious risk

because they move freely and can easily carry infection across areas.

14 days, then slaughter

Acting Director of Veterinary Services, Dr Kobedi Segale, says the decision is about preventing wider spread.

“We are trying to avoid the spread of the virus. We are going to gather matimela at designated places around the country. These animals will be held in quarantine for 14 days to monitor them. After that they will be slaughtered to avoid the possibility of spreading Foot and Mouth Disease,” he said.

He stressed that this is only one part of a broader response that includes vaccination, surveillance and strict movement controls.

Deputy Director in the Department of Local Government and Development Planning, William Paledi, acknowledged that the usual three-month window under the Matimela Act has been shortened to 14 days because of the severity of the outbreak.

Farmers will be compensated, though the formula is still being finalised. After slaughter, proceeds from the livestock will be shared with owners once government costs have been deducted.

Slaughter resumes, but under strict rules
In a move that has brought some relief, government has now allowed slaughtering to resume in zones that are not affected by the outbreak. However, this is under strict veterinary regulations and controlled conditions to ensure traceability and biosecurity.

While the reopening offers a lifeline to parts of the beef value chain, business owners say the damage has already been done.

For nearly two weeks, many butcheries and small abattoirs were unable to operate. Shelves were empty. Workers reported for duty but had no meat to cut, and no customers to serve.

Thabang Douglas, manager of Corner

Grill, says even with operations gradually resuming, the financial hole remains.

“Our shelves have been empty, and our employees have just been sitting around doing nothing. It’s not their fault there is Foot and Mouth, but I still have to pay them. Now we are being told we can operate under strict regulations, but we have already lost two weeks of income,” he said.

He says the business now faces a triple burden: paying staff, buying fresh stock under tighter supply conditions and covering rent and utilities, all after days without revenue.

In Mogoditshane, Martin Kelebe of Designed Meat and Butchery, says smaller operators were forced to buy from larger suppliers during the shutdown.

“We went to BMC and Sefalana because they still had stockpiles. But prices went up, and some of the meat was freezer burnt. Now we are expected to recover immediately when the truth is we are

financially drained,” he said.

In Tlokweng, Thato Mmabatho of Seshabo Butchery says the reopening has not erased the losses. “We specialise in braai meat, especially on weekends. For two weeks our place was like a spook house,” she said. “Over 20 casual workers depend on weekend business. Even if we reopen now, we don’t know how we are going to pay staff, buy enough stock and cover other operational costs.”

Balancing containment and survival
Authorities insist that the measures, including vaccination campaigns, movement controls, surveillance and the culling of matimela, are necessary to protect animal health and safeguard Botswana’s beef export status.

But on the ground, the outbreak has exposed the fragility of small operators who survive on daily turnover. For them, the resumption of slaughter in unaffected zones offers hope, but not immediate recovery.

Op-Ed:

US/Botswana’s remarkable partnership



HOWARD VAN VRANKEN
U.S. Ambassador to Botswana

AS WE ENTER A YEAR OF HISTORIC anniversaries, both Americans and Botswana have much to celebrate. Nearly 60 years of diplomatic partnership have united our nations in the pursuit of freedom, democracy, and shared prosperity. In 2026, the United States commemorates 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a document that established a new republic founded on the principle that political power rests with the people. Botswana, too, will mark a milestone—60 years since gaining independence from British rule and forging its own path as a republic under the visionary leadership of Sir Seretse Khama. These anniversaries remind us of our shared commitment to self-governance and the enduring values that bind our countries together.

Botswana’s dedication to equality and social harmony, rooted in the concept of both—humanity and mutual respect—mirrors the United States’ commitment to individual freedoms and civil liberties. Both nations uphold the rule of law and strive to perfect its application. These shared values form the foundation of our cooperation, enabling us to address global challenges and promote prosperity and security for our citizens.

It is therefore fitting that just months ago, on December 22, 2025, our nations entered into a bilateral arrangement that will save lives, fight infectious diseases, and strengthen Botswana’s health systems, advancing shared health goals through co-investment. The signing of the five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), guided by the America First Global Health Strategy, marks a new chapter in our enduring diplomatic history and sets a clear blueprint for ensuring Botswana’s ownership of its own health care system.

Through the five-year MOU, the United States will provide nearly 1.4 billion pula to support six critical areas. We will enhance Botswana’s ability to detect and respond to health threats quickly through improved surveillance and outbreak response, helping prevent the spread of infectious diseases internationally. Together, we will use this pula to strengthen laboratory systems for accurate and timely disease diagnosis, and ensure a steady supply of essential medicines, vaccines, and health equipment. Our partnership will improve information systems for health data collection and analysis for informed decision-making, while investing in the training and support of frontline health care workers to deliver quality care. Finally, we will target strategic investments to address shared emerging

health priorities and foster innovation.

Our U.S.-Botswana partnership has achieved remarkable results since 1995: implementing effective HIV and tuberculosis prevention and treatment programs, strengthening the health care workforce, and reinforcing critical health systems, including laboratory networks and health information systems. The United States provided more than \$1.3 billion in health assistance to Botswana since 2004. In 2025, the United States provided vital medical supplies and \$1 million for health commodities including ARVs and lab reagent, supported the construction of a new medical clinic in Seronga, introduced innovative AI technology to enhance tuberculosis diagnosis, and hosted numerous trainings for health care workers, disease detectives, and medical entrepreneurs. This does not even begin to scratch the surface, given the deep collaboration of many of our finest medical institutions which have worked in Botswana for decades. Former President of Botswana Festus Mogae himself famously highlighted how U.S. global health assistance saved Botswana from extinction.

Weeks ago, the United States continued to invest in Botswana and its people by providing almost US \$1 million in parts for the maintenance of Botswana’s C-130, an American innovation, and provided research equipment to the Okavango Research Institute. And over the next few weeks, the United States will provide 1 million dollars in various antiretrovirals (ARVs) for adults and children living with HIV, as well as laboratory reagents for two viral load platforms, dried blood spot (DBS) collection kits for early infant diagnosis (EID), and TB diagnostic kits. These items are much needed in Botswana and will save lives.

The United States is committed to opening new markets for American companies globally, by promoting America’s unmatched innovation in technology, science, and medicine, and remains committed to putting partner nations on the path to self-sufficiency. We envision a world where nations work together as equal participants to uphold democratic principles, create a safer, healthier world, and enjoy shared prosperity.

As we look forward to a year of commemoration and celebration, we invite you to join us in marking 250 years of American freedom and eagerly anticipate Botswana’s 60th anniversary of independence. Let us seize this moment to strengthen the bonds between our nations, reaffirm our shared values, and build a future that reflects the best of what democracy and true partnership can achieve.

DE BEERS GROUP

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – DE BEERS VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE IMPLEMENTATION SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

De Beers will establish the De Beers Vocational Training Institute (DVTI) as part of the transformative agreement signed between the two parties in February 2025. This milestone marks a bold new chapter in the longstanding partnership and supports Botswana’s national development ambitions. The vocational training institute will unlock opportunities through skills development in the diamond industry in support of Botswana’s aspirations to transition to a high-income economy by 2036. The scope of the training institute will be limited to sorting, grading, evaluation, commercial, cutting and polishing. De Beers aims to closely match training offerings by the planned vocational institute to industry requirements.

Therefore, engaging an Implementation Subject Matter Expert shall bridge the gap between technical teams and operations to ensure translation of the DVTI vision to reality. DVTI shall be established as a national skills platform that sets standards, enables progression and selectively delivers high-impact training by December 2027.

SCOPE OF WORK

- Define the Operating and Sustainability model consistent with study findings from a recently concluded study (findings to be availed).
- Successfully implement DVTI consistent with the finalised Operating and Sustainability model.
- Identify, select and appoint qualified required technical subject matter experts to deliver DVTI workstreams.
- Manage and account for milestones deliveries by technical teams. Project management capability, tracking and monitoring tool/s are a requirement.
- Responsible for the supervision, reporting, troubleshooting and problem solving across all DVTI deliverables.
- Lead successful deployment of systems, technologies and processes in alignment with business requirements and best practice.

De Beers therefore invites bids from interested organisations/ consultancy firms that believe they have the skills and technical capability to implement a training centre to submit to the below email address and ensure that evidence and references of past related works and/or

performance (if any) is included. All companies based outside Botswana should indicate and explore partnership with a local organisation or company.

Note that submissions are requested on a non — committal basis and meant to assist De Beers to assess suitability to offer services. Shortlisting and evaluation will be made on the most suitable proposal received.

The selected service provider is to perform all work in full compliance with the company’s Business Integrity Policy for the duration of the service.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

De Beers operates within a Precious Stones Protected area. All companies and their employees involved in delivery of the service will be required to undergo a security and background clearance process and will be subject to all De Beers internal security and supplier registration procedures, including but not limited to Safety, Health and Environment, Business Integrity, and Anti Money Laundering considerations.

SUBMISSIONS

All submissions should be sent via email and titled **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – DE BEERS VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE IMPLEMENTATION SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT** and must be emailed to **&DBGSSProcurement@debeers-group.com** no later than **4PM (CAT) 27 February 2026. Late submissions, physical submissions, facsimile, telephone, or telefaxed submissions will not be accepted.**

LIMITATIONS

This is an Expression of Interest (EOI) only; it is not a procurement document nor is it a request for tender. The information contained in this EOI is intended for information purposes only to assist interested parties in assessing whether to respond to such request. No representation or warranty express is made by De Beers or any of its agents, as to the accuracy or completeness of such information. Neither De Beers nor its agents will be responsible for, and hereby expressly disclaim, any and all liability for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies in connection therewith. In its response to this EOI, the respondent must disclose to De Beers, any potential conflict of interest that might compromise this process. If such a conflict of interest does exist, De Beers may, at its discretion, refuse to consider the response in question.

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Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



ADAM PHETLHE
ON SUNDAY!

UDC refuses to pick low hanging fruits on governance

IT WOULD HAVE DONE A LOT OF GOOD for the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) had it speedily picked important low hanging fruits upon assuming office. Such do not require a lot of capital injection for them to be impactful. This is not to suggest other important national issues with long term impact should not have been attended to.

As a new party in government graduating from the opposition ranks, one would have expected the UDC government to bring to the floor of Parliament and on urgent basis, Bills that would demonstrate its commitment to good governance and democracy. But lo and behold, the UDC is demonstrably still clinging on to the vanquished Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) template in more ways than one.

Good governance is the cornerstone of any institution including government because 'it fosters public trust, ensures accountability and promotes efficiency in service delivery. By upholding the rule of law and minimising corruption, it creates stable and transparent environment that facilitates sustainable development protects human rights and improves the overall quality of life for citizens.' On the face of this quote, government will argue very strongly and may be justifiably so, that it is on the right track in so far as good governance is concerned. But I will argue very strongly and unflinchingly that meaningful and demonstrable legal reforms in government institutions to occasion good governance have become rhetoric more than anything else.

At this point after assuming political power it desperately sought to achieve for so long, the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) should have long assumed the shape and form the UDC painfully explained when still in

opposition for obvious reasons. One of the reasons would be to avoid situations former Ministers in the Masisi administration find themselves in so far as corruption, abuse of office allegations are concerned. It is safe to suggest the UDC government could be creating its own Ministers in the form and shape the former Ministers find themselves owing to the troubled governance and other related issues at the DCEC. The same was said by the UDC about the Directorate of Intelligence Service (DIS). But probably to everyone's surprise and I dare say shock, fifteen months after assuming power, the Director General of DCEC Rre Fana Magosi is still at the helm of the agency despite the many adverse court judgements against his leadership. In short, courts have basically said Magosi is the epitome of sheer incompetence grounded on rogue disposition. How and why would the UDC be comfortable in retaining someone with such chequered past? Not far-fetched to suggest he has become useful to it for this or the other reason.

While the forensic audit process is a welcome development in addressing corruption that took place under the BDP, it is not clear at this stage whether or not it will be a silver bullet to corruption and other forms of malfeasance. It is also not clear whether or not the report therefrom will be made public. It is also not clear at this stage whether or not the President to whom the forensic report will be submitted for his discretion as to which recommendations will be implemented, will accept and implement the recommendations. As a political party that would have had strong positions on issues of good governance and the promotion of democracy while still in opposition, the UDC would presumably, have had a blueprint on how to implement the said positions once in government. Accepting that there is government and parliamentary



President Duma Boko

machinery through which such positions are translated into enforceable legal instruments, it is absurd such machinery has operated so slowly up to this point. Issues of transparency, good governance and accountability appear to be still a serious challenge in the New Botswana. Reports are emerging from the tried and tested media organisations for example that the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Act is not being strictly complied with where the Ethics and Integrity Directorate is 'begging'

those who are required by the Act to do so. The appointment of Judges is one such hanging fruit the UDC government should have picked as soon as it got into office precisely because it bitterly complained about such under BDP administrations. In fact, it was my understanding that the UDC advocated for the appointment of Judges in the way the South Africans do where individuals apply for judicial positions, such are publicly interviewed and so on. To my dismay, the UDC's Constitution

(Amendment) Bill No 14 of 2025 that seeks to establish the Constitutional Court provides in a similar fashion as does the current Constitution in so far as appointment of Judges is concerned. The bulk of the members of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) as provided for in this Bill will be political appointees.

A lot was said by the UDC about the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), the body that runs and manages Botswana elections. It will be remembered the UDC

launched a court case against the IEC towards the end of 2023 wherein it sought the IEC to allow it to have its party activists observe voter registration. It is common cause that the Court of Appeal ruled against the UDC. There have been complaints from the UDC in particular and the opposition in general that election ballots for Members of Parliament be counted at the ward polling station as opposed to the constituency counting centre. The recent parliamentary by-election at the Kgalagadi South constituency once more reminded us of the challenged nature of transporting ballot boxes across the constituency, particularly where the road terrain is difficult to traverse. Given that the Electoral Act is the legal instrument that regulates the conduct of elections and that political parties earn the legitimacy to govern through the said electoral Act, the process of reforming the Act should have long started in earnest.

It should be asked - why is the UDC government not picking these low hanging fruits. There can be one answer and one answer only: the status quo serves the political and other interests of the UDC leadership much the same it served the BDP. Otherwise, the needle would have moved at this point of the UDC administration. What one hears is that this is a human rights-centred government that abhors corruption, is a proponent of the rule of law, appoints people on the basis of meritocracy and so on. By and large, this is what the BDP fed Batswana. I am not oblivious to the fact that the UDC government is still trying to find its feet. Here we are! But it is unacceptable that the UDC government seemingly, is moving disturbingly at a snail's pace. The sooner it picks the low hanging fruits with the urgency it deserves, the better. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself! Send your comment to: adamphetlhe08@gmail.com

'Con court, as proposed, is a disaster'

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

Part 5
DR LETSHWITI TUTWANE*

NOTE THAT THE NEW SECTION 103(1) (a) does not, but needs to, state how or by whom the retired

judge would be appointed. It appears then that all the other members of the Judicial Service Commission, except the member of the Law Society, would be appointed by the President. This increases Executive influence in the judiciary and offends against the rule of law. Additionally, this does not fit well with the spirit of section 103(4), which provides that:

"(4) The Judicial Service Commission shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority in the exercise of its functions under this Constitution."

Note too that the new section 103(1) would change the paragraphing in that section. In section 103(2), there are references to the paragraphs in section 103(1). Cross-referencing amendments in section 103(2) have not been made and therefore the cross-references in section 103(2) would no longer make sense and would cause confusion.

Clause 13 would amend section 104(2)(a) of the Constitution, which provides for the appointment of those judicial officers that are specified in the section to be made by the President acting in accordance with the advice of the Judicial Service Commission. The section lists the Registrar of the Court of Appeal and of the High Court. The amendment would add the Registrar of the Constitutional Court.

Clause 14 would amend section 105 of the Constitution. Section 105 of the Constitution provides that, where any question as to the interpretation of the Constitution arises in proceedings before a subordinate court, the court must refer the question to the High Court for a decision on the question. Clause 14 would amend the section to state that the question can be referred to the High Court or the Constitutional Court. As the amendment made by clause 7 ousts the jurisdiction of the High Court "to hear or determine any application or question arising out of a matter involving the enforcement or



Dr Letshwiti Tutwane

securing of fundamental rights as contained in sections 3 to 16 of the Constitution or any other law", any such question would have to be referred to the Constitutional Court only.

Clause 15 would amend section 106 of the Constitution. Section 106 of the Constitution provides that:

"An appeal shall lie as of right to the Court of Appeal from any decision of the High Court which involves the interpretation of this Constitution other than a decision of the High Court under section 69(1) of this Constitution:

Provided that no appeal shall lie from a determination of the High Court under this section dismissing an application on the ground that it is frivolous or vexatious."

The clause 15 amendment to section 106

would replace the Court of Appeal with the Constitutional Court as the court to which all such appeals from the High Court must be made. The new section 106 would provide that:

"(1) An appeal shall lie as of right to the Constitutional Court from any decision of the High Court which involves the interpretation of this Constitution.

(2) No appeal shall lie from a determination of any other court under this section dismissing an application on the ground that it is frivolous or vexatious."

The new section 106(2) would replace "High Court" with "any other court". It is not clear what "any other court" would be referring to because the section provides for appeals from the High Court only.

Clause 16 would amend section 110 of the Constitution, which provides for the appointment of public officers.

For ease of reference, the existing offices to which the section does not apply are listed in section 102(2) as:

"(a) the office of judge of the Court of Appeal or of the High Court;

(b) any office to which section 104 or 112 of the Constitution applies."

The amendment made by clause 16 would amend section 102(2) (a) of the Constitution by adding the office of judge of the Constitutional Court as an office to which the section does not apply.

Clause 17 would amend section 116(3) of the Constitution to add the office of a Constitutional Court judge as an office the pension benefits of which are afforded protection under that section.

Clause 18 would amend section 122(5) to add the office of Constitutional Court judge to the offices whose salaries and allowances are prescribed by Parliament, are a charge against the Consolidated Fund, and cannot be altered to his or her disadvantage after his or her appointment.

This is a reminder that enactment of this Bill and creation of the Constitutional Court would be a substantial additional and recurring expenditure for Botswana. It would really help if government gave the public an estimate of the costs of conducting a referendum on the court and the actual costs of running the con court given the country's current financial troubles.

Clause 19 would amend section 127 of the Constitution, which is the interpretation section. Section 127(1) would be amended to add "Constitutional Court" to the list of the courts established in Botswana that are not "subordinate courts". (The existing courts that are not "subordinate courts" are the Court of Appeal, the High Court, the Industrial Court and a court martial.)

Clause 20 is the final clause of the Bill and reads: "Transitional provision: Any matters which, at the commencement of this Act were before any court shall be concluded by such court notwithstanding that such court no longer has jurisdiction as a result of this

Act." Regarding the wording of clause 20, if a court no longer has jurisdiction (to hear and determine a matter), is it possible to conclude the matter before it?

Transitional provisions are very important. They need to ensure the prospective workability of the legislative changes. This transitional provision is limited only to addressing matters already before the court on enactment. This Bill, if enacted, would require amendments to many other laws too.

On the above grounds, there is no persuasive argument for the establishment of a so-called "Constitutional Court" that would be created by the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2025. What have the High Court and the Court of Appeal failed to do? The proposed court will complicate rather than facilitate the administration of justice and be a substantial and recurrent additional expense for the Government of Botswana. It would not enhance the independence of the courts but instead increase the potential influence the President could have on the courts. Or is expansion of presidential powers one of Botswana's constitutional values?

But even if one were to accept the idea of the con court, as presently proposed in the Bill, it's a disaster.

Having understood this bill and features of a constitution, I hope that readers will act on the facts and the bill as drafted and presented before parliament, rather than the usual political polemics. It's your life, it's your country and it's the future of your children.

"Dr Letshwiti Batlhalefi Tutwane (PhD), Regulatory Law and Policy. Dr Tutwane is also 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.

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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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email to dibeela@thepatriot.co.bw /
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KPMG: Financial Services CEOs double down on AI, resilience, and growth in 2026

FINANCIAL SERVICES LEADERS ACROSS Africa are entering 2026 with renewed confidence, placing artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, regulatory resilience and strategic growth at the centre of their transformation agendas. This is according to insights from KPMG's 2025 Global CEO Outlook, with a focus on the Banking and Capital Markets, and Insurance sectors.

Despite ongoing geopolitical uncertainty, economic volatility and regulatory complexity, CEOs across both sectors are demonstrating strong appetite for growth and technology-led reinvention.

Insurance: Confidence rising as technology and sustainability reshape the sector

Insurance CEOs are increasingly confident in their organisations' growth prospects. Globally, 82% of insurance CEOs are confident in their company's growth, up from 74% in 2024, a significant year-on-year increase. Expansion across health, life, and specialty lines, including cyber and business interruption, is contributing to improved earnings and sector momentum.

AI adoption is accelerating across underwriting, onboarding, claims processing and cyber defence. Globally, 67% of CEOs expect returns from AI investments within one to three years, compared to 21% last year, and two thirds plan to allocate 10-20% of their budgets towards AI initiatives.

Workforce transformation is a parallel priority. Seventy-seven percent of global insurance CEOs cite AI workforce readiness and upskilling as a top constraint on growth, while 83% say AI is reshaping training and development, and 79% believe it is changing the skills required for entry-level roles.

Sustainability and ESG compliance remain high on the agenda, particularly as regulatory standards tighten globally. More than half (55%) of global insurance CEOs identify ESG reporting and compliance as their primary ESG priority. Given that many African regulatory frameworks follow



Mark Danckwerts, Head of Insurance, KPMG One Africa

European trends, this is a critical area of focus for insurers across the continent.

Cyber risk remains a dominant concern. Eighty-three percent of insurance CEOs identify cybercrime as the biggest barrier to organisational growth, with cybersecurity and digital risk resilience ranking as the leading area for risk mitigation investment.

Mark Danckwerts, Head of Insurance, KPMG One Africa said: "Insurance leaders across Africa are navigating a complex operating environment, but they are doing so from a position of growing confidence. AI presents enormous opportunity to

improve efficiency, risk assessment and customer engagement. However, sustainable success will depend on responsible adoption, workforce readiness, and strong cyber resilience. Insurers that balance innovation with trust will be best placed to outperform."

The appetite for inorganic growth remains strong, with the insurance sector showing one of the highest levels of high-impact mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity globally, a trend reflected in several African markets in recent years.

Banking and Capital Markets: AI at the

heart of strategic reinvention

For banks across Africa, AI is the predominant theme shaping CEO priorities. "Technology, in particular AI, presents a huge opportunity, but also a challenge in terms of where to prioritise, how to achieve a measurable return on investment (ROI), and how to ensure responsible and safe adoption to maintain trust," said Pierre Fourie, KPMG One Africa Head of Financial Services.

"Banks need to modernise legacy IT, cope with rising financial crime risk, made more difficult by sophisticated scams using

AI, address new competitive threats from fintechs and nimble, cloud-native banks, and comply with complex and changing regulations."

AI is seen as both an enabler and a risk amplifier. It can significantly enhance customer engagement and deepen understanding of customer needs, yet banks must guard against depersonalising interactions and losing the human touch. At the same time, AI raises the cyber threat landscape while also strengthening banks' ability to detect and defend against bad actors.

The scale of planned investment is notable: 70% of banking CEOs expect to spend 10-20% of their budgets on AI in the next 12 months; 69% expect ROI from AI investments within one to three years, up sharply from 13% last year; 78% say AI workforce readiness or AI upskilling could negatively impact the organisation if not adequately addressed.

The top five trends negatively impacting organisational prosperity in banking are: 86% - Cybercrime and cyber insecurity; 78% - AI workforce readiness; 77% - Successful integration of AI into business processes; 75% - Competition for AI talent; 75% - Cost of technology infrastructure...

Fourie added: "For African banks, AI is not a theoretical discussion — it is a strategic imperative. The ability to integrate AI into core processes, manage cyber risk and build the right talent base will determine competitive advantage. At the same time, banks must modernise legacy systems and manage infrastructure costs, all while protecting trust in an increasingly digital ecosystem."

Inorganic growth also remains firmly on the agenda. Appetite for strategic transactions is high, with CEOs seeking differentiation through innovation, customer experience and new business models. Notably, 25% of banking CEOs identify 'strategic differentiation' as the primary driver of AI adoption, signalling that technology investment is increasingly linked to long-term competitive positioning rather than short-term efficiency alone.

A Pan-African moment for financial services transformation

Across both insurance and banking, a common theme emerges: confidence underpinned by disciplined transformation. AI investment is accelerating, cybersecurity is paramount, ESG compliance is rising in importance, and M&A remains a lever for scale and capability. For African financial institutions, the challenge, and opportunity, lies in balancing innovation with resilience, and growth with governance.

Kulani Energy acquires critical assets from Optipower

KULANI ENERGY HAS ACQUIRED critical assets from Optipower, which historically operated as a division of Murray & Roberts Limited (now in business rescue). The acquisition was concluded through Kulani Energy's subsidiary, OptiProjects, which focuses on power transmission, distribution and renewable energy infrastructure.

Kulani Energy is a wholly Black women-owned engineering and energy infrastructure firm. The acquisition

expands its engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) capacity to support South Africa's grid expansion.

Concluded at the end of January 2026, the transaction was executed while Murray & Roberts Limited was in business rescue, preserving critical EPC capability that may otherwise have exited the market.

OptiProjects will deliver high-voltage transmission lines, substations, and renewable energy projects, including solar and wind. Prior to business rescue,

Optipower was one of the EPC contractors approved on Eskom's Panel A, supporting the utility's planned 14,000-kilometre transmission rollout to 2030.

Kulani Energy has re-employed specialist technical resources, including project managers, construction managers and technical planners, safeguarding scarce skills in a sector that has experienced sustained contraction.

"South Africa's grid expansion depends not only on capital investment, but on

retaining experienced delivery teams with the ability to execute complex transmission projects," said Thinga Nethanani, Chief Operating Officer of Kulani Energy. "This acquisition augments important execution capability in a constrained market, and highlights the role that Kulani Energy can play in stabilising and scaling critical national infrastructure capacity."

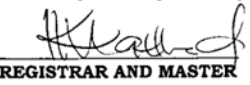
The acquisition was funded with support from Differential Capital, which recognised the strategic value Kulani Energy brings


as an operator and integrator of complex infrastructure assets. The partnership addressed a structural financing gap in the construction sector, where limited access to funding often prevents local players from competing with multinationals and undertaking large-scale infrastructure projects.

"Our confidence was driven by the experience, track record and disciplined execution of the Kulani Energy team," said Vincent Anthonyrajah, CEO of Differential



Vincent Anthonyrajah, Differential Capital CEO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE		CASE NO: UAHGB-000323-25			
In the matter between:					
LAW SOCIETY BOTSWANA	APPLICANT				
And					
BOIKHUTSO MPHONGA t/a MPHONGA LEGAL PRACTITIONERS	RESPONDENT				
ORDER					
Before the Honourable Justice Mr. M. Mathaka at Lobatse on this 17 th day of February 2026.					
UPON HEARING: Attorney Mr. M.T.T Gobhoza for the Applicant, no appearance for the Respondent and having read the documents filed of record.					
IT IS ORDERED THAT:					
1. The rule nisi be and is hereby confirmed as follows:					
1.1 The Respondent is hereby declared not entitled to practice law, as envisaged in Section 27 as read with Section 53 (1) of the Legal Practitioners Act Cap 61:01 ("the Act").					
1.2 The Respondent be and is hereby interdicted, restrained and prohibited from practicing as an Attorney or holding himself out as, or pretending to be an Attorney or making use of any words or any name title or pretending to be an Attorney or making use of any words or any name title or addition or description implying or that he is a legal practitioner recognized as such in terms of the Act, until such time that he has complied with Section 27 of the Act.					
1.3 The Respondent or any person acting under his authority or instruction(s) is and hereby interdicted and barred from transacting or operating the trust account(s) of the Respondent, trading under the name and style Mphong Legal Practitioners pending compliance with the provisions of the Act.					
1.4 That a Curator Bonis nominated by the Applicant is hereby appointed to control and administer the trust account(s) controlled and administered by the Respondent operating as Mphong Legal Practitioners, immediately upon granting of this order.					
1.5 The said Curator Bonis shall have the powers to operate the said trust account(s) as signatory as would otherwise have been operated by the Respondent.					
1.6 The Curator Bonis shall file a report with the Applicant within a reasonable time after the granting of this Order and give periodic reports to the Council of the Applicant, monthly or during such intervals as may be required as may be required by the said Council.					
1.7 The Applicant and the said Curator Bonis shall be preferred creditors of the Trust Account(s) and costs of the Curatorship and Curators associated with this matter be paid ahead of any other from the Trust Account.					
1.8 The Council of the Applicant shall cause this order to be published in an issue of two (2) private newspapers in circulation in Botswana within seven (7) days of the granting of this order.					
2. The Respondent shall pay the costs of this suit.					
BY ORDER OF THE COURT					
					
REGISTRAR AND MASTER					
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>ASSISTANT REGISTRAR HIGH COURT OF BOTSWANA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 FEB 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PRIVAT: 17 FEB 2026 ATSE TEL: 222 222 222 REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA</td> </tr> </table>			ASSISTANT REGISTRAR HIGH COURT OF BOTSWANA	17 FEB 2026	PRIVAT: 17 FEB 2026 ATSE TEL: 222 222 222 REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
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IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE		SEGOPOLLO J.
In the matter between:		CASE NO: CVHGB-002822-23
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA	PLAINTIFF	
And		
DUDETSANG SEBETLELA	DEFENDANT	
NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION		
BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment of this Honourable Court dated 6th December 2023 and stamped on the 6th December 2023, the following movable property of the above-mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff G. W. Ramokgwana in the manner hereinafter set out.		
DATE OF SALE:	3rd April 2026	
TIME OF SALE:	10:30 Hours	
PLACE OF SALE:	In front of Broadhurst Magistrate Court	
TERMS OF SALE:	Cash or Electronic Bank Transfer	
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: 1 X MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION NO. B 334 API NISSAN HARDBODY SINGLE CAB WHITE (OHASIS NO. ADNJ230000E006085), 1X QUEEN SIZE BED, 1X DEFY FRIDGE, 1X SAMSUNG HOME THEATRE WITH SEVEN SPEAKERS, 1X DEFY 4 BURNER STOVE.		
The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriff's Offices at the addresses below.		
DATED AT GABORONE THIS 20th FEBRUARY 2026.		
Deputy Sheriff G. Ramokgwana 72201769 / 74029047 C/o Gobhoza Legal Practice Plaintiff's Attorneys Plot 115, Unit 19, Kgale Gaborone International Finance Park P O Box 26168 Game City Gaborone		
		
GOBHOZA LEGAL PRACTICE <small>Attorneys, Conveyancers, Notaries, Arbitrators & Corporate Services</small>		

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE		RADIJENG J.
In the matter between:		CASE NO: CVHGB-000379-24
MALEBOGO ZILBERMAN	PLAINTIFF	
And		
PANANA ELVIS BOGATSU	DEFENDANT	
NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION		
BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment of this Honourable Court dated 18 th September 2024 and stamped on the 10 th day of October 2024 the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff D. P. Gabobakwe in the manner hereinafter set out.		
DATE OF SALE:	10 th March 2026	
TIME OF SALE:	10:00 Hours	
PLACE OF SALE:	Tribal Lot 7011, Mmankgodi	
TERMS OF SALE:	Cash or EFT	
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: The Defendant's rights, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 7011 Mmankgodi, measuring 7444m ² (Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Forty-Four Square Metres), held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. TL 278/2022 dated the 17 th day of March 2022 and made in favour of PANANA ELVIS BOGATSU, together with the developments thereon being: (a) bachelor pad, pit latrine toilet, gum pole fence and a sliding gate).		
* The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriff's Offices at the addresses below.		
DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.		
Deputy Sheriff D. P. GABOBAKWE 73900288/72901534 C/o Gobhoza Legal Practice Plaintiff's Attorneys Plot 115, Kgale Mews, Unit 19 Gaborone International Finance Park P O Box 26168, Game City Gaborone		
		
GOBHOZA LEGAL PRACTICE <small>Attorneys, Conveyancers, Notaries, Arbitrators & Corporate Services</small>		

Capital. "Importantly, they identified and secured the key individuals required to stabilise and rebuild Optipower, positioning the business for sustainable delivery."

Anthonyrajah said Kulani Energy had also presented a credible long-term business plan capable of generating attractive shareholder returns while strengthening an EPC sector that has historically delivered low returns on capital. "Kulani Energy was an ideal partner to rebuild Optipower, while building stronger, more competitive local infrastructure capability," he said.

With the addition of OptiProjects' EPC capability, Kulani Energy has since been contracted to participate in a 100MW solar photovoltaic project in Guinea, valued at approximately R2.9 billion, signalling growing regional demand for its delivery platform.

"OptiProjects will operate as part of Kulani Energy's broader platform strategy spanning professional services, EPC delivery, operations and maintenance, and investments," said Nethanani.

Business

NDB launches new strategy

Charts a new growth path with “Mothlala wa Pula, Modi wa Isago (2025–2030)” strategy

GORATAONE KGOSIMORE
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT Bank (NDB) has launched its new five-year strategy, “Mothlala wa Pula, Modi wa Isago (2025–2030),” positioning itself for reinvention as a leading regional hybrid institution that integrates its Development Finance Institution (DFI) mandate with commercial banking capabilities.

The strategy prioritises agriculture value chains, green finance, and infrastructure development, reinforcing efforts to accelerate the country’s economic transformation and diversification.

Return to Profitability

Announcing the strategy, NDB Chief Executive Office Ogone Madisa, revealed that the bank has rebounded after years of losses, posting a P13.1 million profit for the 2024/25 financial year. She noted that the bank has now been profitable for two consecutive years.

On a year-on-year basis, the loan book grew by 17.2%, while the net asset ratio stood at 17%, above the regulatory minimum. The bank’s cost-to-income ratio, historically above 100%, declined to 94% at the end of March 2025, reflecting improved operational efficiency.

In fund administration, NDB has disbursed P1.1 billion across various managed facilities, including the GIZ fund, which benefited 53 recipients. Madisa stated that NDB insurance agency has also recorded steady growth, achieving a compounded



NDB CEO, Ogone Madisa

[PIC: GORATAONE KGOSIMORE]

annual growth rate of 48.4% since inception, with policy growth of approximately 23.6%, driven by customer expansion and scaled distribution across branches.

Reinventing Amid Economic Challenges

Madisa acknowledged that despite the improved performance, the operating environment remains constrained. Faced with economic

headwinds, fiscal tightening and elevated risk levels, NDB is repositioning itself through the new strategy to become a Development Finance Institution (DFI) with commercial banking capabilities.

She explained that the model will operate as “two engines under one bank.” One engine will continue driving fund administration and developmental financing to ensure nationwide access to

government-backed and other managed funds while the other engine will be about offering commercial banking capabilities.

“With us offering commercial banking capabilities, we will be able

to see real-time client visibility, which will also help us to price the client accordingly,” she said, adding that this would ease costs and improve convenience for customers.

Strategic Priorities

Under the strategy, NDB will introduce innovative and differentiated financial products, strengthen strategic partnerships to expand its reach and impact, and embed Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles across its operations. The bank will also prioritise operational efficiency and financial sustainability, while accelerating growth in green finance, agricultural financing and its regional footprint.

For his part, the Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr. Edwin Dikoloti commended the bank for its new strategy, noting that by evolving into a modern development finance institution, the entity will not only provide funding but also bridge gaps and unlock opportunities where risk is perceived to be high. He added that it will ensure strategic sectors are not left behind while maintaining commercial discipline to guarantee sustainability and long-term impact.

“By embracing this evolution, Botswana is positioning itself not only to finance development, but to shape it, to mobilise capital, crowd in investment, and create ecosystems where entrepreneurs can thrive. This is exactly how we transition towards a private sector-led and export-driven economy, promoting diversification, inclusivity and sustainability,” he said.

BAC links new identity to financial independence

Renamed Botswana School of Business Sciences

KITSO RAMONO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

FOR MUCH OF ITS 30-YEAR history, Botswana Accountancy College [BAC] has operated with an approach uncommon among public institutions: keeping reliance on government subvention deliberately low while building alternative sources of income.

That strategy now sits at the centre of the institution’s transformation into the Botswana School of Business Sciences, a transition management says reflects both financial reality and academic evolution.

Speaking during the announcement of the name change, Acting Executive Director Dr Tebogo Magang said government subvention currently accounts for less than five percent of the institution’s total revenue. He noted that from the early years, the college was advised that long-term sustainability would depend on reducing dependence on public funding and developing a self-financing model.

Established in 1996 to address Botswana’s shortage of professional accountants, the college initially focused on a narrow academic mandate. As the economy diversified and skills demands shifted, the institution expanded its offerings to include business, insurance, tourism, leisure and information and communications technology. This academic growth, management says, also broadened its revenue base.

Dr Magang said the original name increasingly failed to reflect



BAC Acting Executive Director, Dr Tebogo Magang

[PIC: GORATAONE KGOSIMORE]

both the scope of programmes offered and the institution’s funding model. The transition to Botswana School of Business Sciences, which took effect on 15 January 2026 following approval by the Botswana Qualifications Authority [BQA], was therefore not cosmetic, but structural.

Central to this change is the attainment of awarding body status, which authorises the institution to design, accredit and issue its own qualifications. Management said this milestone strengthens academic autonomy while also reducing reliance on external awarding partners, a move that supports long-term financial independence.

From the 2026/27 academic year, all new undergraduate students will receive qualifications awarded directly by the Botswana School of Business Sciences. Current

students, including those enrolled in professional programmes, will complete their studies under existing collaborative arrangements. Postgraduate programmes will continue to be delivered in partnership with universities and professional bodies, with a gradual transition planned over time.

Dr Magang said the awarding body status, combined with the broader academic mandate, allows the institution to respond more quickly to market needs while aligning programme design with national and regional skills priorities.

Infrastructure development is also being aligned to the sustainability strategy. The institution is implementing an expansion plan supported in part through the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, with funding allocated

to student accommodation, academic facilities, sports infrastructure and commercial developments. Management said the commercial components are intended to generate revenue that can subsidise non-commercial academic activities.

Deputy Board Chairperson Eleina Gonslaves said the institution’s journey away from subvention shows responsible leadership and adaptability. She warned that institutions that fail to evolve risk stagnation and irrelevance, noting that change is often uncomfortable but necessary for progress.

Gonslaves said the new identity also reinforces the institution’s commitment to entrepreneurship and self-development, adding that academic excellence must translate into graduates who can create opportunities, not only seek employment.

She thanked management, staff, students, alumni, industry partners and the media for supporting the transition, describing the renaming as participation in “history in the making” rather than a ceremonial event. As pressure on public finances continues to grow, the institution’s leadership believes its model offers a lesson for other state-owned entities: that it is possible to reduce dependence on government funding while maintaining quality, relevance and public value.

De Beers pins hope on larger stones

As loss grows to US\$511m amidst declining diamond sales

KITSO RAMONO
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DIAMOND GIANT DE BEERS Group has reported a tough financial year, describing 2025 as the result of a “perfect storm” that hit the global diamond industry from several directions at once.

Although the company’s revenue rose slightly to \$3.5 billion, up from \$3.3 billion in 2024, it recorded a major operating loss of \$511 million. Last year’s loss stood at just \$25 million. In simple terms: De Beers sold slightly more, but earned far less.

What went wrong?

Company executives said several problems piled up at the same time. There were global trade tensions, including tariff uncertainty between the United States and India. More diamonds entered the market from countries like Angola. Lab-grown diamonds became cheaper and more popular. At the same time, gold prices rose sharply, forcing jewellery manufacturers to reduce the amount of diamonds in some pieces to keep prices affordable. All of this reduced demand and pushed prices down, especially for smaller diamonds. The average price De Beers received for its diamonds dropped from \$152 per carat to \$142 per carat.

Production cut to protect the market

To avoid flooding the market, De Beers reduced production from 24.7 million carats to 21.7 million carats. The company also cut spending sharply, capital expenditure fell from \$536 million to \$353 million. Major projects, including the Veneta underground expansion in South



De Beers CEO, Al Cook

Africa, were slowed down to save cash.

Chief Financial Officer Niranjan Mylvaganam said the company had to make difficult decisions, including cutting costs and reducing its workforce, in order to stabilise the business. Despite producing fewer diamonds, the company managed to lower its unit production costs from \$93 per carat to \$86 per carat, showing tighter control of expenses.

Some good news

It’s not all bad. De Beers says demand for larger, high-value diamonds is starting to recover, particularly in the United States. Independent jewellers are reportedly performing better than large retail chains in selling natural diamonds.

India also remains a strong growth market, driven by a growing middle class and increasing demand for engagement rings. China, which has been a major weak spot in recent years, is showing signs of stabilising after a steep drop in consumer spending. Executive Vice President

Rowley Paul said while the past two years have been very difficult, there are early signs the industry may be reaching the bottom of the downturn.

Anglo American writes down value

Parent company Anglo American, which owns 85% of De Beers, has reduced the book value of its investment in the diamond business. However, De Beers stressed this is an accounting adjustment and does not mean money has left the company. Anglo American is currently looking to sell De Beers, possibly to a consortium of investors.

What this means for Botswana

For Botswana and other countries that depend heavily on diamonds, the results reflect the global slowdown in demand. Production cuts at major mines like Jwaneng and Orapa are part of efforts to balance supply with weaker demand.

The key message from De Beers is cautious optimism: the worst may be over, but a full recovery will take time.

Letshego Africa Holdings CEO's first 100 days

WHEN REINETTE VAN DER MERWE assumed the role of Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of Botswana-headquartered Letshego Africa Holdings on 1 October 2025, she stepped into leadership at a time of tightening liquidity conditions across several African markets.

Her first priority was not expansion. It was stability. "I came in at a time of turbulence," she says. "It was important to understand the DNA of the organisation and see conditions on the ground."

Over the past 100 days, the GCEO has engaged extensively across Letshego's footprint, including visits to Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and Mozambique. At home in Botswana, she has focused on strengthening leadership alignment, engaging key shareholders and reinforcing the company's financial base in its core market.

Botswana Remains the Anchor Market Botswana continues to be Letshego's principal market, with the company maintaining its position as the leading microfinance institution in the country, despite increasing competition from banks and other lenders.

The company believes there remains further growth runway locally, particularly as the business gradually diversifies beyond its traditional lending model.

The GCEO has spent part of her early tenure meeting significant shareholders and institutional partners, including BPOPE, BIHL, Sanlam and asset managers,

reaffirming the Group's strategic direction and turnaround priorities. The engagements continue with all other stakeholders.

"These engagements are critical," she says, "because confidence from shareholders, regulators and funders underpins our ability to serve customers sustainably."

Liquidity First, Growth Second Across parts of the region, liquidity pressures have required careful capital management. Rather than pursue aggressive loan book expansion, Letshego has prioritised capital and liquidity stabilisation while maintaining customer service levels. The company reports that its liquidity position has improved across markets during the period, marking an important step in restoring balance sheet resilience.

Performance of bond programmes in Botswana, Namibia and Ghana remains steady, with continued institutional appetite. In addition, customer deposit growth has strengthened, and will be further supported by new deposit-taking licences secured in Eswatini and Lesotho over the past year. For Botswana stakeholders, these developments signal strengthening funding depth and brand confidence.

Strategic Refocus Towards Southern Africa Letshego is advancing the sale process of its East and West Africa subsidiaries. Management describes this as deliberate refocusing rather than contraction. The Group intends to concentrate capital and management attention on Southern Africa, particularly the SADC region, where

it sees clearer product and market alignment and stronger long-term potential. Mobile lending models have performed well in East and West Africa, while the Deduction-at-Source model continues to anchor performance in Southern Africa, including Botswana. By narrowing its geographic footprint, the Group aims to deepen relevance and strengthen operational efficiency in markets where it holds leading positions.

Strengthening Digital and Operations Digital transformation remains central to Letshego's inclusion mandate. During her first 100 days, the GCEO commissioned a comprehensive review of the Group's digital infrastructure, examining system capability, uptime and cybersecurity safeguards. The Digital Mall platform has been integrated into country performance scorecards to drive measurable customer adoption.

The head office structure review is underway to lead operational strengthening, alongside plans to bring in graduate technology talent to build long-term digital capability. A new operating structure is also being embedded across the Group to improve efficiency, cost control and execution discipline.

Managing Risk in a Changing Environment Operating across multiple jurisdictions exposes Letshego to regulatory and macroeconomic shifts. Management has intensified regulatory engagements across markets to ensure alignment on policy developments and emerging technologies. Geopolitical and market risk analysis has



Letshego GCEO, Reinette van der Merwe

been formalised within funding and strategy processes to improve resilience to external shocks. Funding diversification remains a focus, with efforts directed at building stable capital structures capable of withstanding volatility.

Leadership Culture and Internal Alignment Internally, the GCEO has emphasised collaboration, accountability and disciplined execution. She has held town halls in countries visited so far, as well as virtual townhalls across all countries and instituted regular employee pulse checks to maintain transparency and alignment across the organisation. Her objective is to leave the organisation leaner, financially resilient and more relevant to the communities it serves.

The Road Ahead Over the next 12 to 24 months, Letshego will focus on: Finalising its geographic refocus towards Southern Africa; Further strengthening its balance sheet and capital structure; Diversifying income streams beyond lending into transactional and deposit-taking services; Embedding its new operating model to enhance efficiency.

For Letshego, the outlook is centred on consolidation and disciplined growth. As a Botswana-listed institution with nearly three decades of operating history, Letshego is signalling that stability, execution and regional focus will define its next phase. After 100 days in office, the leadership message is clear: resilience first, sustainable growth next.

Operating across multiple jurisdictions exposes Letshego to regulatory and macroeconomic shifts. Management has intensified regulatory engagements across markets to ensure alignment on policy developments and emerging technologies. Geopolitical and market risk analysis has

Under the MoU, Petrohyper will localise its supply chain within the transport and logistics sector, while FNB will provide financing, upscale support, and risk mitigation for SMEs operating within the company's ecosystem. The initiative is expected to promote job creation and enhance the capacity of citizen-owned businesses.

In his closing remarks, FNB's Deputy CEO Dr. Mbako Mbo commended both organisations for their commitment to citizen economic empowerment. He said the MoU represents more than a signed document, describing it as a symbol of meaningful collaboration aimed at

creating jobs and fostering growth for local businesses. Dr Mbo urged the teams from both FNB and Petro Hyper to leverage the alignment of purpose to ensure the partnership's success, adding that the bank's dedicated citizen economic empowerment unit underscores the organisation's commitment to shared responsibility. "This is not just signing a piece of paper. This is a symbol for a great thing to come. We are talking of job creation, meaningful citizen economic empowerment, and growth of our own businesses," he said, praising the leadership at Petro Hyper for taking the lead in promoting citizen participation in business.

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FNBB, Petrohyper forge strategic partnership

...to boost fuel transport, empower SMEs

KITSO RAMONO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA and Petrohyper have entered a strategic partnership aimed at strengthening Botswana's fuel transportation value chain while promoting citizen economic empowerment.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed in a ceremony attended by the organisations' leadership, seeks to improve access to finance for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and to create opportunities for citizen-owned businesses

within Petrohyper's supply chain.

Speaking at the event, FNBB CEO Steven Bogatsu said the partnership forms part of the bank's broader efforts of supporting economic diversification in Botswana. He emphasised that SMEs remain the backbone of job creation and inclusive growth, noting that nearly 60% of employment in Botswana is generated by these enterprises.

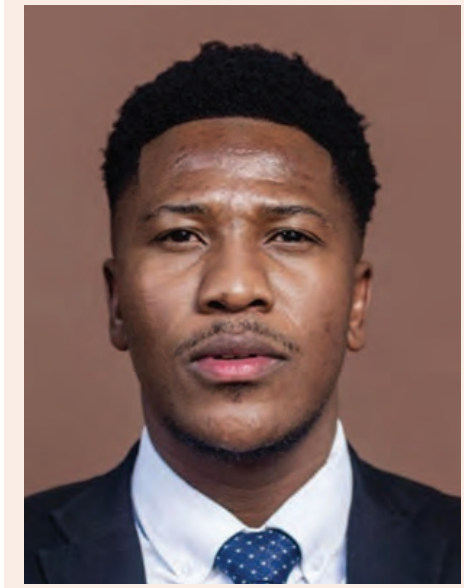
Bogatsu further said that citizen economic empowerment cannot be left to government alone, stressing that the corporate sector has a duty to participate. He said the MoU is intended to produce tangible outcomes, not

just symbolic commitments, and that FNB is actively shifting focus towards supporting SMEs and broadening opportunities for citizens in business. For Petrohyper, Director of Business Development Tshedukane Elijah described the agreement as a key milestone for the citizen-owned fuel company. He said the partnership completes Petrohyper's empowerment model by linking local entrepreneurs to structured financing from FNB, and expressed optimism that the collaboration would go beyond formalities to deliver practical results for small businesses.



FNBB CEO Steven Bogatsu signing the MoU with Petrohyper Director of Business Development, Tshedukane Elijah

[PIC: GORATAONE KGOSIMORE]



Know Your Corporate Leader

Full Name: Kabo Komanyane
Position: Acting Manager Marketing and Communications
Date Started: October 2025
Institution: BA ISAGO University
Nature of business: Education Training Provider, Established in 2001

FNBB introduces the FNB Motshelo Savings Account

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA (FNB Botswana) is pleased to announce the introduction of the FNB Motshelo Savings Account, a solution designed to support and enhance one of Botswana's most cherished and longstanding cultural practices, motshelo, the tradition of communal savings.

For generations, motshelo has been a trusted way for Batswana; from young professionals, top executives, masika, ditsala, our parents and grandparents to pool resources, support one another, and achieve shared common goals. This spirit of collaboration and community sits at the heart of the new FNB Motshelo Savings Account, which offers a secure, transparent, and convenient way to facilitate modern group savings.

Speaking on the introduction of the new account, FNBB Retail Director, Monkogogi Mogorosi, expressed her enthusiasm about the product launch.

She stated that motshelo remains a vital financial and social practice for Batswana from all walks of life and emphasised that this product will provide a secure, transparent, and digitally enabled formal banking solution that supports this way of life.

"Re le bantsi re mo metshelong. FNB is here to help. Now more than ever, coming together to save for a common goal is critical. Whether you want to save for social



Monkogogi 'Mo' Mogorosi

events and milestones such as, a baby or bridal shower, stag party, invest in assets such as building property, small stock farming, a sediba syndicate, or a girls trip the FNB Motshelo account can help. What sets the FNB Motshelo Savings Account apart is our ability to combine tradition practices with digital empowerment. From transparent notifications via inContact alerts, full visibility of the account activities and balances to all members, the ease of adding and removing additional members digitally to competitive interest rates you don't want to miss out. Call your friends and family and formalise your community money matters."

She added that this solution reinforces the Bank's commitment to listening to client needs and developing solutions that fit naturally into the everyday lives of Batswana.

The FNB Motshelo Savings Account is designed to complement and elevate the way Batswana save money together by offering: Zero monthly account fees; Free ATM/ADT deposits; Interest of up to 3.35% per annum; P2.5 million maximum account balance; Free Payouts to members' bank accounts or eWallets (standard fees apply).

This solution ensures that while group savings remain rooted in tradition, the experience is digital and modern. To open an FNB Motshelo Savings Account, groups are required to nominate three (3) signatories responsible for operating the account. All signatories must be FNBbanked and fully compliant with Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements. Additional members up to sixteen (16) may be added digitally by the signatories. All members must be 18 years or older and must also be FNBbanked.

She added that this solution reinforces the Bank's commitment to listening to client needs and developing solutions that fit naturally into the everyday lives of Batswana.

The FNB Motshelo Savings Account is available immediately across all FNB Botswana branches.

Access Bank eager to be a friend of the SMMEs

AMANDA DAVID

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

ACCESS BANK BOTSWANA IN partnership with Kgori Investments and Andersen hosted it's National Budget Speech Review Seminar in Francistown, where the retail bank's Managing Director Sheperd Aisam reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring local economic growth through the empowerment of SMME's.

Aisam reiterated that as a long-term partner in nation building, Access Bank understands that sustainable growth is powered by a dynamic and well supported private sector, which ultimately guides the bank's investment in financial inclusion, service innovation, and the creation of opportunity for businesses of all sizes.

He said the bank's ambition is to move SMME's from survival to growth, and from informality to structured participation in regional and global markets, adding that digital transformation is the foundation of that journey.

"Unlocking Botswana's full potential will require deep collaboration between government and the private sector. Access Bank Botswana is firmly focused on becoming the country's leading digital driven



Access Bank MD, Sheperd Aisam

SMME bank, working to equip entrepreneurs and businesses with the tools, expertise, and confidence to grow, scale and compete nationally and internationally," he echoed.

For his part Andersen Managing Director Craig Granville gave participants the budget's tax implications on local businesses as well as individuals. Granville observed that from the budget speech, there were four major pieces of tax legislation to be presented to the February 2026 sitting of the National Assembly which are the Value Added Tax Bill, Income Tax Bill, Customs Amendment Bill and the Tax

Administration Bill.

With over 35 years of tax experience in Botswana, Granville advised that with the proposed increased tax rates for businesses, it was crucial that businesses learn more about the new legislation, review their systems, processes and information, do a tax "health check", clear or resolve any outstanding tax issues as well as consider conducting a Self-Assessment tax revision.

He further advised individual tax payers to not panic, but rather prepare and organise and most importantly consider cash flow implications of increased tax rates, payments, penalties and interest.

Kgori Capital's Investment Analyst Kitso Khurutshi noted that there were no major changes in ministerial allocations in comparison to previous years, emphasizing that the changes reflect structural realignments and not any cuts or reductions in services provided.

He also acknowledged that allocations made towards the development budget were largely in line with NDP12 priority areas which include Minerals & Energy allocated P5.23bn which will focus on the payment of power imports, NW Transmission Grid Phase II, Morupule B loan obligations as well as providing energy security and payment of contractual obligations.

Tlou's Data Centre Commissioned

– as Lesedi Project achieves initial revenue

TLOU ENERGY LIMITED IS PLEASED TO announce the successful commissioning of the Kala Data Centre in Botswana, marking a major milestone in the commercialisation of the Company's Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas resources.

Power generators have been successfully connected to the gas gathering line and are being fuelled by gas supplied from the Lesedi 4 production well. The data centre has commenced computational activities and is generating initial revenues.

This milestone demonstrates Tlou's ability to convert its CBM gas resources into revenue-generating energy solutions and represents the first commercial utilisation of the Company's CBM gas resources in Botswana, albeit initially at a modest proof-of-concept scale. Importantly, the achievement validates the Company's integrated gas-to-power

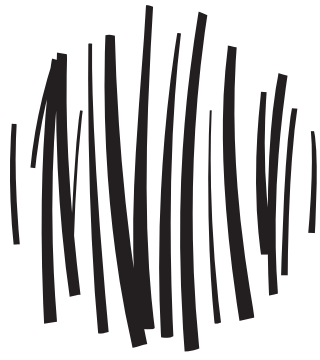
strategy, confirming end-to-end capability across upstream gas production, power generation and downstream monetisation. The commissioning provides a strong technical and commercial foundation for future scale-up of both gas production and power generation capacity.

Managing Director Comment Tlou's Interim Managing Director Colm Cloonan commented: "The commissioning of the Kala Data Centre and the generation of initial revenues is a very significant milestone for Tlou. After many years of technical work, infrastructure development and perseverance, we have now achieved our first commercial monetisation of CBM gas in Botswana. While this is an initial proof-of-concept phase, it clearly demonstrates the potential of our gas-to-power strategy and provides an important platform for future expansion. On behalf of the Board, I would like

to sincerely thank our shareholders who have supported and persevered with us over many years to reach this important milestone."

The Company is focused on disciplined operational ramp-up and infrastructure expansion. Subject to securing appropriate funding, the Company's near-term priorities include: Monitoring and optimising performance of the gas-to-power and data centre operations Progressing plans to scale up generation capacity and commercial activities Completing the substation and grid connection to enable power sales via the national grid Installing the first IMW of solar PV and preparing for expansion toward 5MW Advancing reservoir modelling and additional core drilling to support the next gas development phase.

The Board believes successful execution of these steps has the potential to further strengthen the Company's position. Further updates will be provided as operations progress. [bse.co.bw]



W I L D E R N E S S

Make a difference to conservation and community empowerment through high-end, impactful tourism.

Proudly established in Botswana four decades ago, Wilderness is dedicated to increasing the world's wilderness, together.

we are hiring

CAMP GENERAL MANAGER

PURPOSE OF THE JOB:

The General Manager is responsible for maintaining the smooth operation of a luxury safari camp. To provide leadership and development for staff, maintain camp facilities, assist in implementing and maintaining the Group Environmental Minimum Standards (GEMS) and provide a level of hospitality that meets the company's minimum standards. Creating a personalized safari experience for every guest. Ensuring the comfort and needs of guests are met in camp as well as striving to exceed all expectations. Practicing seamless communication of guests' needs and ensuring all personnel in camp understand and deliver accordingly.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF POSITION:

Guests & Hosting

- All Agents/Site Inspections /Journalists are to be hosted by the General Manager.
- Act as a brand ambassador at all times, ensuring that any trips happen as seamlessly as possible.
- Meet and host all guests visiting camp, gathering as much information. All guests should be asked about their stay, including their guide, room, and food.
- Ensure all guests receive a safety and camp orientation debrief, signing the Indemnity & Waiver form in full.

Management Teams

- Empower departmental managers by constant communication and meetings in which areas of focus are discussed.
- Set quarterly objectives with each manager, ensuring they do the same for their teams.
- Assist in any shortfalls in team numbers and respective work as required.
- Ensure accountability of managers for respective departments or work done.
- Constantly drive inter-departmental co-operation
- Create team spirit by leading by example, listening, being emphatic, and motivating your team.

Staff Management

- To ensure that you work with the staff committee to effectively solve and assist in any staff issues that may arise.
- Time management to be implemented in conjunction with departmental managers, in all departments of camp operations with necessary shift rosters being utilised.
- Record all ANSAR for staff timeously and submit to town by month end.
- Plan all staff leave and subsequent movements in and out of camp on time.
- Evaluate and implement optimum staff numbers in all departments, to effectively streamline work in the lodge.
- Ensure succession plans are managed for all departments.
- Drive staff training through departmental managers, constantly evaluating and re-assessing staff with potential, or in need of assistance, mentoring, and development.
- Familiarise yourself with company procedures, ensuring that any corrective or disciplinary procedures are utilized as per company standards, in necessary situations.
- General Staff meetings to be held monthly, with minutes to be submitted to HR, Concession, and OPS management.
- Bi-annual appraisals must be followed for all camp staff.
- Motivate staff to utilize training platforms and attend in-house training courses, monitoring their performance.

Administration

- Familiarize yourself with all aspects of camp administration, contracts & emergency procedures.
- Delegate and assist with all camp administration effectively throughout departments, ensuring deadlines are adhered to
- Personally check WISH and rooming allocations in advance, ensuring WISH queries are submitted every Sunday to the relevant Travel shop consultant in town.
- Ensure all Guest information is captured on the Wilderness Window timeously, making sure that in-depth information is inputted, and if applicable, sent on to the subsequent camps guests are visiting.
- Monitor and maintain constant input of guest information on the MOOD boards, ensuring all interesting and relevant information is discussed in every morning meeting.
- All guest and staff medical incidents to be reported to Wilderness24
- WS24 forms to be filled in by yourself for any larger staff medical incidents, as well as any damage or destruction to assets and company property.
- Oversee Month-end stocktakes and sheets, personally checking for any large discrepancies or mistakes.
- Submit Wage Memos for both Senior and Junior staff to the relevant payroll person as per the time frame stipulated by them. You should ensure that any necessary charges or deductions are captured on this, as per company standards.
- Write a newsletter for your camp at the end of each month, as per the prescribed format.
- Double-check all bulk orders before they are sent to town on the 28th of each Month, utilizing the stock takes, par stock, and projected occupancies to ensure that all orders are within prescribed levels.
- Ensure All Medical Kits (including guides) are stocked adequately, with all items being checked monthly for expiration dates. Any medical orders are to be placed on the 15th of each month.
- Monitor stationary usage, and place orders on the 15th of each month.
- Make sure all Departmental Heads and Managers, including yourself, leave detailed handover notes before going on leave. These are to be submitted to relevant Concession and OPS managers.
- Timeously respond, or ensure response to any queries submitted by Operational support.
- Ensure the required monthly environmental data is captured, correct and submitted by the 10th of the following month.

Camp Operations

- Manage by Walking Around. Ensure you walk through the camp daily, making sure all areas are kept to the highest possible standard. This includes visiting the staff village regularly.
- Ensure adherence to Minimum standards at all times.
- Constantly evaluate areas that may need attention within the concession and camp, submitting necessary feedback to the Maun office to allow for planning.
- Continuously drive Service standards, monitoring work ethic, neatness and skill sets.
- Support the Curio Shop & Spa Managers in their daily operations.
- Curb any excessive expenditure or wastage in all departments.

- Ensure all company assets are maintained and cared for in an appropriate manner.
- Communicate with your direct Manager (Concession or OPS Manager) regularly or as required.
- Drive personalized guest experience as much as possible, with a minimum of one signature activity per guest per stay and a magic moment per day.
- Familiarise yourself with the rules and regulations about operations within National Parks and/or your concessions Technical Proposal, ensuring adherence to these where applicable.
- Take responsibility and ownership of the entire camp operation.
- Work closely with 3rd parties like the BDF and Parks by reporting problem animal and guest/staff safety-related incidents promptly.
- Be actively involved in the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) of the camp by assisting in the formulation of improvement timelines and ensuring the provided timelines are met.

Impact Awareness and Communication

- The General Manager is responsible for embodying and communicating Wilderness' core impact strategy to both guests and staff, fostering a shared understanding and commitment to the company's conservation and community goals.
- Understand and articulate Wilderness' Impact Strategy, including the mission, 2030 goals, and three Impact Pillars.
- Communicate Impact to guests by linking their visit to local projects and in-camp products.
- Explain the "why" behind sustainable practices and direct guests toward supporting Impact through repeat travel or donations.
- Educate and engage staff on their role in Impact, conservation efforts, and adherence to sustainability policies.
- Facilitate back-of-house tours showcasing sustainable technologies, ensuring staff can answer guest questions confidently.

Environmental - GEMS

- Ensure GEMS adherence across all camp operations, using the latest standards as the baseline for compliance.
- Oversee operational implementation of GEMS in water, waste, energy, and field systems to minimise environmental impact.
- Ensure EMS Improvement Timelines are adhered to and met.
- Conduct regular inspections of camp and staff village, checking waste systems, fuel storage, water reticulation, power supply, hot water, and chemical use.
- Maintain reporting and documentation of all environmental data and critical maintenance, submitting timely reports to sustainability teams.
- Train and hold staff accountable for GEMS compliance, including firefighting, waste separation, and eco-friendly product use.
- Identify and resolve problems by addressing leaks, contamination, invasive species, and waste disposal issues, while liaising with the Regional Environmental Manager.
- Integrate GEMS into daily management using the EMS checklist and incorporating environmental updates into team meetings.
- Ensure STP inspections are regularly carried out and coordinate closely with TSM and responsible personnel.

Other

Ensure your own legal, medical, and other insurance documents are kept valid. Complete any other task as delegated to you by the Concession / Operations or Senior management within the company.

QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:

- A National Diploma in Tourism Management or equivalent.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience within the hospitality industry.
- Experience in handling international guests and seasoned travelers will give an added advantage.
- Lodge Management background and knowledge of the Safari lodge business is preferable.
- Computer skills (MS Office suite).

COMPETENCIES:

- Outstanding communication skills.
- Service excellence (Desire to enhance Guest Experience).
- Integrity.
- Problem solving.
- Empathy.
- Organizational Skills.
- Ability to work flexible hours

LODGE MANAGER

PURPOSE OF POSITION:

Ensuring the comfort and needs of guests are attained in camp as well as striving to exceed all expectations. Practicing seamless communications of guests needs and ensuring all personnel in camp understand and deliver accordingly. Incident reporting and maintaining a database of all guest likes and/or dislikes for future reference.

The Lodge Manager is responsible for maintaining the smooth operation of a luxury safari lodge. To provide leadership and development to staff, maintain lodge facilities and provide a level of hospitality which meets the company's minimum standards.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF POSITION:

- Ensure and provide flawless, upscale and professional in camp and out of camp guest service experiences.
- Analyze guest feedback and provide strategic direction to continuously improve overall rating.
- Anticipate and react promptly to guests' requirements; a sense of urgency.
- Oversee and coordinate all arrivals and departures of all camp guests.
- Coordinate and manage communication between guests and staff and follow up to ensure complete service delivery.
- Direct, coach and manage camp employees to ensure all standards and operating procedures are adhered to.
- Maintaining all aspects of facilities and assets in the camp and back of house through best practice of hygiene and safety standards for both guests and staff.

QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:

- A National Diploma in Tourism Management or equivalent.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience within the hospitality industry.
- Experience in handling international guests and seasoned travelers will give an

added advantage.

- Lodge Management background and knowledge of the Safari lodge business is preferable.
- Computer skills (MS Office suite).
- Ability to work flexible hours.

COMPETENCIES:

- Outstanding communication skills.
- Service excellence (Desire to enhance Guest Experience).
- Ability to work under pressure without compromising accuracy
- Problem solving.
- Self-starter with high energy levels.
- Excellent administrator and professional in all dealings.
- Dedicated to customer satisfaction and desire to "go the extra mile". Organizational Skills.

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER

PURPOSE OF POSITION:

The TSM will take daily responsibility to ensure the management of the Maintenance Department with the function of reactive repairs and planned maintenance, which will include managing Company assets and staff members. This position will report directly to the General Manager, with a dual reporting responsibility to the Asset Manager. The candidate for this position will be qualified and/or have substantial experience of a relevant building trade e.g. electrical, mechanical engineering, plumbing, drainage, construction, painting and decorating etc. Leading a team of maintenance staff, you will be able to demonstrate strong organisational skills to lead, plan and delegate the teams work and be willing to take a hands-on approach to the maintenance and repairs. A major part of this role will be focused on up-skilling the team in order to reduce the number of contractors used.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF POSITION:

ENSURE EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT OF CONCESSION STAFF

- Ensure that the team's KRAs' in place
- Ensure that the team's organogram is in place
- Ensure that the team's Competency Chart is in place

TO ALWAYS OFFER A SERVICE TO GUESTS WHICH EXCEEDS THEIR EXPECTATIONS

- To set maintenance standards with the team
- To continually train staff in the delivery of the maintenance standards

TO MAINTAIN ALL ASPECTS OF THE MOMBO CONCESSION FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Align the maintenance standards and concept to the WS brands and values Refine the standards and constantly expand on the maintenance program

NEW WORKS AND EQUIPMENT

- Ensure that all new equipment is correctly commissioned in the concession
- Ensure that all new equipment is supplied with both sufficient spares and a detailed manual and spares list

GUEST INTERACTION AND EDUCATION

- Interact with guests on an informative basis as required

MANAGE OR ASSIST IN VARIOUS CONCESSION LOGISTICAL OPERATIONS

- Assist in the correct waste management procedures being adhered to in the concession
- Assist with the removal of all waste from the concession

PROPER MANAGEMENT OF THE ANNUAL OPERATIONAL AND CAPEX BUDGETS

- To assist in annual budget preparation within framework and timetable provided by the Finance Department
- To manage operational monthly expenditure within the annual budgets

TO MANAGE ORDERS WITHIN THE BUDGETS AND SYSTEM DEVELOPED FOR THE CONCESSION

- To understand and respect the ordering system
- To manage orders within the Budgets, for each month and accumulated year to-date
- To endeavor to improve on prices and quality from supplier

TO PRODUCE MONTHLY OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

- Monthly Maintenance operational document to be generated
- To produce concession wage request to Asst BMs
- To keep monthly concession staff attendance register current

TO REPORT INCIDENTS OF WHAT EVER NATURE TO THE GM AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT AND TO MANAGE THE INCIDENTS IN LINE WITH THE SYSTEMS SET OUT BY THE SAFETY OFFICER

- To be familiar with and manage the systems involving the handling and reporting of incidents of whatever nature (Fire, safety, health, accident etc)
- To ensure incidents are communicated at the earliest possible moment
- To ensure all staff are trained and inducted into the OWS vehicle training program

ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IS PARAMOUNT TO ALL STAFF AND THE RUNNING OF THE CAMP OPERATION

- Ensure adherence to and awareness of the requirements in energy conservation

QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE

- Minimum of 5 years proven technical experience in a similar background

Only candidates who meet the above requirements need to apply by emailing: mpaphis@wildernessdestinations.com

Closing Date: 3 March 2026
 For more information on these vacancies
 Contact : Mpaphi Singabapha (Human Resources)
 Telephone: +267 6860086
 Physical address: Plot 1 Mathiba Road, Maun
 Postal address: Pr Bag 14, Maun

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE COMMUNICATED WITH

FOR YOUR CORPORATE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice issued in terms of Section 10 (2) of The Environmental Assessment Act CAP (65:07)

NOTIFICATION FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED FUEL DEPOT EXPANSION & CONSTRUCTION AT LOTS 1205 & 1193 IN TLOKWENG

The major findings of an Environmental Assessment study undertaken for the proposed fuel depot expansion and construction at lots 1205 and 1193 in Tlokweng are summarised hereunder.

Nature and Magnitude of the Project

Kazungula Depot (Pty) Ltd t/a Kwa Nokeng Oil intends to expand and construct a retail filling station and a truck stop. The components include the following: 2x46m² underground tanks, 5 dispensary units, office building, oil/water separator, 13 customer parking bays, 6x82m² aboveground tanks, 19 truck parking lots, loading and offloading bay, ablutions and convenience store.

A. Location of the Project

The proposed depot is located in an industrial site, tribal lots 1205 and 1193 at Masetlheng ward in Tlokweng.

B. Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation/Enhancement Actions

The identified key impacts and mitigation/enhancement actions are summarised below.

Environmental Impacts	Project Phase	Mitigation/Enhancement Measures
POSITIVE IMPACTS		
Convenience of fuelling and buying for motorists	<input type="checkbox"/> Operation	<input type="checkbox"/> The fuel facility should provide its services on stipulated times (24/7) <input type="checkbox"/> The proponent should ensure that there is fuel at all times
Increase in Employment Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Labour should be sourced from Tlokweng locality as this would obviate the need to set up camp site. <input type="checkbox"/> Consideration should be given to gender balance during the recruitment exercise. <input type="checkbox"/> Local contractors' and suppliers should where possible be contracted. <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising of procurement needs through local media such as Kgotta notice boards
Improved Local Economy	<input type="checkbox"/> Operation	<input type="checkbox"/> The proponent should where practical procure goods and services from local service providers. <input type="checkbox"/> Employment opportunities should be given to locals as to enhance their economic well being <input type="checkbox"/> Regular supply of fuel
NEGATIVE IMPACTS		
Noise Nuisance	<input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning prior to construction <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Operation <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning	<input type="checkbox"/> Limit construction vehicle movement (especially trucks) to and from site to normal working hours. <input type="checkbox"/> Inform neighbours on intended construction activities <input type="checkbox"/> Any other machinery that is noisy should be fitted with silencers during construction phase. <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid early hours or late evening when environmental noise is generally low
Dust Nuisance	<input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning prior to construction <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning	<input type="checkbox"/> Employees must be provided with full PPE including ear plugs and masks <input type="checkbox"/> Construction vehicles should move within limited speed limits & suppress dust <input type="checkbox"/> Workers should go for regular health check-ups to ascertain their health standards and should be encouraged to put on PPE to protect against any fumes and dust.
Soil Contamination	<input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning prior to construction <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Operation <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning	<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel should be trained on the proper clean up procedure. <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment should be regularly serviced to reduce leakages. <input type="checkbox"/> Portable spill containment and clean-up equipment should be provided at the project site <input type="checkbox"/> Specific site should be gazetted for emergency on-site maintenance of machinery.
Surface and Groundwater Contamination	<input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning prior to construction <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Operation <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles and machinery used on site during decommissioning should be checked daily for leakages. <input type="checkbox"/> In the event of a spill, the contractor shall take prompt action to clear the polluted area and prevent the spread of pollutants <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage and clinical waste should be disposed of at designated facilities at all times <input type="checkbox"/> Machine and equipment operators should be trained about proper handling of used oil on site. <input type="checkbox"/> During construction, all the drained oils must be properly stored and transported to oil depots by a licensed waste oil collector.
Improper waste handling and disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning prior to construction <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Operation <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide litter collecting receptacles for different forms of waste at strategic locations at the construction site <input type="checkbox"/> Provide portable toilets at site <input type="checkbox"/> The skips and bins should be emptied regularly at a designated landfill or dumping site and be covered. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide adequate number of portable sanitation facilities to serve all workers at the construction site
Traffic Congestion and Accidents	<input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning prior to construction <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Operation <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning	<input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning works should be scheduled to minimise traffic disruption by using non-peak traffic times for movement of material and heavy equipment. <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate and adequate road side signs should be placed along the road in order to alleviate discomfort to commuters and other road users. <input type="checkbox"/> Haulage truck drivers to be briefed on road traffic rules and regulations <input type="checkbox"/> Properly trained flag men should be placed at strategic locations along the access road
Occupational Health Risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning prior to construction <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning	<input type="checkbox"/> During the decommissioning, the site area should be demarcated or isolated from the public by means of appropriate fencing such as corrugated iron sheets and nets to arrest flying object and restrict unauthorised entry to the site. <input type="checkbox"/> Well-equipped first aid box and a first aider should be readily available on site. <input type="checkbox"/> All workers should be provided with full protective gear. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide occupational health and safety orientation training to all employees
Increase in HIV Prevalence	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct continuous employee awareness about safe sex practices and provide free condoms on site. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide free testing, wellness and counselling sessions <input type="checkbox"/> Provision of condoms in the staff toilet. <input type="checkbox"/> There should be cooperation with local clinics, HIV/AIDS coordinators in Tlokweng to provide relevant material to help in combating the disease.
Pressure on Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Recycled water should be used for landscape purposes from WUC waste water plant, private companies. <input type="checkbox"/> Workers should be sensitized on water conservation issues. <input type="checkbox"/> Install water-conserving taps that turn-off automatically when water is not in use. Encourage water reuse/recycling mostly during construction phase
Fire Outbreaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire equipment should be in good condition and regularly checked to ensure it complies with fire regulations. <input type="checkbox"/> Strictly ensure the site is a no smoking area. <input type="checkbox"/> Workers should be trained on general fire safety and fire fighting

C. Conclusions and Recommendations

It is predicted that the proposed project will bring about numerous impacts with imposed commitment and declaration to implement the suggested mitigation measures and continued monitoring especially at construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project, it is recommended that the project proceed.

D. Environmental Impact Statement Placement

Copies of the EIS can be reviewed at the following locations:

1. Tlokweng Main Kgotta
2. Masetlheng Kgotta
3. DEP office, Gaborone

E. Written Correspondences

All Objections and comments from affected and/or interested parties should be forwarded to: The Director, Department of Environmental Protection, Private Bag 0068, Gaborone, Botswana, Tel: (+267) 3902050, Fax: (+267) 3902051, or hand delivered to DEP office, not later than **25 February 2026**.



KITSISO MO SECHABENG

Kitsiso e e ntshiwa mabapi le Temana ya lesome ya Molao wa Tshekatsheko Tikologo CAP (65:07)

KITSISO MO SECHABENG MABAPI LE KANOKO YA MOKWALO WA TSHEKATSHEKO TIKOLOGO WA KAGO YA MAREKISITSO A LEOKWANE MO FA SETSHENG SA 1205 & 1193 MO TLOKWENG

Dintlhakgolo tsa dipatlisiso tsa Tshekatsheko Tikologo ke tse di latelang:

A. Sebopego le Selekanyo sa Tiro

Kazungula Depot t/a Kwa Nokeng Oil ba eletsa go aga le go atolosa, maemelo a dikoloi le ditanka tsa leokwane. Dikago di akaretsa ditanka tsa leokwane la 'petrol' tsa bokete jwa 46 000' dile pedi, tse di tlaa bong dile ko tlase ga lefatšhe, le tsa leokwane la 'diesel' dile thataro tsa bokete jwa 82000' tse di tlaa bong dile fa godimo ga lefatšhe. Fa godimo ga tse, go tla nna le kago ya lefelo la dikoloi tsa megobagoba di tla emang nteng, lefelo la bareki batla emang teng, le fa dikoloi tsa leokwane ditla folosang leokwane teng, matlo a boiteketo le lebentle.

B. Lefelo la Tiro

Lefelo la marekisetso a leokwane le ko Masetlheng mo Tlokweng (plot 1205 le 1193).

C. Ditlamorago tse di ka thagogang ka nako ya tiro e le methale e e akantsweng go fokotsa manokonoko a kamego ya tikologo

Ditlamorago tse di ka thagogang le tse di akantsweng go fokotsa manokonoko a kamego ya tikologo di khutshwafaditswe fa tlase:

Ditlamorago	Nako	Dikgato tsa go fokotsa kamego e e sa eletsegeng
DITLAMORAGO TSE DI SIAMENG		
Go nna teng ga leokwane	<input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tiro	<input type="checkbox"/> Lefelo la leokwane le bulwe malatsi otlhe, letsatsi lotlhe <input type="checkbox"/> Leokwane le tshwanetse go nna teng metha yotlhe
Go nna teng ga mebereko	<input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya kago <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tiro	<input type="checkbox"/> Khiri ya babereki e tshwanetse go remelela mo molaeng wa tsa khiri <input type="checkbox"/> Khiri e tshwanetse ya akaretsa banni ba kgaolo <input type="checkbox"/> Khiri ya bomme go lekalekana bodiredi <input type="checkbox"/> Papatso ya ditiro e tshwanetse go nna ko kgotleng ya motse
Kgolo ya e tsholelo ya kgaolo	<input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tiro	<input type="checkbox"/> Netefatsa gore go hirwa bagwebo ba ba potlana ba kgaolo <input type="checkbox"/> Go hira borakoteraka ba ba mo tikologong go olela matlakala
DITLAMORAGO TSE DI SA SIAMANG		
Koketsego ya modumo	<input type="checkbox"/> Nako ya tswalo ya dikago tse di kgologolo <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya kago <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tiro <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tswalo ya kago	<input type="checkbox"/> Dikoloi di tsamae ka lebelo le le kotlase le ka nako ya pereko <input type="checkbox"/> Go tsibosa banni ka tiro ya kago le go bereka ka nako ya bosupa mo mosong go ya kay a bothano maitseboa <input type="checkbox"/> Fokotsa modumo mo mosong le maitseboa
Koketsego ya lerole	<input type="checkbox"/> Nako ya tswalo ya dikago tse di kgologolo <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya kago <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tswalo ya kago	<input type="checkbox"/> Dikoloi di tsamae ka lebelo le le kotlase di khurumeditse letiriso ya metsi fo emisa lerole <input type="checkbox"/> Babereki ba tshwanetse go fiwa diaparo tsa epabalelo mo leroleng. <input type="checkbox"/> Babereki ba tshwanetse go tlathlohiwa boitekanelo
Kgothelesego ya metsi	<input type="checkbox"/> Nako ya tswalo ya dikago tse di kgologolo <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya kago <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tiro <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tswalo ya kago	<input type="checkbox"/> Dikoloi tse di rothang leokwane di tshwanetse go iswa ko mafelo a kgetilweng go baakanyediwa teng <input type="checkbox"/> Fago ka nna le tshologo ya sepe sese borai, go tshwanetse ga phepafadiwa ka bonako <input type="checkbox"/> Leswe la setho le tshwanetse go lathelwa ko go maleba ka nako tshotlhe <input type="checkbox"/> Mafura a a kgothelesegileng a tshwanetse go lathelwa ko go maleba ka nako tshotlhe
Kgothelesego ya mmu	<input type="checkbox"/> Nako ya tswalo ya dikago tse di kgologolo <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya kago <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tiro <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tswalo ya kago	<input type="checkbox"/> Babereki ba tshwanetse for rutunshiwa ka go phepafatso ea maleba <input type="checkbox"/> Didirisiwa di tshwanetse go baakangwa go itsa kgothelesego <input type="checkbox"/> Phepafatso ya sepe se setshologile e tshwanetse go nna teng mo lifelong la kago <input type="checkbox"/> Babereki ba tshwanetse for rutunshiwa ka go tshwarwa sentle ga mafura a dirisitsweng <input type="checkbox"/> Didirisiwa tsa phepafatso ya sepe se setshologile e tshwanetse go nna teng mo lefelong la kago
Go sa tshwarwa sentle ga matlakala le go lathiwa ga one	<input type="checkbox"/> Nako ya tswalo ya dikago tse di kgologolo <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya kago <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tiro <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tswalo ya kago	<input type="checkbox"/> Peo ya ditini tsa matlakala mo mafelo a a kgetegileng <input type="checkbox"/> Go netefatsa gore matlo a boiteketo a e seng a sennela ruri a teng <input type="checkbox"/> Matlakala a tshwanetse go lathiwa ka nako ko mafelong a a maleba <input type="checkbox"/> Mafelo otlhe a go bewang leswe lotlhe a tshwanetse go nna teng mo lefelong la kago
Mosuke le dikotsi tsa dikoloi	<input type="checkbox"/> Nako ya tswalo ya dikago tse di kgologolo <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya kago <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tiro <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tswalo ya kago	<input type="checkbox"/> Tiro e tshwanetse go dirwa ka nako ee beilweng go fokotsa mosuke <input type="checkbox"/> Matshwao a tselo a tshwanetse go bewa fa a ka bonwang mothofo ke badirisi ba tselo <input type="checkbox"/> Ba kgweetsi ba dikoloi ba tshwanetse go tsibosiwa ka melawana ya tselo. <input type="checkbox"/> Tiro e tshwanetse go dirwa ka nako ee beilweng go fokotsa mosuke <input type="checkbox"/> Batsamaisa ba dikoloi ba tshwanetse go nna mo mafelong a a maleba
Bodiphatsa jwa tiro mo botsogong jwa babereki	<input type="checkbox"/> Nako ya tswalo ya dikago tse di kgologolo <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya kago <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tswalo ya kago	<input type="checkbox"/> Lefelo la kago le tshwanetse go agelelwa go hema diphatsa tsa tiro <input type="checkbox"/> Tsa thuso ya potlako di tshwanetse go nna teng mo lefelong <input type="checkbox"/> Ithuthunsa ya babereki mo go tsa botsogo le pabalesego mo tirong
Koketsego ya kanamo ya mogare wa HIV	<input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya kago <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tiro	<input type="checkbox"/> Dithuto ka tlhakanelo dikobo ee sireletsegileng le kabo ya dikausu <input type="checkbox"/> Go tlathloha mogare le tshidilo maikutle <input type="checkbox"/> Tirisanano le dikolelwana tse di gauri le bagogi jwa botsogo mo Tlokweng go lwantshana le bolwetsi
Koketsego ya tiriso ya metsi	<input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya kago <input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tiro	<input type="checkbox"/> Go dirisa metsi a a ntshafaditsweng go aga go tswa ko WUC <input type="checkbox"/> Babereki ba tshwanetse go rutunshiwa go dirisa metsi ka pabalesego
Go nna teng ga dikotsi tsa melelo	<input type="checkbox"/> Ka nako ya tiro	<input type="checkbox"/> Go nna teng ga didirisiwa tse di timang molelo <input type="checkbox"/> Go seka ga gogelwa motsoko mo lefelon la leokwane <input type="checkbox"/> Babereki ba rutunsiwa ka go tima molelo

D. Tshoboko le dikgakololo tsa tshekatsheko tikologo

Dipatlisiso di supa fa boleng le bo mosola jwa tiro e di feta manokonoko a a ka thagogang. Ka jalo tiro e e ka tswela, go setswe morago methale ya go fokotsa manokonoko a tikologo e e kwadilweng mo mokwalong wa tshekatsheko tikologo.

E. Mafelo a go beilweng Mokwalo wa tshekatsheko tikologo

Mokwalo o o feletseng o ka bonwa kwa mafelong a a latelang:

1. Kgotta e tona ya Tlokweng
2. Kgottana ya Masetlheng
3. Motlobo wa dibuka wa Department of Environmental Protection (Ofisi ya Gaborone)

F. Dikakgelo

Mekwalo yotlhe, dipotso le dikakgelo di ka romelwa ko aterseng e e latelang:

The Director, Department of Environment Protection, Private Bag 0068, Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: (+267) 3902050 Fax: (+267) 3902051, pele ga **25 Tlhakole 2026**.

lifestyle

Major Moves Comedy Presents: Friday Comedy Experience

LOVE IS IN THE AIR AND laughter is guaranteed as Major Moves Comedy brings you a special Love & Laughter Edition of the Friday Comedy Experience on Friday, 27 February 2026 at the iconic Grand Palm Hotel Casino Convention Resort. This unforgettable night blends romance, relationships and real-life hilarity — featuring a powerhouse Pan-African comedy lineup led by South African comic legend Chris Maphane, alongside:

Thapelo Malani – Botswana’s bold and inspiring crowd favourite; Brian Sibanda – Zimbabwean storyteller with cross-border charm; Abel Maruza – Fast-rising comic with razor-sharp punchlines; OD Brooks – Two-time comedy champion known for electrifying performances.

Chris Maphane is one of South Africa’s most electrifying comedians — a master of storytelling, sharp

observational humour and high-energy delivery that keeps audiences laughing from Johannesburg to beyond.

With over 18 years on stage, Chris has taken his comedy across Africa, performing and mentoring in countries such as Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Kenya, Namibia, Tanzania, UK and Ghana. Known for his infectious stage presence and relatable take on everyday life, he’s not only headlined shows and festivals, he also helps nurture the next generation of African comedians.

From relationship drama to love gone wrong (and right), the Friday Comedy Experience promises witty storytelling, cultural humour and high-energy performances that will have couples, singles and friends laughing together all night long.

Whether you’re celebrating Valentine’s season, planning the

perfect date night, or just looking for premium entertainment with friends, this show delivers a romantic twist with nonstop laughter.

The venue sponsor for the Friday Comedy Experience is The Grand Palm Hotel Casino Convention Resort which is easily accessible from anywhere in the city.

“We promise a truly enjoyable, relaxing and funny event with this production.

We have a fresh new lineup, fresh new headliner and people must come and experience the best and ultimate entertainment from beginning to the end. Come dressed for love, bring your laughter, and experience an evening where comedy meets connection,” says events coordinator Mr Gaolathe Kediemetse.

Tickets for the comedy show are available at Webtickets & Spar outlets priced from P175 single and P250 double. The show starts at 8pm.

GRAND PALM
HOTEL CASINO CONVENTION RESORT

BRIAN SIBANDA (ZIM)

THAPELO MALANI (BW)

CHRIS MAPANE (SA)

ABEL MARUZA (BW)

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The ‘Try Everything Local’ campaign

WITH THE INTENTION TO champion local business talent and unveil the faces behind some of Botswana’s celebrated brands, digital enterprise The Local Slice BW has launched the ‘Try Everything Local’ to encourage individuals, families, and organizations to intentionally choose

locally made products and services. In the pursuit to help create a resilient SMME ecosystem, the campaign is dedicated to reconnecting Botswana with their pride for local innovation. “By spotlighting homegrown businesses and creatives, this campaign aims to drive economic

growth and to boost this struggling sector, which continues to face numerous challenges, especially in the current global commerce climate.

The movement highlights the stories, skills, and impact of those shaping the local economy every day,” states Founder Thato Angela Chuma.

At its core, Try Everything Local is a call to action for people to explore what’s around them and to recognise that local is not limited, but varied in its assortment of offerings, as well as exemplary of excellence. Beyond economic impact, it also seeks to promote self-reliance by reducing dependency on imports

while fostering stronger relationships between producers and consumers. “We recognise how every local purchase is an investment, and we are fostering an interactive way for Botswana to realize the potential of their economy of which they can be the architects and participants of. When we try everything local, we

create jobs, we sustain livelihoods, and we become the backbone of the small businesses which have great potential to revive our national economic purse,” explains Chuma.

“By driving this campaign primarily on social media, we are enhancing the accessibility to

offerings which are often unseen or unheard. We are passionate about instilling a mindset shift—from looking outward for value to recognizing abundance at home. When we empower ourselves by consciously choosing what we produce and sell, everyone can thrive.” [PRESS RELEASE]

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Sport

65TH ANNIVERSARY

Rollers move to boost finances

KITSO RAMONO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

BOTSWANA FOOTBALL powerhouse Township Rollers is turning its 65th anniversary into more than a celebration of history, the milestone has become a platform for revenue generation and community engagement aimed at securing the club's future.

Speaking at the launch of the Sapphire Jubilee celebrations, club chairperson Thapelo Fish Pabalinga stressed that while 2026 marks over six decades of football success, it is also a critical year for stabilising finances.

"This is not just about celebrating 65 years. It is also about generating much-needed funds to ensure the club continues to thrive," Pabalinga said.

At the heart of the anniversary campaign is a newly unveiled 65th anniversary icon, selected through a nationwide design competition that invited supporters and creatives to contribute. The logo captures the club's rich history, including its record seven consecutive league titles and numerous domestic honours. The symbol will feature prominently on AMRO-manufactured replica kits and a range of commemorative merchandise throughout the year.

"The icon is packed with history. It tells the story of Township Rollers' achievements and heritage, and will connect our fans to what the club represents," Pabalinga explained.

The anniversary merchandise forms a central part of the club's revenue strategy. Limited-edition apparel will be available for purchase ahead of the 65th Anniversary Fan Run, scheduled for Saturday, 25 April 2026, at the historic Mama Sire Grounds in Gaborone West, a venue closely associated with the club's golden era. Ticket packages will include exclusive merchandise, while standard tickets provide entry to the event, which is open to supporters, families, and fitness enthusiasts alike.

Pabalinga acknowledged that financial pressures underpin these initiatives.

"We are in a precarious position, so we need all hands on deck," he said. To supplement fan-driven revenue, Rollers plan gala dinners in Gaborone and Francistown later in the year, aimed at celebrating club legends while attracting corporate support.

Adding an innovative sponsorship dimension, the club also launched an "Adopt a Player" campaign, encouraging businesses, individuals, and community groups to directly support player and technical staff welfare. Contributions may cover salaries, housing, medical care, or other essential needs. Pabalinga said this approach not only stabilises players' livelihoods but strengthens performance on the pitch.

Football analysts note that the initiative signals a broader shift in Botswana's club football, with Rollers monetising brand heritage to sustain operations. By turning nostalgia and



Rollers Chairman, Thapelo Pabalinga

history into tangible revenue streams, the club is leveraging decades of success to remain competitive in the

modern sporting economy. For Township Rollers, whose legacy includes multiple league and cup

triumphs, the Sapphire Jubilee year is now both a reflection on the past and a calculated investment in the

future. Pabalinga said: "If supporters respond strongly to these initiatives, 2026 could mark the start of a

commercially stronger, more resilient era for Township Rollers".

BoBA resurrects boxing in schools

NANCY MOLEFE
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOL SPORTS, Botswana Boxing Association (BOBA) has resurrected boxing as a sport in schools. With school sports having halted over a long period of time, Boxing was one among sporting codes that had been abandoned. Having recently hosted the under 17 and under 19

boxing championships in Borolong, BOBA is focused on restoring and strengthening boxing presence across schools.

The organisation's publicity secretary Kabelo Seleka shared that currently only a limited number of schools actively run boxing programmes.

"Boxing development starts from Under 15, with competitive categories including under 17, under 19 and

elite senior levels for both men and women. Therefore, our goal is to expand progressively so that schools across all regions can offer boxing through partnerships with local clubs and development centres," he noted.

Seleka reiterated the importance of school sport, highlighting that it is critical for youth development as it promotes healthy lifestyles, builds teamwork, keeps young people positively engaged and creates a

foundation for future elite athletes. "Schools are where talent is first discovered and nurtured. Therefore, by bringing boxing back to schools, we create structured opportunities for young people to participate in sport and access pathways into national competitions," he said.

As further indicated, there is a need for more access to safe training facilities as well as coach and official training programmes

as a way of better improving the sport. Most importantly, BOBA pleads for corporate and stakeholder sponsorship support. "We remain committed to grassroots development and using boxing as a tool for youth empowerment, discipline and career opportunity.

We encourage schools, parents and partners to work with us in giving young people positive sporting pathways," Seleka explained.



BOBA recently hosted junior and youth championships

2026 Lefika International Relays



GABORONE IS SET TO COME alive with electrifying speed and continental, and even global excellence as the fifth edition of the Lefika International Relays takes place on 28 March 2026 at the iconic National Stadium.

Recognised as Africa's Road to the World Relays, the event has steadily grown into a key relay qualification and performance platform on the athletics calendar.

The event is officially recognised by the Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) and World Athletics, affirming its credibility and alignment with international competition standards. This year's edition comes at a particularly

significant time as Botswana prepares to host the World Athletics Relays in May, further positioning the country at the centre of global relay athletics.

The primary purpose of the event is to provide a competitive qualification platform for national relay teams, strengthen technical event performance across the continent, and contribute to youth development and sports tourism. Importantly, by hosting a qualification platform on African soil, the Lefika International Relays significantly reduces travel and participation costs for African national teams, enabling more countries to compete and pursue

qualification opportunities without the financial burden of travelling outside the continent.

The Organising Committee is specifically targeting national teams, creating an environment that mirrors international championship standards and allows federations to assess combinations, improve baton exchanges, and test performance readiness ahead of major global events.

The Lefika International Relays has established itself as a credible pathway to international competition. In the previous edition, Zimbabwe successfully qualified for the World Relays through this platform, highlighting the event's growing importance and competitive value. The 2026 programme promises an exciting lineup of relay events, including the 4x100m, 4x200m, 4x400m, and 4x800m for men and women, as well as Mixed Relays.

In addition, promotional and technical events such as the 100m Hurdles (Women), 110m Hurdles (Men), 400m Hurdles (Men and Women), the 3000m Steeplechase (Men), and visually impaired races will form part of the competition. The inclusion of hurdles and steeplechase events is aimed at strengthening performance in technical disciplines while attracting elite competitors to Botswana.

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