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Iran-Israel conflict

Batswana stranded in Iran

About 300 Batswana locked in Middle East. Cabinet ministers' children, 3, stranded

- Stranded locals cry out, call for urgent evacuation
- Forced to sleep in airports, movement restricted
- Minister Dr Butale assures that all Batswana are safe

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Butale

are being targeted by Iran retaliation attacks such as United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Three young Batswana who are children to ministers are also stranded. Two are students and one had travelled for business," said a highly placed source at Botswana Embassy in State of Kuwait.

Iran has launched a series of missile strikes in its neighbouring countries in the Gulf specifically targeting USA and Israel assets.

Some Batswana told this publication that they are emotional strained and fear for their lives as tension escalates. Some said they had intentions to travel back through limited flights from Dubai but it is impossible due to inflated air fares owing to the war.

Botswana non-aligned

Meanwhile, Dr Butale said the government is closely monitoring the situation in Middle East conflict. He said as a matter of longstanding

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UDC's 13% FAILURE

- Report shows UDC struggling to implement 171 manifesto promises
- About 148 promises at 0% stage, only 13% are in progress
- Boko declared no social contract binding UDC to promises

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RESEARCHERS MOKALOBA Mokaloba and Matron Muchena from The African Citizens Watch Platform (ACW) developed and deployed by SIVIO Institute have revealed that the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) administration is struggling to fulfil 171 promises pledged to the electorate during the 2024 election.

The African Citizens Watch Tracker is an independent platform developed and deployed by SIVIO Institute to track the performance and effectiveness of African governments based on the pledges made in election manifestos and other important policy pronouncements.

Launched this week and titled "Settling in Amid Fiscal Challenges: An Assessment of the Government of Botswana, the report unpacks the progress made by the Government of Botswana in fulfilling the 171 promises outlined in the UDC manifesto. The researchers said in the past 12 months, 25 actions have been recorded, with the economy sector leading at 10, followed by Social Services with seven (7) actions, adding that no promises have been fully "Implemented" or "Broken".

They said twenty-three (23) promises (13% of total promises) are currently "In Progress." "After a year in office, the Government of Botswana has made 13% progress towards fulfilling the promises made in the election manifesto," they said.

According to Mokaloba and Muchena, out of the 171 total promises made in the UDC



Boko

manifesto, 57 promises fell under the economy sector. They said period under review, a total of 10 actions have been taken by the government. The researchers observed that ten promises are currently "In Progress" whilst 47 have not commenced yet buttressing that this translates to a 9% assessment score for the sector.

In addition, Mokaloba and Muchena said UDC officially clocked one year in office on 4 November 2025 and during this period, the Government of Botswana has found itself battling an ailing economy owing largely to the poor performance of diamonds on the

international diamond market.

This, according to Mokaloba and Muchena has limited the implementation of many projects and

promises that the new government had outlined in the manifesto.

"Despite this challenge, there has been some progress made in the delivery of some promises such as increasing the old age pension, the creation of a Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWE), and kickstarting the Bonno Housing Scheme," said Mokaloba and Muchena.

They added: "However, a significant portion (148 out of 171)

of the promises remains at a stage of "Not Commenced", showing the magnitude of the task that lies ahead for the government in the next 48 months."

Social Contract

Recently, President Advocate Duma Boko sparked uproar across the political divided when he said the election manifestos are not a legal binding social contract. Boko was responding to criticism from some members of public who blasted UDC for failing to deliver its electoral promises such as 2500 tertiary allowance students and the P4000 minimum wage. He declared that UDC does not have a social contract with the nation to deliver on its manifesto promises, adding that opposition politicians are wrong to believe there is a social contract between the ruling party and voters.

Hot potato

Meanwhile, Mokaloba and Muchena said one of the key challenges in the Botswana economy is unemployment, especially among youth graduates.

In the first year of UDC administration, they said unemployment statistics are still on the rise, and the creation of sustainable jobs is still a challenge, with the government citing the unfavourable economic conditions.

According to them, the government, however, has cited projects such as the Khoemacau Mine, the Selebi Phikwe Copper Mine opening and the Bonno Housing Scheme as some of the projects that will target employment creation against the UDC's 500,000 jobs in five (5) years promise.

Bargaining Council in limbo

- 'PSBC Constitution is unlawful, null and void' - Manual Workers Union
- Ask court to declare Motsamai, Rari appointments invalid

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DRAMA CONTINUES TO unfold, stalling the operationalization of the Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC), after National Amalgamated Local, Central Government and Parastatal Workers Union (NALCGPWU) launched a fresh bid to nullify the bargaining council constitution.

The respondents in the latest case are the Attorney General, six public sector trade unions, Andrew Motsamai and Tobokani Rari. Manual Workers Union is fighting tooth and nail, challenging the appointment of veteran unionist-Motsamai, as the Secretary of the PSBC.

The high court recently dismissed with costs, another Manual Workers case against the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) and six public sector trade unions over their endorsement of Motsamai as the new PSBC Secretary.

In the latest application before Gaborone High Court, filed on 26th February 2026, Manual Workers are demanding that the appointment of Motsamai, and Tobokani Rari as Deputy Secretary of PSBC be reversed as the process contravenes the Constitution of the bargaining council.

Cited respondents on the matter are Attorney General, Botswana Doctors Union (BDU), Botswana Nurses Union (BONU), Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU), Botswana Teachers Union (BTU), Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU), Botswana Land Board and Local Authorities Union (BLLAHWU), Motsamai and Rari respectively.

The union argues that appointment of Motsamai and Rari

TO PAGE 3

KFC
LOVE AT
FIRST BITE

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Botswana's Conservation efforts recognized

BOTSWANA HAS EARNED prestigious international recognition at the PATWA International Travel Awards held on the side-lines of ITB Berlin, one of the world's leading travel trade exhibitions.

The Minister of Environment and Tourism, Boipuso Wynter Mmolotsi, received the exclusive excellence in governance accolade of "Tourism Minister of the Year - Nature Conservation", affirming the country's position as one of the world's premier destinations for authentic, high-impact safari and wilderness tourism.

The award was presented at the esteemed PATWA International Travel Awards ceremony, organised by the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA), a global professional body that



recognises excellence and outstanding contributions within the travel and tourism industry.

Receiving the award, Minister Mmolotsi reaffirmed Botswana's dedication to sustainable tourism development, conservation-led growth, and community empowerment.

Botswana's tourism model, renowned for its high-value, low-volume approach, has positioned the country as a global leader in sustainable travel. From pristine wilderness landscapes to diverse wildlife ecosystems, Botswana continues to attract discerning travellers seeking authentic and responsible tourism experiences.

The recognition of ministerial leadership highlights the strong alignment between

policy direction and industry performance. It also signals growing international confidence in Botswana's governance framework for environmental stewardship and sustainable tourism management.

PATWA's recognition at ITB Berlin provides a significant platform to showcase Botswana's tourism offerings to global buyers, investors, media, and industry leaders gathered in Berlin. As Botswana continues to strengthen international partnerships and expand its tourism footprint, the accolade reaffirms the country's standing as a leading destination for thrilling, conservation-driven travel experiences.

Source: Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Botswana

BVI tackles FMD head-on

- Ramp up production, as demand outpaces supply
- Regional outbreak of pandemic unprecedented
- Not concerned about Argentina supply to SA

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BOTSWANA Vaccine Institute (BVI) declared the state of production emergency to ramp up production and ensure efficient response to avert vaccines to arrest the recent Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Andrew Madeswi has revealed.

Speaking during BVI media capacity workshop on FMD, Madeswi said BVI is grappling with high demand for vaccines supply from different countries in the region hence need to ramp up production. He said the whole SADC region is engulfed by FMD at an unprecedented magnitude. He said BVI has supplied about three million tonnes of vaccines to Botswana and SADC countries such as South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia etc.

Madeswi said Lesotho, which is experiencing FMD for the first time in history, has also reached out to BVI for technical assistance. "Botswana is a regional benchmark when it comes to FMD. We are recognized as the country of expertise and we are doing our best to respond to the FMD threats in the region. Demand is outpacing supply but we are doing our best to ramp up production," said Madeswi, explaining that they declared a production emergency in January 2026 after regional vaccine demand surged amid widening FMD outbreaks.

According to BVI Acting Chief Commercial Officer, Keenese Katsioenge-Tizhani, in the 2025/26 financial year from March 2025 to April 2026, they supplied 3.8 million doses of FMD vaccines. She said South Africa accounts for 1.6 million doses, making it the largest buyer, followed by Zimbabwe at 1.3 million, Eswatini has received 308,000 doses, Mozambique 116,200 and Botswana 72,000 doses.

Katsioenge-Tizhani said BVI would still supply more to Zimbabwe as the FMD outbreak is heightening up. In addition, she said BVI is aware of plans by South Africa to procure 28 million vaccines from Argentina would not hinder BVI to continue supplying the South African market with vaccines.

"We have our market share in South Africa and we will continue to supply the country. We don't see Argentina coming onboard as competition. Our production emergency would allow us to be convenient in supplying all our markets," said Katsioenge-Tizhani.

She said BVI's total value proposition comprises of disease investigation, vaccine strategy formulation and technical support which all have made BVI to be globally competitive and leading expert in FMD.

She said BVI has market footprint for its several products in Africa, Europe and the Middle East, citing that the ongoing war in Iran would negatively impact supply to the Middle East markets being Qatar and United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Surveillance
For his part, Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Mmolotsi Dikolobe said BVI strengthening surveillance to curb the spread of the disease. He said movement control of animals is an important basic in controlling the disease, adding that BVI embarks on active and passive surveillance patrol across the country working hand in hand with Ministry of Lands and Agriculture.

He said FMD is a very complex disease and it is important for applying emergency vaccination in order to protect the animals that at risk of contracting the FMD. According to him, vaccine is the first line of defence and BVI continues to produce fit for purpose vaccines as FMD in Botswana could be different from the one in Zimbabwe for example.

Women's Economic-Opportunity Laws Only Half-Enforced Globally

STAFF WRITER
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LAWS DESIGNED TO ensure equal economic opportunities for women are only half-enforced on average across the world, indicating that the barriers that keep women from contributing fully to growth and prosperity are far steeper than previously thought, according to a new report from the World Bank Group. Even if the laws were fully enforced, women would still enjoy barely two-thirds of the legal rights of men.

For the first time, the latest Women, Business and the Law report assesses not only the degree of equality in laws on the books, but also the extent to which those laws are enforced. Legal experts surveyed estimated that laws that encourage full economic participation by women are only half-enforced, indicating that governments have a long way to go. Even as they make progress in establishing new equal-opportunity laws, economies on average have in place fewer than half of the policies and services needed for enforcement. Only 4% of women across the world live in economies that provide nearly full legal equality. That is keeping economies from reaching their full potential to grow and create jobs.

"On paper, most countries are doing reasonably well: the average country scores 67 out

of 100 on the adequacy of laws to enable economic equality between women and men," said Indermit Gill, the World Bank Group's Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics. "But when it comes to enforcing the laws, the average score drops to 53. And when the systems needed to implement those rights are assessed, the adequacy score is just 47. These numbers reflect huge opportunity gaps—and the findings of this report provide policymakers with intelligence to reverse the decline in the growth potential of developing economies."

Women, Business, and the Law assesses the global state of women's economic participation across 10 key areas, including safety from violence, access to childcare, entrepreneurship, employment protections, asset ownership, and retirement security. It identifies safety from violence as a key shortcoming, leaving women less able to work consistently. "True equality begins with safety. Whether at home, at work, or in public, women deserve protection to thrive," said Norman Loayza, Director of the World Bank's Policy Indicators Group. "Globally, we're falling short. We have only a third of the safety laws we need, and even then, enforcement is failing 80% of the time."

Tea Trumbic, Manager for the Women, Business and the

Only 4% of women worldwide live in economies that provide nearly full legal equality



Norman Loayza, Director of the World Bank Global Indicators Group

Law project and the report's lead author, said: "Over the next decade, 1.2 billion young people—half of them girls—will enter the workforce. Many will come of age in regions where women face the biggest barriers, and where the GDP boost that would result from their participation is most needed. Ensuring equal opportunity for women here—and

everywhere—benefits societies as a whole, not just women. It's an economic must-have, in short, not just a nice-to-have." Entrepreneurship is another low-scoring area, the report finds. Although women can start businesses on the same legal terms as men in nearly all economies, only about half promote equal access to credit, leaving women entrepreneurs

locked out of financing. Childcare is a crucial opportunity for policymakers. Affordable, reliable childcare tends to be one of the strongest predictors of whether parents—particularly mothers—can work or move into higher-productivity jobs. Yet less than half of the 190 economies covered in the report have laws providing financial or

tax support for families. Among those, only 30% of policies needed to support affordable and high-quality childcare services are in place. In low-income economies, just 1% of childcare support mechanisms are in place.

Despite these conditions, progress is occurring with respect to equal-opportunity laws on the books:

Over the past two years, 68 economies have enacted 113 positive legal reforms across most areas of women's economic life, with the greatest progress in entrepreneurship and safety from violence. Seven countries also expanded paternity leave to help redistribute caregiving and support women's employment.

Sub-Saharan Africa implemented 33 reforms over the past two years, the largest number of any region. Madagascar and Somalia lifted prohibitions on women working in sectors such as construction, manufacturing, and agriculture.

Egypt, Jordan, and Oman made progress. Egypt was the world's top reformer over the past two years, increasing its legal equality score by nearly 10 points. Recent reforms extended paid parental leave from 90 to 120 days for mothers and introduced one day of paid leave for fathers, mandated equal pay, and allowed requests for flexible work arrangements.

Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd.

Month-March 2026

Effective from 1 st March 2026			
Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
BWP	(Lowest-Highest)	(Lowest-Highest)	(P' 000)
Current	0.00-0.00%	0.00-0.00%	3000
Call	0.00-1.00%	0.00-1.01%	1000
Savings	0.00-2.00%	0.00-2.02%	100
91-Days Fixed Deposit	1.25-1.25%	1.25-1.26%	500
6 months	1.50-1.50%	1.50-1.51%	500
12 months	3.25-4.00%	3.25-4.31%	500
24 months	4.00-4.75%	4.00-4.82%	500
Over 24 months	4.25-5.00%	4.25-5.08%	500
USD	(Lowest-Highest)	(Lowest-Highest)	(USD)
3 months Fixed Deposit	0.00-0.25%	0.00-0.26%	No Minimum Balance
6 months	0.00-0.50%	0.00-0.52%	5000
Over 12 months	0.00-0.75%	0.00-0.76%	5000
ZAR	(Lowest-Highest)	(Lowest-Highest)	(ZAR)
6 months	1.75-1.75%	1.75-1.76%	1 million
Over 12 months	2.75-2.75%	2.75-2.78%	1 million

Baroda Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) 7.51% p.a. i.e. 23.06.2025

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Average Effective Interest Rates (%)
MoPR	3.50%	3.50%
Baroda Prime Lending Rate	7.51%	7.51%
Mortgage Facility	7.51-18.26%	11.38%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	7.51-18.51%	10.60%
Credit Card	NA	NA
Lease Loans	NA	NA
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgages, and credit cards)	9.51-19.50%	14.75%
Other Long-Term Loans	7.51-17.26%	11.56%

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

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Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd.

Recruitment

Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Limited is a subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (India), a government of India undertaking public sector unit, having its registered office at Gaborone, wishes to invite applications from suitably qualified and experienced individuals for the following positions:

➤ **Post No. 1- Risk Head (Re-Advert)**

Nationality: Motswana.

Qualification: The minimum qualification is Degree in Risk Management.

Working Experience: Minimum 3 years prior work experience is required in Banking.

Computer Knowledge: Candidate should have computer knowledge like Windows, MS Office, MS Excel, Internet, etc.

Key Competencies- Good in communication skill, Analytical and detail-oriented, resilient, Proactive, Result-orientated, expertise in risk management framework.

Process for Recruitment: Interview.

Remuneration: Negotiable as per qualification and experience of candidate.

Appointment: Selected candidate appointment will be subjected to regulatory clearance.

Candidates fulfilling the above eligibility criteria may apply with their CV to the following address within seven days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

The Managing Director,
Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd.
 Postal Address- PO Box 216ADD Postnet, KagleView, Gaborone
 Physical Address- Plot-14456, Kamoshungo Road, Nokia Circle, G-west Industrial, Gaborone.

Email- hrm.botswana@bankofbaroda.com, ho.botswana@bankofbaroda.com

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to.

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

Batswana stranded in Iran

FROM PAGE 1



principle, Botswana remains nonaligned and firmly committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. He said government's primary and immediate concern is the safety and welfare of Batswana residing in, or travelling through, the affected regions. Dr Butale explained that the current records indicate that approximately 300 Batswana nationals reside across the Middle East, adding that of these approximately 200 are in the United Arab Emirates, 50 in the State of Qatar, and smaller numbers in Kuwait,

Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Iran. He said based on information presently available to the ministry, all nationals in Middle East are safe and accounted for. He added that government has contingency plans in place for the possible evacuation of Batswana should circumstances so require permit. "However, due to the closure and restriction of portions of the Middle Eastern airspace and ongoing volatility of the security situation, evacuation is not feasible at this time," said Dr Butale.

Bargaining Council in limbo

FROM PAGE 1



Rari

as Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the bargaining council fell foul of the provisions of the constitution of the bargaining council.

Manual Workers Union said as per the constitution, the power to appoint the Secretary is vested in the bargaining council exclusively and there is no provision for the appointment of a Deputy Secretary, hence the duo's appointments are illegal and must be reversed. The union is seeking a relief that the court declare that the signatories of the bargaining council constitution and founding members of the bargaining council are entitled to exercise powers conferred on bargaining council by the constitution.

The union also want the court to declare the constitution signed by itself, Attorney General and other six unions to be incurably bad and is therefore null and void. "The Attorney General shall within 30 days of the date of judgement convene a meeting of the applicant and other six trade unions the sole item on the agenda being a negotiation of a Constitution for the Bargaining Council as envisaged by Section 52 of the Public Service Act," said Manual Workers Union.

DPSM

Meanwhile, the employer DPSM confirmed that Motsamai had been appointed the Secretary of the bargaining council.

DPSM Director Gaone Macholo briefly said the DPSM is aware that government lawyer, Attorney General has been dragged to court not even the employer in the fresh matter raised by Manual Workers Union.

Macholo said the union is now contesting the signed constitution of the bargaining council and using the same argument it has raised in the previous matter.

In a previous interview with this publication, Macholo said the employer is disturbed by the conduct of Manual Workers as it isolates itself from the collective bargaining decisions that it had been party to.

Macholo said it was unfair for the union to drag other trade unions to court after they independently and collectively agreed with employer for the endorsement of Motsamai as the bargaining council Secretary.

She said DPSM however remain open to engaging with Manual Workers and no grudges the employer holds against the union despite the existing bargaining council disagreements.

Manual Workers also dismissed suggestions that it being selfish or standing on the way of bargaining council progress, insisting its position on appointment of Secretary is guided by principles of good faith and consensus.

Kesitilwe: Building AiA to bridge gaps

■ Pioneering the rise of African gambling institutions

Q: Who is Emolemo Peter Kesitilwe?

KESITILWE: EMOLEMO Peter Kesitilwe is a pan-African gaming and regulatory strategist, Fellow Chartered Accountant, and industry reformer. He is the founding Chief Executive Officer of the African iGaming Alliance (AiA), established to unite licensed operators, regulators, and policymakers in building open, competitive, and responsible online gaming markets across Africa. His career is defined by institution-building, regulatory modernisation, and creating commercially viable yet socially responsible gaming ecosystems.

Q: Take us through your responsibilities as the CEO of AiA.

KESITILWE: My role is to set and execute AiA's strategic direction, represent members at continental and global policy forums, lead regulatory engagement with governments, and ensure AiA remains financially sustainable, credible, and influential. Practically, this includes driving membership growth, shaping evidence-led policy positions, overseeing governance and compliance frameworks, and building partnerships that support responsible gaming, market formalisation, and cross-border cooperation.

Q: Before coming to AiA, kindly reflect on your journey in the corporate world.

KESITILWE: I previously served as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Gambling Authority in Botswana, where I led one of the most significant transformations in the country's gambling history.

When I assumed executive leadership, the sector was largely casino-dominated and valued at approximately US\$25 million. Through regulatory modernisation, licensing expansion, and the introduction of Limited Payout Machines and online betting, I led its growth into a diversified, technology-enabled market now valued at approximately US\$500 million.

The appointment of Emolemo Peter Kesitilwe late last year as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of African iGaming Alliance (AiA) marked a significant chapter in his career, which also placed Botswana at the summit of global recognition. Kesitilwe is optimistic about Botswana/Africa gambling sector growth and his vision for AiA is deeply entrenched in responsible online gambling. **STAFF WRITER BAKANG TIRO** had a chat with him.

This transformation created hundreds of direct jobs, thousands of indirect opportunities, and resulted in an aggregate citizen equity participation of approximately 72% across licensed operations. We also implemented award-winning responsible gambling frameworks and repositioned the Gambling Authority into a financially self-sustaining regulator, eliminating dependence on Government grants or subvention while maintaining clean audits and strong governance.

Before joining the Gambling Authority, I served as Finance & Administration Director for Boitekanelo College and Corporate Services Director at the Local Enterprise Authority. I have also worked with organisations operating both in Botswana and across the region, building extensive experience in financial management, corporate governance, and institutional development.

Q: Your appointment to the Clarion Gaming Regulatory Advisory Board. What does this mean to you as an individual and for Botswana?

KESITILWE: It is a personal honour and a strong endorsement of Africa's growing relevance in global gaming policy. For Botswana, it signals that our regulatory experiences and reforms are respected internationally. It creates a direct channel for African perspectives to influence global regulatory discourse rather than being passive recipients of imported models.

Q: What are you looking forward to gaining from the Advisory Board as a business leader?

KESITILWE: I am looking to deepen insight into emerging global regulatory trends, enforcement innovations, and responsible gaming technologies, while also sharing Africa's realities and opportunities. This two-way exchange strengthens my ability to design pragmatic, pro-growth yet protective policy frameworks for African markets.

Q: As the man at the helm of AiA, what is your vision for the



organization?

KESITILWE: It is important to clarify that the African iGaming Alliance is not an operator and therefore does not compete with betting or gaming companies. AiA is a pan-African trade association established to represent licensed online betting and gaming operators and to act as a constructive bridge between industry, regulators, and policymakers.

Our founding members include leading international and Africa-focused operators such as Betway, betPawa, SportyBet, and 888Africa, alongside strategic partners from across the regulated ecosystem such

as PawaTech. Together, they form a collective voice focused on shaping sustainable and well-regulated markets. My vision is for AiA to become Africa's most trusted industry platform for regulatory cooperation, evidence-led policy, and responsible gaming standards. We champion predictable regulation, balanced and sustainable taxation, and strong consumer protection frameworks that support both player safety and long-term investment.

Success for AiA is measured by more formalised markets, reduced illegal gambling, stronger regulatory capacity, and an African online gaming sector that grows responsibly,

creates jobs, and contributes meaningfully to national economies.

Q: How did AiA perform in the past financial year? What milestones have you achieved and what are the main targets for 2026?

KESITILWE: The past year has been a strong establishment phase for the African iGaming Alliance. We concluded a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with the International Betting Integrity Association to strengthen cooperation on sports integrity and match-fixing prevention, ensuring African markets are connected to global integrity monitoring systems. We also developed an Africa-wide

Responsible Gambling Framework centred on practical player-protection tools such as deposit limits, self-exclusion, counselling partnerships, and public awareness.

In parallel, AiA actively engaged regulators and policymakers across multiple African jurisdictions on sustainable tax and licensing frameworks, advocating for predictable, growth-friendly policies that support formalisation and reduce illegal gambling.

Overall, the year positioned AiA as a credible continental voice. The focus now is to deepen regulatory partnerships, expand membership, and translate these engagements into tangible policy outcomes.

Q: Do you have any responsible betting programmes for customers?

KESITILWE: Yes. AiA promotes operator-implemented standards that include deposit limits, self-exclusion tools, counselling and treatment partnerships, and public awareness campaigns. We prioritise practical, technology-enabled tools that directly change player behaviour rather than punitive or symbolic measures.

Q: What can we expect from AiA in 2026?

KESITILWE: We will roll out a Responsible Gaming Best Practice Framework, a Regulatory Cooperation Toolkit for governments, and an Africa iGaming Market Intelligence and Sustainability Report. We are also launching capacity-building programmes for regulators and compliance professionals.

Africa's online gaming sector is at an inflection point. With smart policy, predictable taxes, and collaborative regulation, it can become a major contributor to digital jobs, tax revenue, and financial inclusion. AiA exists to help make that future real.

PERSONAL PROFILE

Names: Emolemo Peter Kesitilwe.
Education: MSc in Strategic Business Management; Fellow Chartered Accountant; Global Chartered Management Accountant; Chartered Management Accountant; Senior Executive Management Programme (London Business School).
Family: Married with children.
Hobby: Walking, fitness, community work, reading, football.
Book currently reading: Thinking in Bets – Annie Duke.

Economic Review Q4 2025 flags weaknesses

STAFF WRITER

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■ UDC government struggles to stabilise ailing economy

THE UMBRELLA FOR Democratic Change (UDC) Government has acknowledged that Botswana's economy remains under strain but promised that corrective reforms are underway to reverse inherited vulnerabilities.

The latest Fourth Quarter 2025 Economic Review conducted by Dr Keith Jefferis at Econsult notes that "uncertainty and economic weaknesses persist", because of fragile growth, fiscal pressures and continued dependence on diamonds. The report confirms the structural imbalances that had built up over time and reinforces the need for ongoing reforms.

These pressures reflect structural vulnerabilities that accumulated over time, including over-reliance

on diamond revenues, eroded fiscal buffers, rising debt exposure, and delayed reforms in key sectors.

The Q4 2025 Economic Review shows that annual GDP growth returned marginally to positive territory in the third quarter of 2025, largely due to a temporary rebound in diamond production. However, broader economic performance remains subdued, with weak domestic demand, slower credit growth and rising financial pressures.

The UDC administration has reiterated that they inherited declining fiscal buffers, mounting borrowing requirements and heavy reliance on diamond revenues amid a changing global market. The Econsult report cautions about low diamond prices, excess global inventory and increasing competition from synthetic stones as



Econsultant MD, Dr Keith Jefferis

continuing risks to export earnings.

In response, Government has initiated fiscal consolidation measures aimed at restoring sustainability.

These include tighter expenditure controls, rationalisation of capital projects, improvements in tax administration and efforts to broaden domestic revenue sources.

The report underscores the need for "concerted fiscal adjustment" and structural reform.

Authorities say this aligns with their policy direction to stabilise public finances while avoiding abrupt measures that could further weaken growth.

Foreign exchange reserves showed some stabilisation in the second half of 2025, although partly supported by external borrowing. Government has indicated that long-term

sustainability will depend on strengthening export performance rather than relying on loans.

Adjustments to the exchange rate framework were introduced to ease distortions affecting exporters, following concerns that earlier policy settings had penalised trade competitiveness. Inflation remained contained at 3.9 percent in December 2025 but is projected to rise moderately in 2026.

Diversification remains central to the administration's economic agenda. The Botswana Economic Transformation Programme and the new National Development Plan are targeting growth in copper and base metals, renewable energy, tourism expansion, agriculture value chains and financial services. The Review notes the "urgent need for a structural shift toward economic

diversification and export-led growth," a position Government says it is actively pursuing.

Officials also confirmed efforts to improve the investment climate by streamlining licensing processes and strengthening investor facilitation. Private sector growth is viewed as essential to expanding employment and rebuilding fiscal resilience.

The Review cautions that without sustained reform, growth could remain weak and reserves may face renewed pressure.

Government maintains that while challenges are significant, policy interventions are already underway to address them.

Botswana's economic outlook remains uncertain, but authorities say stabilisation, diversification and fiscal discipline will define the next phase of recovery.

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Botswana faces economic tremors from Middle East war

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THE DISTANCE BETWEEN GABORONE and other cities in the Middle East may be measured in thousands of kilometres, but in today's interconnected global economy distance does not shield a nation from consequence. When oil markets tremble in the Gulf, when shipping channels/ routes grow uncertain, and when geopolitical tensions escalate between major powers, even a small, stable country like Botswana begins to feel the ripple effects.

The current conflict between Israel/ US and Iran, and the possibility that it could widen into a broader regional confrontation, is not merely a foreign policy story for Botswana. It is an economic story. It is a supply-chain story. It is a fiscal story. And if the war continues to escalate, it may soon become a social story affecting prices, medicines, transport costs, and the overall economic stability of the country.

Botswana must therefore treat the unfolding crisis not with alarmism but with realism. The world economy is entering a

period of uncertainty, and countries that anticipate shocks early are the ones that weather them best.

Oil: The First Shock

The most immediate impact of any Middle East conflict is almost always energy. The region accounts for a significant share of the world's oil supply, and the Strait of Hormuz remains one of the most critical shipping routes on the planet. Even the perception that this route could be disrupted is enough to push oil prices upward.

Botswana imports all of its petroleum products. The country therefore has no buffer against global fuel price movements. When oil prices rise internationally, the effect eventually reaches the domestic pump price, and once fuel prices increase, they begin to influence almost every part of the economy.

Transport costs rise. Retailers adjust prices to reflect higher logistics costs. Farmers pay more for fuel used in machinery and transport. Public transport fares become pressured upward. Within

weeks, the inflationary ripple spreads from fuel to food and then to other household necessities. In a country where many families already feel the strain of the cost of living, a global oil shock could quickly translate into a domestic economic stress.

This is why policymakers must begin preparing now for fuel-related inflation. The goal should not be to pretend that Botswana can escape global prices. Rather, the aim should be to manage the timing, communication and cushioning of these increases in a way that protects vulnerable households while maintaining fiscal discipline.

Medicines, Health Supply Chains

Another often overlooked consequence of geopolitical conflict is pressure on medical supply chains. Botswana imports the overwhelming majority of its medicines, medical equipment and pharmaceutical inputs.

Much of the global pharmaceutical supply chain passes through shipping networks connected to Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Disruptions in shipping

routes, insurance costs for cargo vessels, or congestion in alternative ports can delay shipments and increase costs.

For Botswana's health system, which has in recent years already faced strain due to supply bottlenecks and procurement inefficiencies, such disruptions could deepen existing vulnerabilities.

Hospitals rely on consistent supply flows for essential medicines such as antibiotics, insulin, vaccines, and specialised treatments. Even small delays can create shortages that affect patient care.

The government's ongoing efforts to stabilise procurement and improve medical supply logistics therefore become even more urgent under the current global conditions. Strategic reserves of essential medicines and improved procurement planning will be critical in ensuring that external shocks do not translate into domestic health crises.

Nervous Global Markets (Diamonds)

Botswana's economy is also uniquely exposed through its dependence on diamonds. While the sector has begun



President Boko

undergoing structural transformation through beneficiation, marketing diversification and the strengthening of the Okavango Diamond Company, diamonds remain sensitive to global economic sentiment.

In times of geopolitical uncertainty, luxury goods markets often weaken. Consumers in key markets such as the United States, China and Europe become cautious. Retail jewellery demand slows. Inventory builds up in the midstream of the diamond pipeline. If global economic confidence dips due to war or oil shocks, diamond demand could face renewed pressure.

For Botswana, this matters deeply. Diamond revenues are not merely export figures; they form a cornerstone of government income. Lower diamond sales translate directly into fiscal pressure.

A prolonged geopolitical crisis could therefore affect Botswana through two channels simultaneously: rising import costs and declining export revenues. This double pressure is precisely what fiscal policymakers must anticipate.

Fiscal Pressure, Budget Discipline
Botswana has long prided itself on responsible fiscal management. Yet even disciplined governments can face strain when global conditions deteriorate. Higher fuel costs increase government operational expenses. Public sector transport, electricity generation, and service delivery all become more expensive. If government attempts to cushion households through subsidies or price controls, fiscal spending increases further.

At the same time, if diamond revenues soften due to global uncertainty, government income declines. This combination can widen fiscal deficits quickly.

The challenge for Botswana will be maintaining fiscal prudence while protecting citizens from the harshest effects of external shocks. The solution will not lie in reactive policy but in careful prioritisation of spending and clear economic communication.

Government must remain transparent with the public about the global nature of these pressures. Economic literacy becomes essential during such times. When citizens understand that price pressures originate beyond national borders, policy responses are more likely to gain public trust.

Food Prices, Cost of Living
Fuel and freight costs inevitably influence food prices. Botswana imports a large share of its food, particularly staple grains and processed goods from regional and global markets. When shipping costs rise or transport fuel becomes more expensive, those costs feed directly into the price of bread, maize meal, cooking oil and other staples.

The result is often a gradual but persistent rise in household food expenditure. For low-income households, this can be particularly difficult, as food already consumes a large share of disposable income.

Botswana must therefore strengthen its domestic agricultural resilience, particularly in key staple areas where increased local production could soften the impact of

global price spikes. While Botswana may never become fully self-sufficient in food production, strategic support for local agriculture remains one of the most effective long-term buffers against external shocks.

Diplomacy, Strategic Neutrality

Botswana's foreign policy tradition has always been rooted in principled neutrality, respect for international law, and advocacy for peaceful resolution of conflicts.

In the context of the current Middle East tensions, this posture remains both wise and pragmatic. Botswana's interests lie not in geopolitical alignment but in stability, open trade routes, and peaceful international relations.

Diplomatic messaging should therefore continue to emphasise dialogue, de-escalation and humanitarian concern while avoiding entanglement in geopolitical rivalries that offer little strategic benefit to the country. This balanced approach preserves Botswana's reputation as a responsible member of the international community while protecting its economic interests.

Opportunity in Stability

Even in times of global uncertainty, opportunities can emerge for countries that maintain stability and credibility. Investors, multinational companies and logistics networks often seek safe, predictable jurisdictions during turbulent periods.

Botswana's reputation for good governance, rule of law, and macroeconomic stability positions it well to attract regional investment looking for a stable base of operations in Southern Africa.

If the government continues strengthening infrastructure corridors, regulatory certainty and investment promotion, Botswana could position itself as a regional hub for logistics, services and financial operations. In times of global turbulence, stability itself becomes an economic asset.

Preparing for uncertainty

The ultimate lesson of the current geopolitical moment is that the global economy is entering a period of greater uncertainty. Conflicts, supply chain disruptions and strategic competition between major powers are likely to become more common rather than less. For Botswana, the challenge is not to predict every global development but to build resilience that allows the country to absorb shocks without losing economic stability.

This means strengthening fiscal discipline, diversifying the economy beyond diamonds, improving supply chain resilience, and maintaining clear communication between government and citizens. No country can isolate itself from global turbulence. But countries that prepare wisely can navigate storms without capsizing.

Botswana's history has shown that careful governance, prudent economic management and social cohesion can carry the nation through difficult times. The unfolding global tensions may test that resilience once again. The question is not whether the shockwaves will arrive, they will. The question is whether Botswana will be ready when they do.



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Ukraine, Botswana foster bilateral ties

■ Russia war tested our resilience- Ukraine Ambassador Syvak

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BOTSWANA'S STABLE POLITICAL AND peaceful environment and good management of the country's resources is what sets her apart from many countries across the world, a development that is making Ukraine to have an astonishing love to contribute to Botswana growth, Ukrainian ambassador to Botswana Dr Oleksiy Syvak told The Patriot on Sunday last week.

In an exclusive interview last Friday at the Ukrainian Embassy in Gaborone, Dr Syvak said the Eastern Europe country began its mission in Botswana in 2024. He said he is the first ever Ambassador of Ukraine in Botswana as he witnessed the historic change of government in 2024 as Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) attained

state power.

The UDC dislodged Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) which had ruled the country for 58 years.

"It remains a memorable experience for me to have witnessed such a peaceful transition of power from one political party to one another. I am one of the first ever ambassadors to present letters of credence to President Duma Boko. Botswana is such an amazing state," he said.

Diplomatic ties

Dr Syvak said Ukraine and Botswana diplomatic ties are new and would be official marking two years this year. He said Ukraine has been warmly welcomed by the government of Botswana and Ukraine also is looking forward for Botswana to establish embassy in Kiev.

According to him, Botswana is a very

different country and that is what sets Botswana apart from the rest. "I have travelled to some countries in Africa and overall I have travelled to 52 countries in the world. What I didn't learn from those countries is that here in Botswana you are taught that by the people. I know lenyalo (traditional wedding) because of Batswana. I am learning to pronounce words because of Batswana. They teach you. You don't get such in other countries places," he said.

Dr Syvak also said Botswana and Ukraine are enjoying good relations in terms of bilateral negotiations, adding that the two nations are establishing cooperation in areas such as agriculture, energy, education, technology and cultural diplomacy.

Investment

He said Ukraine has already sent high level delegations to Botswana that



The Patriot on Sunday Senior Reporter, Bakang Tiro interviewing Ukrainian ambassador to Botswana Dr Oleksiy Syvak

'BDP -a govt on sabbatical' -Kgaodi

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THE ABSENCE OF ALL FORMER Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) Presidents at the Palapye retreat could not dampen the mood of the red brigade, with Letswapo region chairperson, Bofelo Kgaodi declaring that they are not in opposition but a government on sabbatical leave. He said despite losing elections, the BDP remains a party with a national reach, a party boasting of massive experience, resilience and the conviction that they can win the 2029 general elections and return to power.

Kgaodi was riding on the word of encouragement by Reverend Dr Rupert Hambira who observed that the BDP lost because of over-reliance on historical success, which blinded them to emerging challenges ahead. He dismissed accusations by the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), that the BDP was corrupt, saying they are a government of grave diggers who thrive on dwelling on the past instead of resolving the current challenges.

Hambira described the ongoing forensic audit by Alvarez & Marsal as a circus because President Duma Boko, who appointed the audit firm, has already announced that the results are going to be brutal long before the final report is submitted to his office.

The BDP held a retreat in Palapye on the 28th of February under the theme: *Reconstruction after the storm – empowering structures to revive the spirit of self reliance and unity of purpose.* The retreat followed the party's defeat in the 2024 general elections to reflect on the outcome and map a way forward to rebuild



Balopi

structures, restore unity and position the party for a come back in 2029.

Party President, Mpho Balopi said the BDP is a party built on the enduring bricks of democracy, development, self reliance and unity as the bedrock for humility. He declared that many Batswana still have faith in the BDP and they will rise again.

Balopi said since he was not part of the campaign teams ahead of the 2024 elections, he is not qualified and lacks the authority explain the outcomes i.e. the losses. He urged members to focus on learning from the past and look forward with renewed optimism for the reconstruction.

"We have prioritized peace – building and reconciliation by extending olive branches to many former members who felt that that the party had previously been unjust to them. It has borne fruits as several members at every level have either returned or expressed a desire to return to the party, even Kgosisigolo has sent me a message saying he has forgiven the BDP for past persecutions," he said.

The BDP has since established an interim Women's Wing with over 40 members, to revitalise the party structures at branch and regional levels. The party has also established and appointed four Portfolio Committees, each aligned with a pillar of vision 2026. The committees will enhance the party's policy positioning, functioning as the party's think tanks and eventually develop a party forum to further their contributions to public policy and governance. The convenors of the committees are Boyce Sebetela for the sustainable economic development, Kitso Mokaila for sustainable environment, Anna Mokgethi for the human and social development and Eric Molale for the governance, peace and security committee.

"We have also launched our podcast, Legacy: The BDP podcast, which began airing recently. This platform allows us to share our views on various national and internal matters promptly. Party members are welcome to guest appear on relevant topics or suggest potential guests for inclusion under applicable topics. We have also reached an agreement to establish the BDP life insurance scheme to ensure that party members get burials that are as dignified as possible," he said.

Balopi also proposed that the party rename their six existing regions after some of their pioneers to ensure that their names remain etched in the history books. The central region will be named Sir Seretse Khama, South East Region will become Mogotsi Andries Maribe Region, Kweneng East to be renamed J.O.M Nkoane Region, Kweneng West to be renamed Englishman Kgabo Region, Maun-Chobe to be renamed Archelaus Tsoebebe Region and South West to be renamed Sir Ketumile Masire Region.

'Con court must precede constitutional review' - Moswaane

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THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT MUST be established before the constitutional review, Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ignatius Moswaane has told a kgotla meeting in Palapye last Thursday.

Consequently, the constitutional court will act as a mediator on different tribal issues that may arise during the subsequent constitutional review process, Moswaane explained. He said the constitutional court is a specialised court that deals with the interpretation of the constitution and will have powers to make the final judgment on different issues.

On the other hand, he said, the constitutional review process requires all tribes in Botswana to make submissions to ensure that the process accommodates every citizen across all tribes. Tribal issues that will arise from those submissions will then be resolved sufficiently by the Constitutional Court.

Politicisation of issues

Moswaane urged residents to reject people who politicise debates around the establishment of the constitutional court, saying they only want to mislead the nation. He noted that in 2022 a majority of Batswana told a Presidential Commission of Inquiry that they support the constitutional court, but the then Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) rejected the recommendation.

"A lot of Batswana are asking why the uDC government prioritises the constitutional court when the country is facing shortage of medicines. The health sector has been allocated an P8 billion budget to address any challenges, including shortages of medicines in health facilities. The shortage of medicines was never due to financial constraints but because of corruption in procurement processes and distribution. Currently availability of



Moswaane

medicines stands at 70%," he said, adding that issues of medicines and the educational sector must be addressed separately.

He noted that the constitutional court has been allocated P275 million under the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services budget explaining that the funds have nothing to do with supply of medicines to health facilities.

Death penalty, homosexual marriages

Moswaane denied that the constitutional court is not being established to abolish capital punishment, contrary to what some people believe. He said President Duma Boko cannot sign for the execution of the 12 inmates who are currently on death row because their cases have not yet been reviewed by the Presidency, which is the final stage. He said the UDC government has never considered abolishing capital punishment.

Moswaane lamented that there is growing misinformation suggesting that the constitutional court is being established to legalise same sex marriages. He explained

that same sex relationships have long been legalised by the high court as far back as 2022.

Residents of Palapye shared different views on the establishment of the constitutional court. Isaac Maforaga said that the constitutional court is a good initiative for Batswana but more pressing issues such as fixing roads, fixing the health and educational sector should take precedence.

Joseph Tias, who has been declared as mentally unfit by the courts and cannot make any decisions by himself said the constitutional court will restore his dignity as an adult because he is still paying for mistakes of his youth and cannot find a job because his previous convictions where he was supposed to be in mental institution for life and was given a presidential pardon. Mr Onalethata Letso said he eagerly waiting for the establishment of the constitutional court because it will assist them to retrieve their land from people who forcefully took it away from his family because they had money for good lawyers.

comprises government and businesses to engage with Botswana government and the private sector.

Dr Syvak said Ukraine Chamber of Commerce signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Business Botswana (BB) last year; a development that he said is prosperous for the nations.

He revealed that investors from Ukraine would be participating at the Chobe Connect next month in Kasane organized by Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA).

Dr Syvak noted that Ukraine embassy in Gaborone is committed to work with the North West and Chobe Districts respectively in a determined move to unlock Botswana's economic growth. He said Ukraine is also opening up doors of collaboration with Botswana in areas such as mining, energy, and technology.

Resilience from War

He said Ukraine has emerged from ongoing between it and Russia with great resilience and determination. He said Ukraine has regained its productivity power in areas such as agriculture and is exporting large tonnes of grain through the black sea.

According to Dr Syvak, Ukrainians have worked hard to restore the country's economy.

"The full scale war had a devastating impact on our economy. We lost 20% of our land which is primarily industrial. However, we are now able to deliver the grain to the global market through the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea channels. The war has tested our ability to supply grain to the world according to our ability," he said.

Culture

Meanwhile, Dr. Taras Filenko, a renowned Ukrainian pianist, scholar, and

educator who made a visit to Botswana this week said Botswana and Ukraine have unique sense of cultural identity.

Dr Filenko said ever since Russia invaded Ukraine, he has been using Ukrainian music to underscore the country's resilience to the global world, tapped from its cultural identity.

He said on Thursday evening during the concert at the John Mackenzie School, he got to appreciate Botswana's rich cultural diversity and music.

"Music is a powerful element and it is a true sense of identity. Ukraine embassy in Gaborone has setup centre of research at University of Botswana (UB) and this is great step towards strengthening our relations even at cultural level. I am willing to work with Botswana musicians and different communities for the world to embrace their cultures," said Dr Filenko..

March 2026 Deposit Interest Rates

BWP - Botswana Pula			
Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Current	0-3	0.00	0
Call	0.10 - 4.5	0.17	10,000.00
Savings (Tema)	0.50 - 2.75	0.70	500.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	1.3- 8	1.75	1,000.00
1-2 months	0.30 - 8	1.67	1,000.00
4-6 months	1.50 - 8	2.03	1,000.00
7-12 months	2.25 - 8	2.44	1,000.00
13-18 months	2.85 - 3.20	2.88	NA
19-24 months	2.85 - 3.20	2.92	1,000.00
Over 24 months	NA	0.00	NA
Ordinary Savings	0.00 - 0.50	0.08	100.00
Upfront Fixed Deposits	2.20 - 2.40	0.00	100,000.00

EUR - Euro			
Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (EUR)
Deposits			
Call	0.00 - 0.17	0.01	2,000.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
1-2 months	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
4-6 months	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
7-12 months	0.00	0.00	2,000.00

USD - American Dollar			
Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (USD)
Deposits			
Call	0.00 - 0.17	-	3,000.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.00 - 0.15	0.04	3,000.00
1-2 months	0.00 - 2.68	0.15	3,000.00
4-6 months	0.00 - 0.28	0.08	3,000.00
7-12 months	0.00 - 0.25	0.13	3,000.00

GBP - British Pound			
Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (GBP)
Deposits			
Call	0.00 - 0.25	0.00	2,000.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
1-2 months	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
4-6 months	0.00 - 0.20	0.00	2,000.00
7-12 months	0.00 - 0.25	0.00	2,000.00

ZAR - South African Rand			
Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (ZAR)
Deposits			
Call	0.00 - 0.3	0.03	15,000.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.00 - 0.80	-	200,000.00
1-2 months	0.00 - 0.3	-	200,000.00
4-6 months	0.00 - 1.25	-	200,000.00
7-12 months	0.00 - 1.8	-	200,000.00

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Lending	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)
Monetary Policy rate	3.50	3.50
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Mortgage Rate	Prime +0.5 to Prime +6	8.50
Overdraft Rate (revolving credit lines)	Prime +2	0.22
Credit Card Rate	0 to 34.80	37.99
Lease Financing	NA	NA
Personal loans	Prime to Prime +18	15.95
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Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



ADAM PHETLHE
ON SUNDAY!

ANY DAY AFTER 9 MARCH 2026, THE National Assembly will vote on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill No 14 of 2025 whose purpose is to establish the Constitutional Court (Con Court) wherein a 2/3 majority vote is mandatory for the Bill to pass. This will be three months after the 'cooling period' wherein Members of Parliament (MPs) would have given serious thought about the Bill in terms of intensely engaging with Batswana as to whether it is still worth the paper it is written on. Forty-five Members of the National Assembly including the Specially Elected Members of Parliament and the President will have to vote in favour of the Bill for the mandatory 2/3 threshold to be met. It is expected Botswana Congress Party (BDP) and Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) will either vote against the Bill or boycott the voting proceedings. The latter is more likely to obtain because MPs from these parties boycotted the earlier 'debate' on the matter where the President, Advocate Duma Boko lectured them on the Bill albeit dismissively. It is my expectation he will repeat the same theatrics just before

Opposition parties will boycott 2/3 Concourt vote

voting as a sign of giving marching orders to his MPs. In this conversation, I seek to briefly demonstrate the possible scenario of how the day of the vote will pan out; how the opposition will conduct itself considering how a similar day panned out last year.

The UDC will care less whether or not opposition political parties boycott the vote because the business of parliament will continue uninterrupted. The House will quorate like it did during the BDP-led Bill. What will be crucial however, is whether or not all UDC MPs and their allies will vote in its favour. While I have previously said the 2/3 vote will be a walk in the park for the UDC and its allies given their numerical advantage, maybe and just maybe, it may not be such walk. Responses to the Ministers' consultations may have put a spanner in the works thereby prompting the Bill presumably, to be withdrawn or deferred. The BDP did the same with the Bills on the benefits and privileges of former Presidents and Vice Presidents. Political optics over important policy decisions are always very important to the politicians for obvious reasons.

Opposition political parties led by the official opposition in the National Assembly the BCP, are on the offensive with regards to furiously opposing the Con Court Bill. The boycott will be similar to the one led by the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) last year when the BDP failed to pass the Constitution (Amendment) Bill



Boko

No 4 of 2024 through the mandatory 2/3 majority. The reasons for the failure of the BDP-led Bill as advanced by the UDC then are similar to the ones advanced by the current opposition parties. As was the case with the BDP-led Bill, the UDC-led opposition enjoyed support and solidarity from civil society organisations led by the Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO) and other stakeholders. It is still the case with UDC-sponsored Bill. Will it fail like the BDP's?

By the time the 2/3 vote took place in September 2025, the BDP was a highly polarised party right down the middle

owing to the palpable instability and discontent over how the party was managed. Top of the list was how the bulela ditswe (primary elections) process was unfolding with so many candidates feeling let down by how the process was handled and managed. BDP President Mokgweetsi Masisi as he was then, was singularly fingered for his polarising persona of the bulela ditswe process in particular and the party in general. The BDP Constitutional Bill was heavily criticised where some of its MPs either abstained or voted against it. It therefore came as no surprise when it failed to pass with Masisi himself and his

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Lemogang Kwape abroad at the time. Their absent votes would later turn fatal to the passing of the Bill.

The UDC is in a much better position because so far, there is no demonstrable evidence of instability. But it does not mean there is no lurking threat to the passing of the Con Court Bill on the horizon because there is. The recent Ministers' consultations in the Kgotla meetings have demonstrated beyond any reasonable doubt that there is a strong push back from some of Batswana. Whereas there are pockets of Batswana who support it and those who do not across all parliamentary constituencies, it is fair to suggest the Con Court Bill has not received the desired absolute endorsement from all Batswana. This on its own will weigh heavily on UDC MPs on the day of the vote. Will they vote pursuant to the party's marching orders, or on the basis of their own conscience? Only time will tell! Regards will be had to parliamentary constituencies currently held by the opposition bloc because some members of the UDC will be required to campaign thereat. My general view is that there is a strong push back from opposition parliamentary constituencies particularly those held by the BCP. Not only will it weigh heavily on UDC MPs but on the party itself because a good number of Ministers who are tasked with swaying Batswana to support the Bill are with respect, performing dismally in that respect. Their performances if truth be told, are

nothing to behold.

The Con Court Bill carries with it huge political ramifications for the UDC and its MPs will be acutely aware of this fact. Their re-election or lack thereof in the 2029 general election will largely be dependent on how the referendum (should the Bill get to that stage) will have performed. If the Bill passes the referendum stage and consequently the Con Court is established, it will be a momentous vote of confidence in the UDC government. If it doesn't, it will be a fatal blow to their own prospects for re-election and by extension, that of the UDC.

It will be a sight to behold on the day of the 2/3 vote. Firstly, it will be interesting to watch if all UDC MPs and their allies will vote for the Con Court Bill. Some UDC MPs and some of its allies in the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) have recently criticised the UDC government for poor performance over a wide range of issues. They are likely to oppose the Bill. With this in mind, it is possible the 2/3 mandatory vote could fall short to meet the mandatory threshold. Secondly, it will be whether the opposition will walk out of the House or whether they will watch the proceedings from the visitor's gallery. It promises to be a day of high drama and intrigue. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

*On a sad note, I wish to convey my condolences to the family of Rre Monty Gagomokgwa on his untimely death.
adamphetlhe08@gmail.com

BOMU trashes UNESCO gossip-mongering

WE AT BOTSWANA MUSICIANS UNION (BOMU) are shocked and traumatised that UNESCO has opted to go on a nation-wide bile spitting tour against our so innocent and humble organisation. What we had understood the UNESCO sponsored nation-wide tour to be purposed at creating awareness about and around the domestication of the 2005 UNESCO Convention. But we have learnt that this UNESCO exercise has rather come to be a multimillion sponsored tour against BOMU. This open letter to UNESCO, is a result of UNESCO having initiated a public spat against our esteemed organisation. We would have wished to engage through established protocols, as we have always done. But having observed and learning how UNESCO deviated from established protocol and opted to sponsor a nation-wide tour, which appeared to have been boldly in agenda ourselves, we can only so respond. As we have been addressed publicly, we so henceforth respond publicly. We apologise in advance as this is so unlike us, we are essentially a very reserved and humble organisation. We only now just find ourselves being cornered by a giant, an international organisation that is supposed to be protecting us, but has rather gone contrary to expectations and went for our necks. It is painful. The domestication of the UNESCO 2005 Convention appears to be introducing a new UNESCO culture to undermine Creative and Cultural Practitioners and Organisations who have stood

Spews bile at the conduct of the international organisation

with creatives, who have filled a vacuum left by international bodies such as UNESCO. It is a shame. We demand an apology. Without an apology, our position is that of disdain. Let us in the same vein not forget to let UNESCO know that the BOMU Music Awards will be held this coming month of May 2026. We held a very successful and purpose-built BOMU Music Awards Launch this past week. This week we saw our Registration Team for the upcoming BOMU Music Awards leaving Gaborone to various parts of the country nationwide pursuing a BOMU Music Awards Registration Exercise. A noble initiative not practised by any country globally. This practise of a national wide campaign, to register Creatives for Music Awards only seen in Botswana. It is deliberately so because we appreciate the challenges faced by our creatives. This is a costly exercise that we nevertheless

have to deliberately do, because we care about our creatives. Unlike UNESCO, we will never go on nationwide tour to spit bile. We demand an apology. Without an apology, our position is that of disdain. Ours is a positive initiative to build, to grow and thrive to sustain the creative Industry. It is a constructive tour with positive intended outputs. Compared to the UNESCO recently completed tour which as it appears, amongst its successfully delivered major aims was to; bash, ridicule, spit bile, attack and belittle BOMU, our initiatives are rather focused on; positivity, growth, sustainability and development. Unlike UNESCO, we do not have immense funds and resources to spend on undermining efforts. The little resources we get from our partners are focused purely to the advancement of the Creative Industry. Unlike UNESCO, we neither have the energy nor the capacity to launch

attacks against innocent, humble, shy and progressive organisations. If the domestication of the UNESCO 2005 Convention brings with it this unfamiliar UNESCO attitude of sponsoring tours and gatherings to bash BOMU; we opt to view it in disdain. We gladly appreciate feedback from partners and stakeholders. BOMU is always open to constructive criticism. We often shy away from public engagements unless when invited, as in this case. BOMU is a very shy and reserved organisation with a deep sense and culture of humility. Perhaps that is why we remain grossly shocked at the sudden UNESCO attitude to utilise such huge amounts of monies and associated immense resources, to travel the country of Botswana, gather Creatives, and make BOMU the subject of bile spitting discussions, without having engaged us whatsoever, in whatever concerns that UNESCO might, or

seem to be having with our poor organisation. We demand an apology. Without an apology, our position is that of disdain.

BOMU held its Annual General Assembly on the 14th of February 2026, where our delegates from our fifteen (15) District Chapters nationwide; shared reports, discussed projects, mapped way forward and received updates on the status of BOMU and the whole Creative Industry. Amongst the shock of our life was when our members who had attended UNESCO recently conducted forums, which were supposed to be about domestication of the 2005 UNESCO Convention, lamented that such became forums where UNESCO officials bashed, attacked and belittled BOMU. Amongst other places; UNESCO went to Tšabong, gathered Creatives and utilised the opportunity to trash BOMU. UNESCO went to Maun, gathered Creatives and used the moment to launch attacks at BOMU. UNESCO gathered Creatives in Gaborone, and without any provocation, spat bile against BOMU. We are still shocked and traumatised. Actually, we are embarrassed on behalf of UNESCO. We demand an apology. Without

an apology, our position is that of disdain. We are in the same vein humbly pleading with UNESCO, that it goes back to its acceptable way of doing things. That UNESCO reverts to established protocols. The UNESCO we know, or rather the UNESCO we knew, is the one that constructively engaged stakeholders and partners. It is the UNESCO that arranged forums for; growth, prosperity, development, unity and development. This new UNESCO is a total opposite of the then UNESCO. We plead for the return to sanity at UNESCO. UNESCO knows where to find us. UNESCO knows our wants and needs. UNESCO knows how and where we need support. UNESCO knows our challenges. Going on a nation-wide tour and utilising such huge amounts of monies and immense resources to spit bile at BOMU is not only detrimental to the Botswana Creative Industry, but it is essentially an attack on the nation of Botswana. We demand an apology. Without an apology, our position is that of disdain.

Yours in the Creative Industry,
Rasina Winfred Rasina
(Secretary General)

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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.

Please write to us:
Plot 28562, Unit F3, Paigrounds Mall,
Tel: +267 318 7951 / 40. Fax: +267 318 7952
Postal: P.O. Box 404583, Gaborone, Botswana or
email to: dibeela@thepatriot.co.bw /
ditiro@thepatriot.co.bw

Strides of Success (Pty) Ltd is looking for the following positions at their paper manufacturing plant at Plot 33184, Nkoyaphiri, Mogoditshane, Botswana.

1. SHIFT IN CHARGE- Vacancy 2 Nos.

Qualification and Experience:

- > GCE 5 (V) Grade or equivalent..
- > 8 years' working experience in any reputed Paper Mill as Shift in Charge.
- > Experience required in both Paper Machine and Pulp Mill..
- > Should have in-depth knowledge of Supervision, Commissioning, Trouble shooting, and handle the paper plant independently.
- > Experience required both in mould machine and wire machines.

Roles and Duties:

- > Manage plant shift operations.
- > Maintain records of Paper Machines, Pulp Mills, Process Spares, Consumptions, and Productions, etc.
- > Must be self-motivated and well disciplined.
- > Support the Process Manager and related departments for smooth running of the plant.
- > Manage the Training and Development of Personnel.
- > Willing to work overtime and shift duties.

2. PAPER MACHINE OPERATOR- Vacancy 6 Nos.

Qualification and Experience:

- > GCE 3 Grade or equivalent.
- > 8 years' working experience in any reputed Paper Mill as Operator.
- > Experience required in both Paper Machine and Pulp Mill.
- > Should have in-depth knowledge of Commissioning, Operation, Trouble shooting, and operate the paper plant independently.
- > Experience required both in mould machine and wire machines.

Roles and Duties:

- > Operate Paper Machine & Pulp Mill.
- > Maintain records of Paper Machines, Pulp Mills, Process Spares, Consumptions, and Productions, etc.
- > Must be self-motivated and well disciplined.
- > Support the Shift In Charge and related departments for smooth running of the plant.
- > Manage the Training and Development of Personnel.

3. FITTERS: Vacancy: 2 nos.

Qualification and Experience:

- > ITI or more than 10 years of working experience in a reputed paper plant as a Fitter.
- > Expertise in Kraft Paper Machine, Tissue Paper Machine, Mold Machine, ETP, Boiler, Paper Machine and Pulp Mill equipment's.
- > In-depth knowledge/working experience in Erection, Commissioning and Maintenance of Paper Machines, Pulp Mill and its utilities systems.
- > Experience in both Mechanical maintenance and Project work.
- > In-depth knowledge in Fabrication, Welding, Soldering, Brazing, Precision tools, Pressure testing, Inspection, Maintenance of Pulping and Paper Machine Equipment's, Maintenance of Boiler and other Utility equipment's etc.

Roles and Duties:

- > Ensure the availability of Paper Machine and Pulp Mill for production.
- > Support Process Manager and Shift Leaders and keep Machine healthy and clean.
- > Manage Maintenance cost within prescribed norms.
- > Prepare preventative maintenance schedule and maintain it.
- > Manage the Training and Development of Personnel.
- > Willing to work overtime and shift duties.

Successful candidates will have a competitive remuneration package plus accommodation offered.

Applicants should enclose current CV, copies of their certificates and transcripts, copies of identification and two traceable referees.

All applications must be addressed to;

The Chief Executive Officer, Strides of Success (Pty) Ltd, Plot 33184, Nkoyaphiri, Mogoditshane, Botswana, on or before 22 March 2026.
Or Email: - admin@pulpnpaper.co.bw.

Contact No. +267 3904495.

Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd.

Applications are invited for the post of:

❖ **HEAD CREDIT MONITORING**

No. of Post-1

The person will be responsible to analyze the financial statements of the corporate, and do the credit rating of the proposals to identify the risk profile of the borrower and accordingly arrive at the pricing the loan. He should be able to assess the cash-flow, fund flow statement and latest audited Balance sheet. He should be able to arrive at Current Ratio, Debt Equity Ratio, Net Profit Ratio, Debtors Turnover Ratio, Creditors Turnover Ratio, Inventory Turnover Ratio, and Debt Service Coverage Ratio. To comply with various regulatory requirements, more particularly on Exposure norms, Income Recognition and Asset Classification guidelines, Capital Adequacy, Credit Risk Management guidelines of Bank of Botswana/other authorities. To ensure Loan Review Mechanism is undertaken by branches for various borrower accounts as a mechanism to ensure compliance with extant sanction post sanction process/procedures including picking up early warning signals and initiating corrective action to improve the credit quality would continue to be adhered to.

ELIGIBILITY:

Qualification: Post Graduate Degree from a recognized University.

Professional qualification:- Certificate in Commercial Credit, Certified Associate from institute of Bankers.

Work Experience: Minimum 10 years' experience of working with reputed Bank with international standard with at least 4 years in Branch Banking.

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

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

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be responded

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

DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED RIVER SAND EXTRACTION AT MPHANE RIVER, NEAR JAMAKATA VILLAGE BY MBEBANE ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD

The public is informed that Mbebane Enterprises (Pty) Ltd intends to start river sand extraction operations in Mphane river near Jamakata village. The extracted river sand will be used for building and construction purposes in the greater Francistown area as well as other north eastern parts of Botswana.

The proposed project's positive impacts among others are boost to the local economy and job creation. The project's negative impacts include generation of noise and dust in the area.

In fulfillment of Section 7 (2) of the EA Act of 2020 and as part of EIA Study, notice is hereby given for public consultation meeting to be held at **Jamakata Kgotla** on the 24th March 2026 at 09:00 am.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Present the proposed project to the communities of the area as well as the Interested and Affected parties (IAP) and
- Establish their views and concerns regarding the proposed project. The communities and the IAP are kindly requested to attend the meeting.

The communities and the IAP are kindly requested to attend the meeting.

Any comments or enquiries regarding the proposed project may be sent to the address below:

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICER
RELAY VETA ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD
P O BOX 21475, BONTLENG
Tel: +267 3923686 or +267 76614137
EMAIL: relayveta@gmail.com**

TSHEKATSHOKO YA GO AMEGA GA TIKOLOGO YA TIRO E E GOPOTSWENG YA GO EPA MOTLHABA KWA NOKENG YA MPHANE GO BAPA LE JAMAKATA KE BA KOMPONE YA MBEBANE ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD

Sechaba se itisiwe gore kompone ya Mbebane Enterprises e ikaelela go go epa motlhaba mo nokeng ya Mphane gaufi le motse wa Jamakata. Motlhaba o, o tla bo o dirisiwa mo ditrong tsa dikago mo kgaolong ya Bokone- Bophirima le Francistown le metse e e mabapi.

Tiro e e gopotsweng e e tla nna le ditlamorago tse di molemo dingwe tsa tsone e le go godisa itsholelo le go thamiwa ga meberere. Ditlamorago tse di sa elesegeng tse di akaretsa modumo o o fetelatseng le lerole.

Go ya ka karolo ya bosupa, karolwana ya bobedi (Section 7 (2) ya Molao wa Tshekatsheko ya tikologo wa 2020, go tla a tshwarwa phuthogo ya go rerisana le go amogela maikutlo a banni ba kgaolo, phuthogo e tla tshwarwa ko Kgotleng ya Jamakata ka kgwedi ya Mopitlo e thola malatsi a le masome a mabedi le bone ngwaga ono ka nako ya doferabongwe (0900) mo mosong.

Maikaelelo a phuthogo e ke:

- Go itise banni le botlhe ba ba amegang kgotsa ba ba nang le kgaithogo ka tiro e e
- Go tsaya maikutlo le matshwenyego mabapi le tiro e e ikaeletsweng e.

Setshaba le ba ba amegang ba kopiwa go tsena phuthogo e ka bontsi le ka nako.

Ba ba nang le dipotso mabapi le phuthogo e ba ka leletsa ko mogaleng o o latelang:

**MOSEKASEKI WA TIKOLOGO
RELAY VETA ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD
P O BOX 21475, BONTLENG
TEL: +267 3923686 kana +267 76614137
EMAIL: relayveta@gmail.com**

LEGALS advertisement

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE CASE NO. CVHGB-003722-18

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED Plaintiff

And

**MOTSE LODGE (PTY) LTD
HANSEN AND HANSEN INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD
MATSHEDISO HANSEN** 1st Defendant
2nd Defendant
3rd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the 2nd Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 22nd April 2026
TIME OF SALE: 10:00hours
PLACE OF SALE: Tribal Lot 359, Kanye

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 359, Kanye, measuring 4989m2, situated in the Bangwaketse which property is held under Notarial Deed of Cession No MA262/2007 dated 31st May 2007 made in favour of the 2nd Defendant together with development thereof being Bachelor Pad, Three roomed house which includes Bar, Reception, storeroom, structure of a room, 6 tented Shelling (guest) each with toilet and shower, separate 2 showers, 2 toilets, dancing stage, Swimming pool, storeroom fenced at the back and with a screen wall in front.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 11th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

D.P GABOBAKWE c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence Avenue
Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/2046) 73900288 /72901534



IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE (Before MAPHAKWANE J) CASE NO. CVHGB-000500-25

ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED (formally Barclays Bank of Botswana Limited) Plaintiff

and

MOSES OTUKILE MOTSWAGOSELE Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 10th April, 2026
TIME OF SALE: 14:30hours
PLACE OF SALE: Plot 41165, Gaborone

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 41165, Gaborone, measuring 566m2 situated in Gaborone West Extension 43, held under deed of transfer No 2048/2014 dated 9th day of October 2014, with developments there being 3 bedroomed house, fitted kitchen, lounge and common bathroom plus servants quarters and the yard is paved with a screen wall and security fence, made in favour of MOSES OTUKILE MOTSWAGOSELE.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 11th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

NONOFO MABINA c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence Avenue, Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/16550) 71657100



IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE (Before DUBE J) CASE NO. CVHGB-002124-24

BBS BANK LIMITED Plaintiff

and

THAPELO GAOLETLWE Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 10th April, 2026
TIME OF SALE: 10:00hours
PLACE OF SALE: Tribal Lot 249, Kumakwane

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, title and interest on certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 249, Kumakwane, situate in the Bakwena Tribal Territory, measuring 770m2, with developments thereon being, fenced yard with water and electricity, three bedroomed house, one room in suite, 2 room fitted toilet, and fitted kitchen, sitting room, dining room and half house and pit latrine and tuckshop, held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. 1275/2010 dated 21st day of September 2010 made in favour of THAPELO GAOLETLWE.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 11th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

NONOFO DINGALO c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence Avenue, Extension 11, Gaborone
Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/15216) 71657100



IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE (Before MAPHAKWANE J) CASE NO. CVHGB-001445-25

BUILDERS WORLD BOTSWANA (PTY) LTD Plaintiff

and

**FROLIC AND TOURS (PTY) LTD
KEORATE LEKOLWANE
SHANELS BRAINWISE (PTY) LTD** 1st Defendant
2nd Defendant
3rd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the 3rd Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 5th May 2026
TIME OF SALE: 10:00hours
PLACE OF SALE: Tribal Lot 13306, Kanye

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 13306, Kanye, situated at Kanye (Cadastral 143) in the Bangwaketse Tribal Territory, measuring 7 800m2, held under memorandum of Lease No. TL 417/2021 dated 14th April 2021, made in favour of SHANELS BRAINWISE (PTY) LTD with no developments thereon.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 24th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

D.P GABOBAKWE c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence Avenue
Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/16452) 73900288/72901534



IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE (Before MOTLHABI J) CASE NO. CVHGB-000279-25

BBS BANK LIMITED Plaintiff

and

**KARABO RAKGOLE
BOTHO RAKGOLE** 1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the 2nd Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 27th March, 2026
TIME OF SALE: 10:30hours
PLACE OF SALE: Tribal Lot 10076, Palapye

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, title and interest on certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 10076, Palapye, situate in the Bangwato Tribal Territory, measuring 1042m2, with developments thereon being, 4 by 2 bedroomed apartments with open plan lounge and kitchen, the yard has a boundary wall and is not paved, held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT 629/2009 dated 24th day of December 2009 made in favour of BOTHO RAKGOLE.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 11th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

NONOFO DINGALO c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence Avenue, Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/15849) 71657100



IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE (Before RADJENG J) CASE NO. CVHGB-001576-16

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED Plaintiff

and

**BILTHA ENGINEERING (PTY) LTD
BILLY THABISO KGOSIEMANG** 1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the 1st Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE: 27th March 2026
TIME OF SALE: 10:30hours
PLACE OF SALE: Plot 55227, Gaborone

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 55227, Gaborone, measuring 674m2, which property is held under Deed of transfer No. 2442/2013 dated 3rd day of December, 2013 together with development thereof being kitchen, sitting room, dining room, three (3) bedrooms, two toilet with bathing room, toilet, screen wall.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 11th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

URGENT J. CHILISA c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence Avenue
Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/7274)71594008/74770666



IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE (Before MOTLHAB J) CASE NO. CVHGB-004388-24

ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED (formally Barclays Bank of Botswana Limited) Plaintiff

and

OKITANYE GAOGANE Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 30th April, 2026
179TIME OF SALE: 11:00hours
PLACE OF SALE: Plot 31818, Gaborone

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 31818, Gaborone, measuring 1038m2 situated in Gaborone West Extension 64, held under deed of transfer No 2484/2010 dated 13th day of October 2010, with developments there being 5 bedroomed house, master in suite, two causes, fitted kitchen, swimming pool, dining room, the yard is paved with boundary wall with electric fence, made in favour of OKITANYE GAOGANE.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 24th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

NONOFO MABINA c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence Avenue, Extension 11, Gaborone
Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/16439) 71657100



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Business

SEZA hosts Chobe Connect 2026

■ Set to drive regional investment



SEZA Acting Chief Executive Officer, Tapiwa Masie
(PIC: GORATAONE KGOSIMORE)

GORATAONE KGOSIMORE
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES Authority (SEZA) in partnership with First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) will host the inaugural Chobe Connect 2026, an event set to position the Chobe region as a strategic hub for regional investment and economic collaboration.

The two-day event, scheduled for March 30–31 in Kasane, will bring together policymakers, investors, and financiers to explore opportunities in agro-processing, tourism, and economic transformation in the Pandamatenga Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Kasane-Kazungula SEZ.

Investment Opportunities SEZA Acting Chief Executive Officer, Tapiwa Masie explained that Chobe Connect 2026 was conceived as a platform to transform investment ideas into funded, executable projects. “We intend to promote high-value investment opportunities within the Chobe region. We want to facilitate direct engagement between policymakers, regulators, financiers, and private sector players,” she said. Masie added that academia and research institutions will also participate,

providing critical data and analysis to guide investor decisions.

Chobe Connect will showcase investment-ready projects in priority sectors, with a focus on agro-industrial value chain development, tourism regeneration, regional connectivity, and sports tourism. It will also strengthen collaboration around approved Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) projects in Chobe District.

Masie outlined that the event will focus on three main themes. The first being agro-production and agro-processing, transforming raw produce into finished products to export to other countries. This, she said, will promote opportunities such as large-scale grain and oilseed production in the region.

The second theme is the Kasane-Kazungula redevelopment plan, aimed at elevating the region into a modern, integrated trade and logistics hub.

“Key priorities under that theme are urban renewal and township revitalisation, where we are looking for expansion of the commercial and mixed-use developments in that area,” she said.

The final theme focuses on infrastructure projects that enable investment, including roads, water, energy, and air transport. “Here we’ll bring all the policymakers, the players who are responsible, so that they can indicate what our plans are, because as we know, infrastructure is at the heart of regional competitiveness, and travel infrastructure pipeline is central to Botswana’s long-term economic and diversification strategy,” she added.

Dr. Mbako Mbo, FNBB Deputy Chief Executive Officer, said the partnership will establish Chobe as a regional growth hub, highlighting its importance for both biodiversity and business opportunities. He emphasized that FNBB remains steadfast in supporting sustainable development, back key sectors, and empower local communities as a reliable financial partner.

“At FNBB, we stand ready to provide structured funding solutions and tailored banking propositions that facilitate both local and international capital. We will be available to extend our resources, our capacity, our network to provide and play an advisory role when it is necessary, where it is necessary to do so,” he said.

FNBB profit hits P1 billion



FNBB Acting Chief Financial Officer, Orapeleng Senwelo

KITSO RAMONO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK Botswana [FNBB] has reported a profit before tax [PBT] of P1 billion for the half-year period ending December 2025, maintaining last year’s level despite a difficult economic environment marked by rising funding costs and liquidity pressures.

Presenting the results on Tuesday, the bank’s Acting Chief Financial Officer Orapeleng Senwelo said the performance reflects the resilience of the bank’s operations at a time when the local economy is facing several challenges.

Senwelo noted that the cost of funding has been rising over the past 18 months, while credit risk across the market has also increased. These conditions, he said, required the bank to adopt a cautious approach in lending and balance sheet management to ensure sustainable returns.

Rising funding costs

Despite the pressures, the bank recorded 15 percent growth in net

interest income, supported partly by a four percent increase in advances to customers and adjustments made to the bank’s prime lending rate.

However, the cost of interest rose sharply, increasing by 110 percent year-on-year as funding costs climbed. Senwelo explained that term deposit rates have risen significantly, averaging around 10 percent compared to about four percent in the previous year, putting pressure on the bank’s margins.

To navigate the environment, FNBB has increasingly focused on diversifying its income streams. The bank’s non-interest revenue rose to P1.3 billion, representing a 47 percent increase compared to the same period last year. Income from foreign exchange transactions, service fees and card commissions were among the main contributors.

Overall, total income grew by six percent, while operating expenses increased by 30 percent. Staff costs accounted for the largest portion of expenses, representing 51 percent of the total.

Senwelo said the bank has maintained strict control over

spending, keeping its cost-to-income ratio at 45 percent, which remains within the bank’s internal threshold of 50 percent.

Cautious approach to lending

The bank also set aside P221 million in impairment provisions as a precautionary measure in response to heightened credit risk in the economy. According to Senwelo, the move reflects a forward-looking approach to ensure the bank remains adequately protected should economic conditions worsen.

On the balance sheet, advances to customers increased by four percent, while deposits grew modestly by two percent, reflecting the cautious approach adopted during the period.

Corporate and commercial lending saw the strongest growth, each rising by 10 percent, as the bank continued to support businesses with working capital solutions amid ongoing liquidity constraints.

Meanwhile, non-performing loans declined to three percent, with the bank reporting improvements in loan collections and credit risk management.

The bank’s capital position also

remained strong, with a capital adequacy ratio of 20.8 percent, well above the regulatory minimum of 12.5 percent.

Interim dividend declared

As part of the results, the bank announced an interim dividend of 15 thebe per share.

FNBB CEO Steven Bogatsu said the decision was taken after careful consideration by management and the board, including consultations with key stakeholders. Bogatsu said the bank considered several factors before declaring the dividend, including its financial performance, capital strength and liquidity position.

He noted that investors expect returns when the bank performs well, adding that rewarding shareholders remains an important consideration for the institution.

Bogatsu said the bank remains well capitalised and solvent, allowing it to distribute a dividend at this stage. He added that the bank will review its position again ahead of the full-year results in June 2026 to determine whether another dividend declaration will be possible.

Rural demand drives FNBB eWallet growth

Transactions rise to 9.7 million worth P86 million as rural areas account for 51 percent of usage



FNBB CEO, Stephen Bogatsu
KITSO RAMONO
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THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK Botswana [FNBB] says its eWallet service continues to record strong growth, fueled by increasing adoption in rural areas and among customers who remain outside the formal banking system.

According to the bank, the number of eWallet transactions increased from 8.8 million in 2024 to 9.7 million in 2025, representing a 10 percent growth year-on-year. In terms of value, the transactions rose from P75 million to P86 million, marking a 15 percent increase over the same period. These figures show the growing reliance on digital financial services as a convenient alternative to traditional banking channels.

FNBB’s Chief Executive Officer, Steven Bogatsu, said the performance reflects both the bank’s ongoing efforts to improve financial inclusion and the underlying demand among the underbanked population. “For as long as a significant portion of the population remains unbanked or underbanked, we expect our eWallet solution to continue performing well sustainably into the future,” Bogatsu said.

The bank noted that rural communities now account for 51 percent of eWallet transactions, slightly higher than urban usage at 49 percent. Bogatsu explained that this is a clear indication of how digital wallets are bridging gaps in access to financial services. He added that the convenience of eWallets, coupled with the growing network of agents, is enabling more people to transact safely without needing to travel long distances to bank branches.

In line with this growth, FNBB has expanded its agent network to support the increased transaction volumes. Agents not only facilitate eWallet services but also act as a link between the bank and rural communities, helping customers manage their funds, pay bills, and make purchases electronically. The expansion has contributed to a 24 percent increase in the number of eWallet transactions processed through agents over the last year.

Bogatsu said the bank will continue to invest in digital platforms to strengthen its eWallet services and meet evolving customer needs. He emphasized the importance of eWallets in advancing FNBB’s mission of financial inclusion, particularly for small businesses and individuals who may not have access to traditional banking facilities.

“eWallets are not just a convenience tool, they are transforming how Botswana interact with money, especially in rural areas. As we continue to see growth, we will focus on innovation, security, and accessibility to ensure these services remain reliable, easy to use, and inclusive,” Bogatsu said.

LEA, Absa partner to support sustainable SMME growth

THE LOCAL ENTERPRISE Authority (LEA) and Absa Bank Botswana have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing a strategic partnership aimed at strengthening and accelerating the development of the Small, Micro and Medium Enterprise (SMME) sector in Botswana, with a focus on competitiveness and sustainability.

The collaboration brings together the complementary mandates of the two institutions to deliver coordinated, targeted interventions that support enterprise growth and contribute to economic diversification, job creation and improved market access.

Through tailor-made programmes, the partnership will prioritise SMMEs with potential to scale operations and integrate into industry value chains.

Both LEA and Absa Bank Botswana will provide focused support designed to enhance enterprise productivity, competitiveness, and long-term sustainability.

Key areas of cooperation include capacity development through business management and technical training, as well as coaching and mentorship support. The partnership will also facilitate access to appropriate funding solutions to support business expansion. In addition, the parties will strengthen business incubation programmes to align with current economic needs and industrialisation objectives, while intensifying export readiness and promotion initiatives for products and services with global market potential. The collaboration will further include financial literacy programmes, entrepreneurship



LEA Caretaker CEO, Thato Jensen

awareness seminars, and networking platforms.

The LEA Caretaker Chief Executive Officer, Mr Thato V. Jensen, stated: “Our collaboration with Absa Bank Botswana aligns with

national priorities, particularly Botswana’s True North aspiration of a high-income, digitally enabled, export-driven and economically diversified economy where every citizen is employed, empowered and fulfilled. This partnership

unlocks that potential for our SMMEs by strengthening their capabilities and improving access to appropriate financing solutions, a key constraint to enterprise growth while preparing them to compete in local, regional and international markets. Through this collaborative approach, LEA advances its objective of developing sustainable and diversified enterprises.” Mr Jensen added that the SMME sector remains a critical engine for economic growth globally and that the partnership responds to persistent challenges affecting enterprises in Botswana, including limited access to finance, financial literacy gaps, market access constraints, and inadequate operating infrastructure.

“We are pleased to embark on this transformative journey with Absa Bank Botswana, particularly at a

time when the country is broadening its economic base beyond reliance on mineral revenues,” he said.

Absa Bank Botswana Managing Director, Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane, said: “At Absa, we believe that sustainable economic growth begins with empowered entrepreneurs. This partnership with LEA reflects our commitment to combining access to finance with practical business support so that enterprises can grow with confidence. As Botswana advances its diversification agenda, our SMMEs must be competitive, resilient and export-ready.”

“For us, supporting entrepreneurs is not just about funding businesses, it is about recognising that behind every enterprise is a dream, a family and a future. At Absa, your story matters, and we are proud to partner in helping those stories succeed.”

Dr Seleka appointed BoFiNet CEO

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Gaone Geoffrey Seleka as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BoFiNet, effective 1st March 2026. Dr Seleka is a seasoned telecommunications and digital transformation leader with extensive experience spanning technical, executive and strategic roles across multiple sectors, including telecommunications, banking, mining and academia. His appointment marks an important milestone for BoFiNet as the organisation continues to strengthen Botswana's national broadband

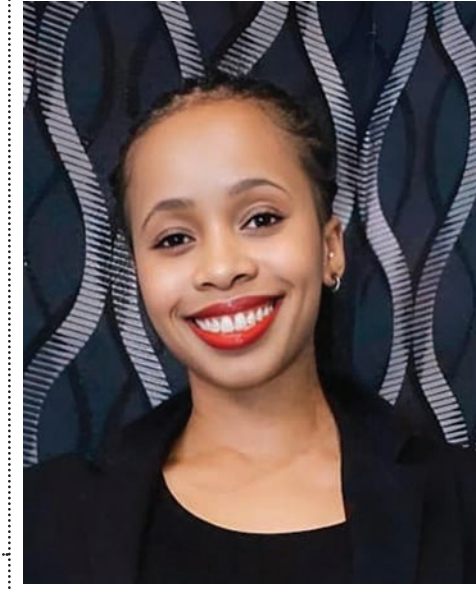
infrastructure and advance the country's digital economy. Dr Seleka has built a reputation for driving innovation, strengthening institutional capabilities, and delivering complex technology and infrastructure initiatives that create sustainable value for stakeholders. Dr Seleka has also contributed to governance and strategic oversight through board memberships in State-Owned Enterprises and private sector organisations, providing him with strong insight into corporate governance, national development priorities, and stakeholder management.



Newly appointed BOFINET CEO, Dr Gaone Geoffrey Seleka

Academically, Dr Seleka holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Business Administration (Fintech), a Master of Science (MSc) in Projects and Quality Management, an MSc in Computer Information Systems, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Computer Information Systems. He has further strengthened his leadership and technical expertise through executive and professional certifications including a Management Development Programme (MDP), Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) Manager Level 2, IBM Digital Artificial Intelligence (A) Specialist, and Google AI Essentials.

LLR appoints two directors



Dr Neltah Tshepiso Mokgware Monosi



Rowsai Mosarwe

UNITHOLDERS OF LETLOLE LA RONA Limited are advised of the following change to the board of directors of LLR effective 02 March 2026.

Rowsai Mosarwe is a highly accomplished Senior Executive and Chartered Accountant with more than 22 years of leadership experience spanning financial management, corporate governance, operations, and organisational transformation. Her career reflects a consistent track record of driving value creation, operational excellence, and strategic growth across insurance broking, financial services, consulting, pension fund administration, and regulated industries.

A former Group Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer within a major Pan-African insurance broking group with revenues exceeding P100 million, Rowsai has led complex mergers, integrations, structural separations, and enterprise-wide transformation initiatives. She is recognised for her strong expertise in P&L oversight, corporate strategy, capital allocation, cost optimisation, and risk management, as well as her ability to partner effectively with Boards and executive leadership teams to deliver long-term, sustainable performance. Rowsai has designed and implemented group-wide financial systems, governance frameworks, and digital transformation programmes while leading cross-functional teams in high-stakes environments. Her experience is further strengthened by extensive Board and fiduciary exposure,

having served as an Independent Non-Executive Director for leading financial institutions, Executive Director of Finance, and long-serving Chairperson of a major pension fund. Rowsai holds a Bachelor of Accountancy from the University of Botswana. She is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA), a Fellow member of the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA), and a graduate of the University of Stellenbosch Executive Development Programme.

Dr Neltah Tshepiso Mokgware Monosi is an accomplished real estate and built-environment executive with over a decade of multidisciplinary experience across asset management, facilities management, academia, and strategic project leadership. Supported by a PhD in Real Estate, she integrates academic expertise with practical industry insight to enhance value creation, operational efficiency, and governance excellence across property portfolios. Neltah has led strategic initiatives in property optimisation, proptech innovation, asset performance analysis, and facilities operations across diverse organisations, including Tempest Gold, Standard Chartered Bank Botswana, RDC, and Knight Frank and other major corporate real estate portfolios. Her leadership track record includes developing industry governance frameworks, securing international collaborations, optimising multimillion-pula assets, and championing gender-inclusive development within the built environment. [\[bse.co.bw\]](#)

Know Your Corporate Leader

Full Name: Laone Monkge
Position: Sales Manager
Date Started: December 2025
Institution: Avani Gaborone Resort and Casino
Nature of business: Hospitality

Driving Botswana's growth through diversification and partnership



MORUFHI MASIKARA
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA HEAD OF CORPORATE AND INVESTMENT BANKING

OVER THE YEARS, ATTENDING THE Investing in African Mining Indaba has offered a unique perspective on Africa's mineral potential. This year, the conversations carried urgency, realism and complete resolve. Africa's mining sector is entering a new phase, one that demands diversification, strategic capital deployment and

well-structured partnerships. For Botswana, this message resonates deeply. In the 2026/27 National Budget, the Honourable Ndaba Nkosinathi Gaolathe projected a fiscal deficit of 8.9% of GDP, largely driven by subdued global diamond demand impacting mineral revenues and export earnings. While diamonds remain critical, funding infrastructure, strengthening institutions, and supporting national development, this highlights the urgency to diversify the economy and broaden the mining base. Botswana holds meaningful opportunities in commodities such as copper, iron ore, manganese and nickel. With global demand rising for minerals linked to infrastructure, electrification, renewable energy and industrial growth, these opportunities must be thoughtfully structured, responsibly financed and sustainably expanded: an area where

financial institutions play a pivotal role. At Stanbic Bank Botswana, we leverage our Corporate and Investment Banking expertise, together with our Business and Commercial Banking capabilities, to support the entire mining value chain. We structure capital solutions, mobilise regional and international funding and provide advisory expertise that drives optimisation, growth and long-term sustainability. Mining growth must translate into industrial development, employment creation, supply-chain localisation and community benefit. Even in the face of volatility and market challenges, we do not retreat: we lean in. By operating as one integrated ecosystem, impact multiplies. This approach reflects a deeper commitment: a renewed sense of responsibility, strengthened sector engagement and a clear resolve to support sustainable, inclusive growth.

Letshego group CEO meets bank of Ghana leadership



THE GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE Officer of Letshego Africa ((Letshego Group)), Reinette van der Merwe recently met with Dr. Johnson Pandit Asiam, Governor and Matilda Asante-Asiedu, the Second Deputy Governor of the Bank of Ghana during her first official visit to Ghana since assuming office. The high-level engagement, held at the Bank of Ghana Head Office in Accra, reinforced Letshego Group's commitment to strong regulatory collaboration, financial sector stability and sustainable growth in Ghana and across its markets.

Discussions centred on strategic updates regarding the group's long-term growth and impact agenda across Africa, while reaffirming Letshego Ghana's alignment with national financial inclusion objectives and regulatory standards. Reinette van der Merwe, Group Chief Executive Officer of Letshego Africa Holdings, stated: "Our engagement with the Bank of Ghana reflects the strength of our partnership with the regulator and our shared commitment to building a resilient, inclusive financial sector. Ghana remains a priority market within our pan-African strategy, and we are committed to operating

with discipline, transparency, and long-term value creation." The regulatory meeting formed part of a broader two-day strategic engagement in Ghana, which included a Country Performance Review session with the Letshego Ghana Country Management Committee, an inaugural Investor Briefing, an impact partner visit to Wahu Mobility, and Board engagements. The visit also included discussions with a delegation from Development Bank Ghana to explore collaboration on impact financing initiatives aligned with Ghana's development priorities.

Commenting on the significance of the visit, Letshego Ghana Chief Executive Officer Nii Amankra Tetteh said: "The courtesy call on the Governor of the Bank of Ghana underscores our unwavering commitment to regulatory partnership and responsible growth. As a licensed financial institution, our strength lies in maintaining transparent and constructive engagement with our regulator, while delivering inclusive financial solutions that support national development."

Letshego Ghana Savings and Loans PLC is a licensed non-bank financial institution providing financial solutions to individuals across the public and private sectors, as well as supporting micro and small entrepreneurs.

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Letshego Africa and operates through 10 physical outlets, with customer reach enhanced through strategic partnerships, innovative delivery models and expanding digital channels.

Osman joins Access Bank Board



Osman

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ACCESS Bank Botswana Limited is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Mahomed Sajid Osman as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Bank, with effect from March 2, 2026. Mr Mahomed Sajid Osman is a seasoned, highly motivated strategic leader with an elite track record in finance, audit and advisory services. He is a highly experienced Chartered Accountant with over 13 years' experience at two Big Four accounting firms, KPMG and Ernst & Young - in the United Kingdom and Botswana. During his tenure with these global firms, Mr Osman gained extensive exposure across a broad range of industries, developing deep expertise in financial reporting, audit, advisory, transaction structuring and strategic finance. This experience has provided him with a strong technical foundation and a practical, commercially focused approach to complex business environments. Mr Osman's career has been characterized by active involvement in business development, stakeholder engagement, strategic growth initiatives and transaction structuring. He has a keen interest in building sustainable businesses, mergers & acquisitions, structuring value-enhancing transactions and fostering long-term collaboration with key stakeholders. He completed his primary and secondary education in Botswana before pursuing tertiary studies abroad. Mr Osman holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) in Accounting and Finance from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom (1998), and an Executive MBA in International Management jointly awarded by Edinburgh University and École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (ENPC), Paris (2006). In addition, he has undertaken several executive and professional development programmes, including International Mergers & Acquisitions Expert (IM&A), Retail Forum for Senior Leaders at Harvard Business School, and Supply Chain Strategy and Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Mr Osman is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW) and the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA). He currently serves as the Group Finance Director of Sefalana, where he oversees the Group's financial strategy, governance, reporting and overall financial management. [\[bse.co.bw\]](#)

Kgosidiile steps down from Minergy Board



Kgosidiile

CROSS KGOSIDIILE HAS STEPPED down effective 16th February 2026 as a Non-Executive Director of Minergy Limited and, consequently, as Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee, a sub-committee of the Board. The Board extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Kgosidiile for his valuable contribution, leadership, and dedicated service to the Company during his tenure, particularly in strengthening governance, risk oversight, and financial stewardship through the Audit and Risk Committee. The Board will advise shareholders in due course regarding the appointment of Non-executive Director and audit committee chairman. [\[bse.co.bw\]](#)

Muteiwa resigns as Letshego Group CFO

MS. TINOTENDA GWENDOLINE Muteiwa has resigned as the Group Chief Finance Officer of Letshego Africa Holdings Limited and Executive Director on the Board of Directors to pursue other interests. To this effect, she shall serve three (3) months' notice ending on 26 May 2026. The Board and staff of Letshego would like to thank Ms. Muteiwa for her leadership and valuable contribution during her tenure. [\[bse.co.bw\]](#)



\$900m Khoemacau expansion lifts Botswana's copper ambitions

MINING REVIEW AFRICA

A\$900 MILLION EXPANSION AT MMG Khoemacau will increase production to 130 000 tonnes per annum in Botswana's Kalahari Copper Belt, marking one of the most significant new investments in the country's base metals sector in recent years.

The groundbreaking ceremony, held in the North West District, signals renewed momentum in positioning copper as a central pillar of Botswana's evolving mining landscape.

Speaking at the ceremony, Bogolo Joy Kenewendo, Botswana's Minister of Minerals and Energy, said the project reflects government's broader strategy to strengthen copper as a key contributor to economic diversification.

"This USD 900 million investment strengthens copper as a key pillar of our diversified mining sector," she said.

The expansion comes at a time when global demand for copper continues to rise, driven by electrification, renewable energy infrastructure and electric vehicles. While diamonds remain the backbone of



Kenewendo

Botswana's mining industry, the Kalahari Copper Belt has emerged as one of the most promising underdeveloped copper provinces globally, attracting growing investor interest.

At full capacity, the 130 000 tpa operation will significantly boost output from the

Khoemacau mine and expand activity in the North West District. Beyond production, government has placed emphasis on how the project integrates with national development priorities.

"As Government, we have engaged the company on responsible corporate citizenship, skills transfer, fair labour standards, environmental stewardship, and meaningful citizen participation," Kenewendo said.

In January 2026, the company announced structured skills development programmes aimed at equipping Botswana with technical and operational expertise. It also committed to a USD 1 million annual community investment programme to support local initiatives.

"Botswana welcomes responsible investment that builds capacity, creates jobs, and delivers shared prosperity," Kenewendo added.

The Khoemacau expansion is expected to generate employment during construction and operations, while strengthening the country's position in the global copper supply chain as demand for the metal continues to accelerate. [\[miningreview.com\]](#)

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Botswana Consumer Fair 2026 to ignite National Pride

BOTSWANA'S LARGEST MULTI-SECTOR consumer exhibition, the Botswana Consumer Fair (BCF), will return from 24 to 30 August 2026 at the Fairgrounds in Gaborone under the bold national theme "Showcasing Botswana in Full Colour." Hosted by Fairground Holdings, the 2026 edition will deliver an expanded, high-impact platform celebrating enterprise, innovation, culture, and economic opportunity across the country.

The Botswana Consumer Fair has established itself as a nationally significant marketplace that connects businesses directly with consumers, investors, and partners while supporting entrepreneurship, citizen economic empowerment, and market access. The 2026 theme positions the Fair as a vibrant national showcase reflecting Botswana's economic momentum, creativity, and entrepreneurial ambition across sectors.

Speaking on the strategic importance of the Fair, Fairground Holdings Sales and Marketing Manager, Barati Phagane, said the platform continues to play a critical

role in strengthening business visibility and commercial participation.

"The Botswana Consumer Fair remains one of the most impactful platforms for enterprise growth and market engagement in Botswana. The 2026 theme, 'Showcasing Botswana in Full Colour,' reflects the richness, diversity, and dynamism of our nation's business and cultural landscape. 'Full Colour' symbolises the breadth of Botswana's economic potential from emerging entrepreneurs and informal traders to established corporates, innovators, creatives, and industry leaders, all contributing to a vibrant and evolving economy," she said.

The theme also embodies confidence and national pride, representing a Botswana that is bold, resilient, innovative, and forward-looking. Through immersive exhibitions, interactive experiences, and meaningful engagement opportunities, visitors will experience Botswana's progress, talent, and ambition in a tangible and inspiring way.

The 2026 edition carries additional national significance as Botswana



Fairgrounds Holdings CEO, Gorata Gabaraane

commemorates 60 years of independence, a milestone reflecting decades of growth, transformation, and achievement. The Botswana Consumer Fair provides an important platform to celebrate this journey by showcasing local businesses, innovation, culture, and entrepreneurship while creating opportunities for future economic participation and investment.

The Fair captures the spirit of Botswana at 60. It reflects a nation that is proud of its heritage, confident in its capabilities, and ambitious about its future, creating an environment where businesses connect with markets, innovators present solutions, partnerships are formed, and communities celebrate national progress together.

Phagane added that the Fair continues to attract thousands of visitors annually, providing exhibitors with high-value exposure and direct engagement opportunities with consumers, investors, and partners. The 2026 edition aims to further strengthen its position as Botswana's premier national marketplace through enhanced visitor experiences, sector-focused

activations, and expanded partnership opportunities.

Visitors can expect a dynamic and engaging programme that includes: Multi-sector exhibition showcases across commerce, technology, lifestyle, manufacturing, and services; Dedicated platforms for SMMEs and emerging entrepreneurs; Interactive brand activations and product demonstrations; Local cuisine experiences and food courts celebrating Botswana flavours; Live entertainment, cultural showcases, and family-friendly activities; Business networking and partnership engagement opportunities; Youth innovation and creative industry participation; Consumer competitions, promotions, and experiential zones.

The Fair will continue to support national priorities such as entrepreneurship development, youth participation, local industry growth, and citizen economic empowerment, reinforcing its contribution to Botswana's broader economic diversification agenda.

Empowering Women, Empowering progress

Insights from Botswana's Leaders



Letshego Group CEO Van der Merwe formed part of the panel discussions

LETSHEGO AFRICA HOLDINGS LIMITED (LAHL) Group Chief Executive Officer, Reinet Estelle van der Merwe, has said that Letshego Africa is in a fortunate position, with gender equality at 50-50.

She further elaborated that at the holdings level, 51 percent of employees are women, while at the EXCO level, Letshego employs 51 percent women.

Van der Merwe was part of a four-women panel at the Botswana Stock Exchange Limited (BSEL) March Opening Bell Ceremony. The ceremony, which took place on the eve of International Women's Day, was themed: 'Rights. Justice. Action. For All Women and Girls.'

Van der Merwe is in her sixth month as LAHL Group CEO. She added that while some women, like her, are fortunate and have worked hard to be in leadership positions, policies and legislation need to be shaped in a way that accommodates women. She highlighted that women face challenges that are sometimes a hindrance to careers, like motherhood. She also highlighted the need to have supportive family structures to ensure that there are equal opportunities for both men and women.

"So if it doesn't start at home and in the schools and at grassroots levels, it's not going to happen. We need to change that at the very grassroots level, and also in terms of company policies, country policies. We need to embed that so that from a policy perspective, there's no distinction; it is actually equal, and people can just pursue it," she said.

She added that studies show that a higher percentage of men have got more work skills than women, which sometimes discourages women who are equally capable. "So what needs to be done is give women that encouragement and then support them in those roles, because that's what men do. Women need to start supporting each other. Women need to start working together and also support their female colleagues, in the same way," she said.

The panel moderator, Gofaone Modise, Director of Inbound Media, wanted van der Merwe to give a picture of women representation at Letshego and to also suggest ways through which women can be empowered.

Another panelist, Mothei Mokgedi, Product Development Specialist at the BSE, said women need to harness feminine qualities to make sure that their presence as women is felt. "You don't have to be a man to succeed in those spaces. So I think we need to unlearn that idea of presenting ourselves in a rigid and martial way. But also beyond

that, I feel like we need to take this further and go beyond dialogue," she said. "I would like us to think of a concept called social bonds. So here at the BSE, we want to be a force for good, and we want to produce products, solutions, in fact, that benefit the greater public." She explained that there is a concept called social bonds, which are financial instruments in which proceeds are channelled towards social causes.

So at the BSE, she said they provide a transparent and robust marketplace that can allow the existence of such financial instruments. "I'd like all of us to humbly put our heads together and see how we can leverage such instruments in benefiting our society at large, and as such, I would like us to please think about intentional collaborations and how we can see this so that next year is not just a discussion, but we come back with results," she said. For her part, Una Munamati, representative of the CFA South Africa, said in Botswana, there's a number of female CEOs, and there's also a number of EXCO teams that are already gender-balanced in the private sector, but there's room for improvement, always, and especially in government, in terms of quality output and skills development.

"I think more can be done in the schools to educate children, to educate their families, that it's okay for men to do some household chores like cooking," she said, adding that we should be able to see some measurable change and shifts in numbers and women leading more in some of these instances, and not because of being given it, or because there's a quota, but because they were deserving. Asked about what measurable change needs to happen to change the narrative about women leadership, Dr. Godisang Mookodi, Senior Lecturer at the University of Botswana, said she would like to see greater women representation. She said part of the reason why women don't have that greater representation is because women have a challenge of fear.

She said although Botswana is progressive, there is a need for more female leaders who are part of policymaking. "As with academia, we need to understand that the foundation of everything is academia. We start in schools and that's where we learn. "You know, we've got all sorts of challenges such as gender-based violence and so on. I'm saying all these things at the same time because quite often we think that they're separated," she said. She said the biggest challenge for people is to challenge the business-as-usual approach. "We need to actually understand that the realities require for us to be more innovative," she said.



Stanbic Bank

Stanbic Bank Botswana DEPOSIT, LENDING AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES March 2026

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



BWP Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance
Current	NIL	NIL	P50
Youth Account	2.00%	2.02%	P50
Call	0.05% - 1.00%	0.05% - 1.00%	P10,000
Premium Call	0.80% - 1.30%	0.80% - 1.31%	P50,000
32 Day Notice	0.25% - 1.00%	0.25% - 1.00%	P1,000
Savings (Pure Save)	0.25% - 0.75%	0.25% - 0.75%	P50
Koketso Savings	2.40%	2.43%	P100
Matshelo Savings	0.50% - 1.50%	0.50% - 1.51%	P500
Maitlamo Savings (12 - 36 months)	2.30% - 2.80%	2.32% - 2.84%	P100
91 day fixed deposit * ¹	1.90%	1.92%	P1,000
6 month fixed deposit ²	2.10% - 2.30%	2.12% - 2.32%	P1,000
12 month fixed deposit ²	2.20% - 2.35%	2.22% - 2.38%	P1,000
24 month fixed deposit ²	2.55% - 2.80%	2.58% - 2.84%	P1,000
Over 24 month fixed deposit ²	2.80% - 3.30%	2.84% - 3.35%	P1,000
Stanbic Bank Prime Lending Rate	7.01%		

* Reference rate
¹ Rate applies to Flexi - Access Account
 All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)
MoPR	3.5%	
SBBPLR Lending Rate	7.01%	
Mortgage Facility	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 15%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 16.08%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit lines)	SBBPLR +5% - SBBPLR +18%	SBBPLR + 5.12% - SBBPLR + 19.56%
Credit Card	28% - 32%	31.89% - 37.14%
Lease Loans	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 15%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 16.08%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	SBBPLR +8% - SBBPLR +22%	SBBPLR + 8.30% - SBBPLR + 24.36%
Other Long-Term Loans	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 18%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 19.56%

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

Foreign Currency Deposit Interest Rates

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

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

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

Member of Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana



Manual Workers Union launches book critiquing UDC government's performance

'A Clarion Crying Voice, UDC Government Failures'



Book Unveiling



Cde Elsinah Botsalano



Cde Robert Rabasimane



Cde JP Motshwarakgole



Cde Mosala Phokontsi



Former BDP Chairman, Daniel Kwelagobe



BOSETU SG, Tabokani Rari



BDP Executive secretary, Ame makoba



Former MP, Biggie Butale



Political Activist, Mmaotho Segotso



Cde Adolphus Kombani



Goresetse Kekgonigile, Taolo Lucas, Motshwarakgole



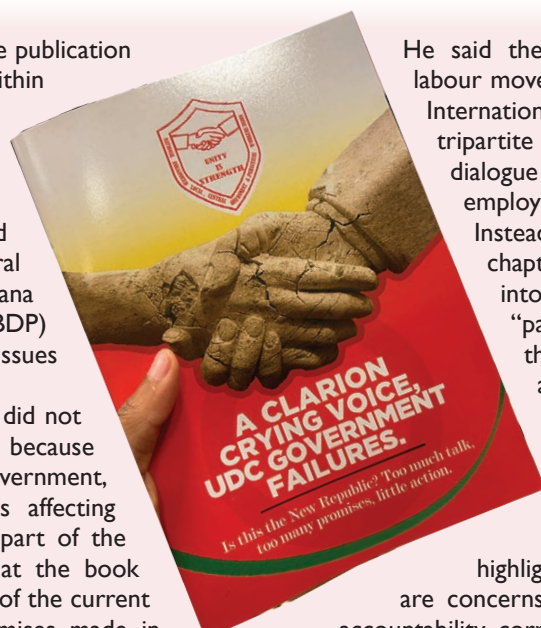
MC - T.D Letsamao



Members

The National Amalgamated Local, Central Government & Parastatal Workers Union on Thursday 5, March 2026 at BA ISAGO CONVENTION CENTRE launched a book titled "A Clarion Crying Voice: UDC Government Failures," a publication in which the union outlines concerns about governance and labour-related issues since the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) came into power in 2024. Delivering welcoming remarks at the launch, the Union's Chief Executive Officer Elsinah Botsalano told guests that their presence marked an important moment that would be recorded in history. Botsalano said writing a book is never an easy task, explaining that it requires time, effort and careful thought. She added that the union was pleased to see elders and respected members of society attending the launch. The Union's Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Robert Rabasimane said the publication continues a tradition within the labour movement of documenting governance and workers' concerns through written works. He explained that the union had previously produced several books during the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) administration addressing issues affecting workers. Rabasimane said the union did not produce the book simply because the UDC is now in government, but because raising issues affecting workers has always been part of the union's role. He noted that the book evaluates the performance of the current administration against promises made in the run up to the 2024 general elections.



He said the union was guided by labour movement standards and the International Labour Organisation's tripartite model, which promotes dialogue among government, employers and workers. Instead of conventional chapters, the book is organised into sections referred to as "pains", reflecting issues the union believes are affecting workers and the broader public; offering on the other hand possible remedies to the problem. Among the matters highlighted in the publication are concerns about governance and accountability, corruption, labour relations, unemployment, economic management and the constitutional review process.

Rabasimane said the union deliberately included proposed remedies alongside the issues raised so that the book would not only highlight challenges but also offer possible solutions that government could consider. The book also carries symbolic colours on its cover. According to the union, yellow represents hope for workers and the possibility that change can still occur, while the red colour symbolises resilience and the continued efforts of the labour movement to organise workers and respond to their concerns. Speaking during the launch, Trade Union Business Consultant at NALCGPWU Johnson Motshwarakgole urged political leaders to remain respectful in their engagement with citizens, saying leaders should address the public in a manner that promotes unity. Motshwarakgole also said citizens should not be afraid to question government decisions, adding

that the same people who bring leaders into power have the ability to remove them through democratic processes. Speaking at the event, UDC representative Donald Keakile acknowledged the publication and its criticism, noting that the union had presented both problems and possible solutions. He said government, which promotes consultative governance, would consider the issues raised in the book. Activists, clergy members and veteran politicians who attended the launch also commended the union for contributing to national dialogue, saying government should acknowledge the effort rather than view it as hostility. The publication raises several concerns which the union believes reflect growing frustrations among workers and citizens regarding governance, accountability and the pace at which some of the promises made in 2024 are being implemented.



Stanbic Bank

STANBIC BANK EXPRESSION OF INTEREST EOI/PROC/001/2026 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – RENEWABLE ENERGY ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT & CONSTRUCTION (EPC) PARTNERS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Expression of Interest is to identify and pre qualify EPC partners who can support the Bank's renewable energy financing proposition by ensuring:

- High quality design, procurement and implementation of renewable energy systems.
- Reduced project and technical risk through a structured EPC onboarding framework.
- Improved customer experience through a one stop shop project + financing solution.

2. Background

Renewable energy installations, particularly solar PV systems, are technically intricate and require specialised engineering expertise. To ensure projects financed by the Bank perform as expected, comply with regulatory standards, and minimise operational risks, only EPCs who have undergone rigorous assessment will be considered for panel admission.

3. Scope

Stanbic Bank Botswana invites registered and experienced suppliers, to submit detailed pre-qualification proposals for Renewable Energy Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Partners. This supports the Bank's solar financing strategy by de-risking projects, streamlining processes, and ensuring quality implementation.

4. Pre-Qualification Requirements

Interested service providers must submit the following mandatory documents:

- Company profile (overview, history, successful installations, years of operation, client portfolio)
- Certificate of incorporation
- CIPA Extract
- Valid tax clearance certificate
- VAT registration confirmation
- Shareholders/Directors Proof of Identity
- Bank Confirmation letter

- Latest financial statements (≤ 6 months old)
- Demonstration of technical capabilities (entity & key personnel) and similar past projects
- Minimum two (2) traceable references

5. Submission

Interested Suppliers can submit a detailed proposal via the below email address.

Email Address: **ProcurementBotswana@stanbic.com** or contact Procurement Office on **+267 3618000**

Subject line should read: Renewable Energy EPC Partners – <Company Name>

6. By responding to this advertisement, the service provider grants Stanbic Bank Botswana and Standard Bank Group permission to conduct necessary credit and background checks on all shareholders and related entities.

7. Closing date and time: **Friday 3rd April 2026**, at **1200hrs**. Any submissions received after the deadline will not be considered.

8. Important Notice

This is not an invitation to tender. A full tendering process will be followed to invite potential service providers post pre-qualification. Only successful applicants will be contacted for the tendering process. Nothing in this advert shall be construed to be a commitment on the part of Stanbic Bank Botswana.

9. For any clarifications, contact below on weekdays between 0830h to 1630h:

Email Address: **ProcurementBotswana@stanbic.com** or contact Procurement Office on **+267 3618000**

lifestyle

GIVE TO GAIN Supporting adolescent girls advances us all

Arts sector to boost economy

KITSO RAMONO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

BOTSWANA'S CREATIVE industry is ready to step out of the shadows and into the spotlight as a driver of economic growth, with the National Arts Council of Botswana (NACB) unveiling an ambitious roadmap to professionalize, commercialize, and sustain the sector.

Speaking at a media briefing on Wednesday, NACB Board Chairperson Reverend Prince Mouna said the arts have long been underappreciated in Botswana, despite their potential to contribute significantly to the economy. "The arts are the heartbeat of our national identity and the foundation of our future economy. We are here to treat it as an industry with high stakes, not just a cultural pastime," he said.

The briefing marked the first major public engagement since NACB's formation in 2022. Director of Strategy and Research Phenyogae acknowledged the Council's previous challenges, including governance gaps and stakeholder dissatisfaction, but said the organization is now focused on delivering measurable results. "We are committed to changing perceptions through action, not words," he said.

CEO Gaogakala Enele Minyani outlined the practical steps NACB is



NACB Board Chairperson, Reverend Prince Mouna PIC Gorataone Kgosimore

taking to achieve this transformation. The Council has launched an

online registration system for all creative practitioners, from artists

to festival organizers, to build a comprehensive database that will guide programming and investment. "Data is currency. Knowing who our artists are and what they do allows us to make informed decisions that benefit the sector and the economy," he said. Minyani also announced plans to establish an arts fund aimed at supporting sustainable creative businesses. Unlike traditional grants, the fund will allow creatives to access capital for projects that can generate returns, creating a cycle of reinvestment. He emphasized that the Council's focus is on building businesses, not dependency.

Other priorities include helping artists monetize intellectual property and content, forming partnerships with local and international stakeholders, and professionalizing the sector through training and capacity-building programs. In 2025 alone, NACB programs engaged more than 10,000 artists, creating hundreds of temporary jobs and supporting local businesses with nearly 1.8 million pula in services.

Minyani stressed that transparency, accountability, and collaboration with stakeholders will underpin the Council's work. "We are here to professionalize, commercialize, and grow the sector so it contributes meaningfully to Botswana's economy. This is about building a legacy," he said.

ETLEVA KADILLI*

THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL Women's Day campaign is 'Give to Gain', highlighting that when women thrive, we all rise. The path to equality is paved with innovative programmes which prioritize women and girls, while also benefiting their families, communities and countries. Eastern and Southern Africa have some of the world's highest rates of maternal mortality, adolescent pregnancy, HIV and sexual violence. All of which disproportionately impact adolescent girls in particular. Behind every statistic is a girl deciding whether to seek care, speak out or more worryingly, stay silent.

Enabling these girls is not only the right thing to do — it also creates lasting change. Adolescent years are called 'formative' because they literally build the foundations for our future health, wellbeing and prosperity — as well as our children's. In an environment of shrinking overseas aid, we need these 'multiplier effects'. These five interventions are proven to impact adolescent girls' chances and improve society.

Address violence

One in every five girls across sub-Saharan Africa has experienced rape or sexual assault before turning 18. While UNICEF funds thousands of survivor-centred grassroots organisations, less visible work also has tangible impacts. Behaviour change initiatives address the attitudes which normalise violence, and new government legislation can ensure justice is served. The impacts are felt in child-friendly courts, allowing anonymous testimony, and police gender desks, ensuring post-rape evidence-gathering supports survivors' wellbeing as much as perpetrators' prosecution.

Share collective knowledge

Peer-support models are a cornerstone of this region's drive to end AIDS by 2030. Through UNICEF-supported peer provider programmes, adolescents at risk of HIV, violence and early pregnancy

are connected to trained mentors who share their lived experience and are embedded within health and community systems. These trusted peers help girls navigate complex health, education and economic challenges — and ensure they are supported across services. Evidence from South Africa and Zimbabwe shows significant gains in agency, reduced stigma, and stronger links to learning and skills. By translating this evidence into policy and practice, countries across the region are now institutionalising peer and community models at scale, reaching millions of young people.

Happy Mother, Happy Child

A quarter of young women give birth before they're 18 in Eastern and Southern Africa, and the vast majority of early pregnancies are unintended. SADC's latest scorecard of sexual and reproductive health and rights (an outstanding data bank supported by the joint UN Regional programme 2gether 4 SRHR) shows 12 out of 16 countries in Southern Africa have recorded a decline in adolescent births, thanks to life-skills, HIV and comprehensive prevention education in schools. Prevention strategies are working. But we must also support millions of young mothers raising their young ones today. UNICEF reviewed what works for adolescent mums in South Africa, and the results were extraordinary. Investing in food security cuts the odds of girls dropping out of school by 50 per cent. Adolescent-friendly health clinics build confidence and support safer choices by more than 50 per cent. Supporting parents with non-violent parenting tactics has been associated with reductions in sexual violence of up to 79 per cent. When all three supports are available, even unemployment dropped. We were so excited by these surprising benefits to the wider community that we studied Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Eswatini, and found similarly dramatic results.

Treat men, boys as allies

Because equality and justice should

benefit everyone, men and boys can be crucial allies. Encouraging influential men to engage their networks in life-saving health information has been game-changing. From the religious leaders in Uganda hosting HIV-prevention drives in churches and mosques, to the youth champions speaking up against violence in gyms in Eswatini, men and boys are congregating to share strategies. Africa's embrace of responsible leadership by men and boys has enormous potential to reduce violence, increase school retention, and improve health outcomes. Not just for themselves, but for their sisters, mothers, wives and daughters, as they actively walk the path of equality and respect.

Invest in adolescent girls

With a median age of just 19, Africa will soon have the world's largest workforce, driven by youth. For this to become a demographic dividend, we must invest together. When we give young people digital and green skills, linked to private-sector partnerships, they gain experience and entrepreneurial confidence. Investing in a "Youth Force for Africa" is one of the highest-return public investments governments can make. It protects prior investments in education and health, expands the future tax base through higher productivity and employment, and reduces pressure on health, social protection and justice systems. In short, investing in adolescents gives a high yield return for everyone.

For every country in the region to meet its Sustainable Development Goals, we must carefully consider what we must give in order to gain. Governments, UN, civil society, donors, communities and individuals alike shouldn't see giving as a subtraction. It's intentional multiplication. We should be deliberate about what we give — because the evidence is clear about what we gain. Supporting adolescent girls advances us all, this International Women's Day and beyond.

*UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa

AI Impact Summit 2026 shapes a Human-Centric Future for AI

NARENDRA MODI*

AT A DEFINING MOMENT IN human history, the world gathered at the AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi. For us in India, it was a moment of immense pride and joy to welcome Heads of State, Heads of Government, delegates and innovators from across the world.

India brings scale and energy to everything it does and this Summit was no exception. Representatives from over 100 nations came together. Innovators showcased cutting-edge AI products and services.

Thousands of young people could be seen in the exhibition halls, asking questions and imagining possibilities. Their curiosity made this the largest and most democratised AI summit in the world. I see this as an important moment in India's development journey, because a mass movement for AI innovation and

adoption has truly taken off. Human history has witnessed many technological shifts that changed the course of civilisation. Artificial Intelligence belongs in the same league as fire, writing, electricity and the internet. But with AI, changes that once took decades can unfold within weeks and impact the entire planet.

AI is making machines intelligent, but it is even more a force multiplier for human intent. Making AI human-centric instead of machine-centric is vital. At this Summit, we placed human well-being at the heart of the global AI conversation, with the principle of 'Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya' (Welfare for All, Happiness of All).

I have always believed that technology must serve people, not the other way around. Whether it is digital payments through UPI or COVID vaccination, we have ensured that Digital Public

Infrastructure reaches everyone, leaving none behind. I could see the same spirit in the Summit, in the work of our innovators in domains like agriculture, security, assistance for Divyangjan and tools for multilingual populations.

There are already examples of the empowering potential of AI in India. Recently, 'Sarlaben', an AI powered digital assistant launched by Indian dairy cooperative AMUL, is providing real-time guidance to 3.6 million dairy farmers, mostly women, about cattle health and productivity in their own language. Similarly, an AI-based platform called Bharat VISTAAR gives multilingual inputs to farmers, empowering them with information about everything from weather to market prices.

Humans must never become mere data points or raw material for machines. Instead, AI must become a tool for global good, opening new

doors of progress for the Global South. To translate this vision into action, India presented the MANAV framework for human-centric AI governance.

M – Moral and Ethical Systems: AI should be based on ethical guidelines.

A – Accountable Governance: Transparent rules and robust oversight.

N – National Sovereignty: Respect for national rights over data.

A – Accessible and Inclusive: AI should not be a monopoly.

V – Valid and Legitimate: AI must adhere to laws and be verifiable.

MANAV, which means 'human', offers principles that anchor AI in human values in the 21st century.

Trust is the foundation upon which AI's future rests. As generative systems flood the world with content, democratic societies face risks from deepfakes and disinformation. Just as food carries nutrition labels, digital

content must carry authenticity labels. I urge the global community to come together to create shared standards for watermarking and source verification. India has already taken a step in this direction by legally requiring clear labelling of synthetically generated content.

The welfare of our children is a matter close to our hearts. AI systems must be built with safeguards that encourage responsible, family-guided engagement, reflecting the same care we bring to education systems worldwide.

Technology yields its greatest benefit when shared, rather than guarded as a strategic asset. Open platforms can help millions of youth contribute to making technology safer and more human-centric. This collective intelligence is humanity's greatest strength. AI must evolve as a global common good.

We are entering an era where humans and intelligent systems will

co-create, co-work and co-evolve. Entirely new professions will emerge. When the internet began, no one could imagine the possibilities. It ended up creating a huge number of new opportunities and so will AI.

I am confident that our empowered youth will be the true drivers of the AI age. We are encouraging skilling, reskilling and lifelong learning by running some of the largest and most diverse skilling programmes in the world.

India is home to one of the world's largest youth populations and technology talent. With our energy capacity and policy clarity, we are uniquely positioned to harness AI's full potential. At this Summit, I was proud to see Indian companies launch indigenous AI models and applications, reflecting the technological depth of our young innovation community.

To fuel the growth of our AI ecosystem, we are building a robust

infrastructure foundation. Under the India AI Mission, we have deployed thousands of GPUs and are set to deploy more soon. By accessing world-class computing power at highly affordable rates, even the smallest startups can become global players.

Further, we have established a national AI Repository, democratising access to datasets and AI models. From semiconductors and data infrastructure to vibrant startups and applied research, we are focusing on the complete value chain.

India's diversity, democracy and demographic dynamism provide the right atmosphere for inclusive innovation. Solutions that succeed in India can serve humanity everywhere. That is why our invitation to the world is: Design and develop in India. Deliver to the world. Deliver to humanity.

*Prime Minister of India

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Sport

Gaborone derby



PREMIER LEAGUE GIANTS: Gaborone United and Township Rollers were scheduled to meet in the Gaborone derby yesterday (Saturday, 6 March 2026) at GU Stadium in an electrifying showdown

Mpofu, Mukoloma are FNBKBM champs



Mpofu, Mukoloma Crowned as FNB Kazungula Bridge Marathon Champions

THE FNB KAZUNGULA BRIDGE Marathon rose to new heights last weekend, drawing elite runners from Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Mozambique in a powerful display of regional endurance. This year's edition was more than a race. It formed part of FNBB's 35-year legacy of sustained investment in community development, wellness, and economic participation.

I give thanks to the organisers, FNB Botswana and everyone behind me."

Namibian athletes dominated the 21km contests. Lavina Haitope captured the women's title in 1:13:44, earning P15,000, while Ezra Keter powered through the men's race in 1:10:11, also taking home P15,000.

Their performances reinforced the marathon's growing regional stature and competitiveness. Beyond the podium finishes, the event injected visible momentum into the Kazungula local economy. Hospitality providers, transport operators and informal traders reported increased activity throughout race week.

Their performances reinforced the marathon's growing regional stature and competitiveness. Beyond the podium finishes, the event injected visible momentum into the Kazungula local economy. Hospitality providers, transport operators and informal traders reported increased activity throughout race week.

The influx of athletes and supporters translated into tangible revenue streams, underlining the marathon's role as a community economic lever. FNB Botswana CEO Steven Bogatsu framed the marathon within their three-and-a-half-decade journey. "As we mark 35 years in Botswana, this marathon reflects the strength of our five-year partnership and our deliberate investment in initiatives that build resilience, stimulate local economies and bring communities together. Today was not just about elite performance. It was about impact on wellness, on small businesses, and on regional integration," he said.

Zimbabwean marathon specialist Isaac Mpofu once again stamped his authority on the 42km men's race, crossing the line in 2:14:18 to claim the P50,000 winner's prize. A disciplined and consistent competitor, Mpofu said his preparation was deliberate. "I am a marathon runner. My preparations are always thorough. I am a full-season runner. I came here with the mission of finishing under 2 hours 50 seconds," he boasted at the end of his fifth appearance at the Kazungula Marathon, and his fourth victory overall, having won the previous three editions further entrenching his dominance.

With elite times, expanding international participation and measurable economic impact, the FNB Kazungula Bridge Marathon continues to mature into a flagship regional event one that mirrors FNBB's 35-year commitment to progress, endurance and shared prosperity.

BTC F/ Town Marathon 2026



Last year's BTC Francistown Marathon

BOTSWANA TELECOMMUNICATIONS Corporation Limited (BTC) has intensified preparations for the 5th BTC Francistown Marathon scheduled for Saturday 18 April 2026 at the Obed Itani Chilume Stadium. The marathon, which is backed by BTC's corporate social responsibility programme, continues to grow as one of Botswana's leading sporting events, promoting fitness, community engagement and countrywide participation.

foster collaboration, increase community involvement, and ensure the successful coordination of the event.

BTC's Chief Marketing Officer, Mike Siachitema stated "as part of the comprehensive build-up to the 2026 race, BTC has launched a series of activities to ensure smooth delivery of the main event. Of key importance is ensuring that stakeholders are engaged to be part of the process and main event". BTC has embarked on stakeholder consultations in the North and surrounding areas with key partners, government and city leadership as well as communities throughout Francistown and neighbouring areas. The engagement sessions are designed to

In addition, activations have commenced in Gaborone for the South, as well as Francistown, Tutume, Tonota and Masunga in the North. These activations, organised in partnership with Fearless Fitness Club and Gaborone Striders Runners Club are aimed at mobilising runners, promoting wellness, and preparing all participants for race day. The activations provide opportunities for runners and athletes of all levels to sign up, train, and connect with the wider running community, building excitement and momentum ahead of the marathon.

"We guarantee that the activations will be energetic and enjoyable, and we encourage everyone to stay attentive during the activations, safety is a priority, and we want to avoid incidents", added Siachitema. The 5th BTC Francistown Marathon is open to local and international athletes. Participants are encouraged to register and pay as soon as possible to reserve their space.

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