

The Patriot

EST. 2012 'BALANCED & FAIR'

on Sunday

www.thepatriot.co.bw

MARCH 29, 2026 | ISSUE 669

P15.00

FUEL PRICE SHOCKER



- Per litre; petrol up P5.05, diesel up P8.77, paraffin up P10.55
- Public transport fares could increase after next week
- BPC eager for 46% tariffs hike in April



Kenewendo

BOTSWANA ENERGY Regulatory Authority (BERA) announced hefty adjustments on prices of fuel, signaling tough times ahead as cost of living is expected to rise significantly. BERA noted that the adjustments come in the wake on Iran, USA and Israel ongoing war that has caused significant shift in prices of oil across the world.

According to BERA, retail pump price of unleaded petrol 95 will be increased by 505 thebe per litre, retail pump price of diesel 50ppm will be increased by 877 thebe per litre; and retail pump price of illuminating paraffin will be increased by 1055 thebe per litre.

BERA noted that changes took effect from 00:01hrs on Saturday, 28th March 2026.

The adjustments were received with somber mood by the public amidst expected hike on public transport fares beginning of next month.

The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure has been in consultations with the public transport sector over possible fares adjustments in April, which Minister Noah Salakae has hinted at the likelihood of an increase.

Local Supply Briefing Parliament on Friday about the status of local oil stability, Minister of Minerals Bogolo Kenewendo said the current volume of fuel stocks held by importers and wholesalers is 43.5 million litres, a slight decrease of 3.3 million litres from previously reported volumes of 46.8 million litres.

She said the 43.5 million litres comprises of 31.5 million litres of diesel and 12 million litres of petrol. "Additionally, 32.2 million litres (diesel 12.8 million litres and 19.4 litres of petrol) are in transit to Botswana. Government has a total of 62.5 million litres of strategic storage capacity for petroleum strategic stocks. The current strategic storage capacity translates to about 18.9 days of the prevailing consumption equivalent," said Kenewendo.

Govt borrows P8.1 billion

- Loans from Stanbic, Standard Chartered as economy tanks
- Govt owes suppliers P3.6 billion, businesses in cash flow crisis

BAKANG TIRO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

Parliament on Friday approved four bills that the Ministry of Finance has put before the house seeking loans from two commercial banks worth P8.1 billion to caution government's 2026/27 financial budget needs.

The loans will be secured from Stanbic Bank Botswana and Standard Chartered Bank Botswana. The Vice President and Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe tabled the Standard Chartered Bank of Botswana Limited Loan Authorisation Bill of P750 million loan with five years repayment period, Standard Chartered Botswana Bridge Financing Loan at P1.2 billion amount with six months repayment period.

Gaolathe indicated that purpose of the P750 million is



Gaolathe

to finance critical budget related expenditure while the P1.2 billion will address the backlog of outstanding invoices that

government needs to settle. The other approved Standard Chartered Bank Loan of P6.182 billion is expected to finance

strategic infrastructure projects specifically, three major water projects and one key energy project. The loan payment period is 15 years and Gaolathe said its intended projects are not projects on paper. "They speak directly to the daily realities of our citizens, access to reliable water, access to energy, and the dignity that comes with both," said Gaolathe.

Also, Parliament authorized the Botswana Livestock Commercialisation Project (BOLCOP) Bill under which government is seeking P384 million to facilitate the transitioning of small livestock sector to commercially viable undertakings. The loan facility is also supported by Standard Chartered Bank and backed by the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

TO PAGE 6

AP pounces BPF: Vultures Hovering

BAKANG TIRO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE UMBRELLA FOR Democratic Change (UDC) coalition partner, the Alliance for Progressives (AP) is strategically positioning itself to benefit from the meltdown at Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF), The Patriot on Sunday has learnt.

AP President Ndaba Gaolathe is said to be keeping a close eye on the BPF faction led by the embattled Assistant Minister of Health, Lawrence Ookeditse. AP is closely monitoring the political squabbles in the BPF

- Fed up Ookeditse camp to exit BPF, eyes new alliance
- AP President Gaolathe eager to snatch Ookeditse
- Blow as Khama quits, more BPF members could leave

with its leadership particularly interested in luring Ookeditse and some of his allies to its fold. It is said Ookeditse's camp is considering to break away from the party and strform a political alliance with one of UDC contracting partners both at Parliament and District Council levels.

Sources close to developments also intimate that Ookeditse, who is MP for Nata-Gweta and Serowe North



Ookeditse

MP Baratiwa Mathoothe could resign from BPF and remain as independent MPs. The two MPs were elected as President and Chairman during the disputed elective congress in Serowe, which has since been nullified by court.

Both Ookeditse and Mathoothe are serving in the UDC cabinet as assistant ministers of health and trade respectively. Informants in

TO PAGE 6



Stanbic Bank

AGA LEGAE LA GAGO

With LEGAE HOME LOAN, owning a modern, efficient home is no longer out of reach.

Loan Features:

- 🏠 Borrow up to P650,000
- 🏠 10-year loan term
- 🏠 Pre-approved house plans with water and solar solutions

Added benefits:

- 🏠 No legal fees
- 🏠 No valuation fees
- 🏠 No bond registration fees

Get started today, call +267 398 7820 visit www.stanbicbank.co.bw



SCAN ME



LegaeHomeLoan
*Ts and Cs Apply.
Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

BUY > SCAN

WIN



BOTTOMLESS BUCKETS

FROM 159⁹⁰



Govt revives sustainable livelihoods drive

GORATAONE KGOSIMORE
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

Renewed push to empower communities and promote self-reliance

GOVERNMENT IS renewing commitment to reducing social welfare dependency through the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA), a strategy designed to tackle unemployment, poverty and inequality.

Speaking at the National Dialogue on the Sustainable Livelihood Approach, which brought together key stakeholders across 31 districts, Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs Kethlefile Motshegwa said the initiative seeks to empower vulnerable communities to generate sustainable income and reduce reliance on social assistance.

Motshegwa said Botswana continues to face a “triple crisis” of unemployment, poverty and inequality, underscoring the need for more inclusive and sustainable development models.

Held under the theme “Sustainable livelihoods for a resilient future, securing a better tomorrow, and building communities of possibilities”, the dialogue aligns with the Government Transformation Agenda and is anchored on National Development Plan 12 and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP).

“This policy direction forms part of Botswana’s transformation agenda, aimed at building a more equitable and prosperous nation while addressing poverty, inequality and unemployment,” he said.



VP and Finance Minister, Ndaba Gaolathe

[PIC GORATAONE KGOSIMORE]

He added that the dialogue provides a platform to drive innovative and practical solutions for socio-economic development.

“This is not just another meeting, but a platform for action-oriented collaboration. By adopting the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach, we are committing to moving from

traditional social assistance to a comprehensive social protection framework based on economic empowerment,” he said.

To support implementation, government has trained 106 trainers of trainers from local authorities, ministries and development partners to lead the rollout of the programme nationwide. All 31 districts

are currently integrating the model into local development initiatives aimed at boosting livelihoods, strengthening resilience and promoting rural industrialisation.

Addressing Past Gaps

Vice President and Finance Minister, Ndaba Gaolathe revealed that the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach is not a new concept, having been developed as early as 2011, but has largely remained under-implemented until now. The initiative follows an assessment under the BETP, which identified gaps in coordination and service delivery.

Gaolathe acknowledged that, despite social protection spending rising to approximately P9 billion annually, many beneficiaries still face limited pathways into sustainable livelihoods, particularly in rural areas where economic pressures are growing. He stressed that development is measured by

how many are empowered to stand on their own feet reiterating the need for self-reliance for communities.

He noted government will scale district livelihood projects, strengthen market linkages, expand microfinance, and promote community-owned enterprises under a national community livelihoods model. Implementation will be accelerated through a multisectoral core facilitation team, tailoring interventions to local realities and opportunities while ensuring accountability and measurable impact.

He emphasised that the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach is a blueprint for empowerment, noting that for Botswana to move beyond welfare dependency, programmes must translate into tangible opportunities that enable communities to thrive both economically and socially. He added that success should not be measured by the amount of funds spent, but by the number of lives transformed.

Stop killing tourism industry – BOGA

Slams planned tourism industry fee hikes



BOGA Chairman, Kenson Kgaga

SOLOMON TJINYEKA
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE BOTSWANA GUIDES Association (BOGA) has criticized the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Wynter Mmolotsi for pushing ahead with tourism fee increases that could cripple the sector.

BOGA says the industry is in a state of confusion as the Ministry has yet to provide clear feedback on the planned increase in tourism user fees and service charges, set to take effect on April 1, 2026. BOGA Chairman, Kenson Kgaga warned that the decision would be suicidal, arguing that it risks positioning Botswana among the most expensive tourism destinations in the region.

“We are killing our tourism industry,” Kgaga said, adding that the fee hike would hand a competitive advantage to neighboring countries such as Namibia and Zimbabwe, which offer similar tourism products at lower costs.

Kgaga further stressed that the industry is already under severe pressure due to the temporary closure of Moremi Game Reserve caused by flooding, as well as poor road conditions affecting access to key tourism areas. “We are already experiencing

cancellations due to the closure of Moremi. The new fees in April will make things worse. We plead with the Minister to reconsider. If they proceed, they would have killed our industry,” he said.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has defended the increase, saying the adjustments are aimed at modernising outdated fees some of which have remained unchanged since 1996 and 2010 and boosting revenue. The new structure is expected to significantly raise charges, with some fees likely to double.

BOGA, however, maintains that the timing is inappropriate and has called for the implementation to be deferred by at least two years. Kgaga explained that many tour operators take bookings up to two years in advance, making sudden price adjustments difficult to absorb.

He revealed that BOGA engaged the Minister in meetings held on February 19 in Gaborone and February 23 in Kasane, where the association reiterated its position against the fee increases. The meetings were also attended by more than 200 tour operators.

According to Kgaga, the Minister assured stakeholders during the Kasane meeting that park and entrance fees

would not be increased. However, the association says it is still awaiting an official confirmation from the Ministry.

In a follow-up letter dated March 3, BOGA outlined its concerns and proposed alternative fee structures, urging the Ministry to consider the current economic pressures facing operators and the need to maintain Botswana’s competitiveness.

The association also appealed for guide licence fees to remain unchanged, noting that these were recently increased and that many guides particularly freelancers operate under seasonal and unpredictable income conditions.

BOGA warned that further increases would place an additional burden on tour guides, many of whom are already subject to taxation and statutory deductions, and could discourage participation in the sector. Despite the tensions, the association says it remains committed to constructive dialogue and hopes the Ministry will give its submissions favourable consideration.

This publication is yet to get a response from Mmolotsi regarding government position, as they had not responded to our inquiries at the time of going to print.

NAHPA relocates to health ministry

THE NATIONAL AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA), together with key stakeholders including the Ministry of Health, trade unions, and staff members, held a final consultative meeting regarding the relocation of NAHPA from the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security (MSPDS) to the Ministry of Health.

NAHPA National Coordinator, Ontiretse Lethare, stated that the directive for the relocation had initially been

scheduled to commence on 1st August 2025. However, due to financial resources still being administered under MSPDS, it was decided that the transition would instead begin in the new financial year.

He emphasized the importance of consulting all relevant stakeholders and ensuring consensus before proceeding. Lethare further explained that the relocation would retain NAHPA’s current structure and status, a position that was acknowledged and



NAHPA National Coordinator, Ontiretse Lethare

accepted by the trade unions.

Responding on behalf of the trade unions, BOPEU representative Kedisalese Monakwe highlighted that the unions’ primary role is to ensure fairness to employees throughout the transition process. She stressed that employees directly affected by alignment, restructuring, and relocation must be adequately consulted. She also noted that the employer is obligated to engage in good faith negotiations and provide full disclosure of relevant information. Monakwe confirmed that the unions were properly consulted and agreed to the transition, as all necessary procedures had been followed.

Representing the Ministry of Health, Senior Manager Mike M. Taukobong assured NAHPA that the Ministry is fully prepared and honored to welcome the agency back, noting that NAHPA was originally established under the Ministry.

He expressed optimism that NAHPA would bring strong values and principles to the Ministry, drawing a parallel to the biblical story in Corinthians of the Israelites transition to Canaan as a symbol of hope and renewal.

BBS Bank

Trolley Dash

Trolley Dash is back!

Use your BBS Bank card at Sefalana 14 times in 2 months and you could win a spot in our Great Trolley Dash.

GA 173362
Promotions valid until 15 May 2026
No under 18s
Terms and Conditions Apply
Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

GENERAL MANAGER - GAINVILLE (PTY) Ltd T/A Pulse Pharmacy

Gainville operates a chain of retail pharmacies and is looking for a General Manager to be responsible for all aspects of the Pharmacy retail operations.

Key Performance Areas

- To ensure that all sites adhere to compliance requirements in all areas of operational activity, group policies, procedures and controls
- To set sales and operational targets and ensure that they are achieved through regular monitoring
- Seek out opportunities for expansion and growth by developing new business

Skills and competencies

- Excellent organizational and leadership skills
- Proven ability to develop and maintain financial plans
- Customer service driven

Experience

- A minimum of 8 years in the retail industry of which 5 years should have been at a Supervisory level
- A track record in driving exceptional sales is a pre-requisite
- Knowledge in Accounts/Finance is a pre-requisite
- Proficiency in budgeting, contract negotiation and computer systems

Qualification

An Accounting/Business degree or similar qualification. A Masters in Business Administration or similar will be an added advantage

The Human Resources Manager
Gainville (Pty)Ltd
Private Bag BR 351
Gaborone

Or email to: hr@pulse.co.bw
On or before the 18th April 2026

TO ADVERTISE WITH US
PLEASE CALL:
318 7951/40/52

MVAF bosses reported to DCEC

BAKWADI LEKOPANE
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

■ Accused of 'eating stock', unwanted sexual advances, invasion of privacy ■ CEO accused of lavish spending on booze, refusing to increase welfare stipend ■ Accused of purging unionized employees, promoting his favorites (nepotism) ■ "MVA staff are aware of internal grievance procedures to follow. We cannot act on faceless complaints. Sexual relationships are complex, personal and private" – Tlhwane

A COMPLAINT LODGED BY anonymous sources to the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) recently, accuses senior executives at the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVAF), led by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Michael Mooketsi Tlhwane of corruption, abuse of office, financial mismanagement, nepotism and victimization of unionized employees.

The anonymous complainants, who claim to be MVAF employees, make serious allegations against Tlhwane and other executives in management. The letter has been copied to Chief of Staff in the Office of the President, MVA Fund Board Chairperson, the Minister of Finance and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.

Among the complaints are sexual harassment committed by senior executives, reckless spending on alcohol by Tlhwane, spending over P250,000.00 on hackers in a failed attempt to cure a computer virus attack, corruption and nepotism, intimidation of unionized members, and threatening gender-based violence victims.

Tlhwane has been quoted in the media saying: "The MVAF Fund has not received communication from DCEC regarding a potential

investigation into operations of the Fund. As a public institution committed to accountability and transparency, the Fund will cooperate fully with DCEC or any relevant authorities should an investigation be constituted".

However, DCEC spokesperson, Nlayidzi Gambule was quoted confirming receipt of the MVA Fund whistle blower report but could not discuss the details due to confidentiality restrictions under the Corruption and Economic Crimes Act.

Sexual harassment

Allegations are that some time in August 2025 and later during a staff wellness retreat at Kwadiwa Game Lodge, a female employee reported sexual harassment by a senior male member of staff to the Senior Manager - Human Capital. No action has been taken to date.

The complainants accuse the CEO, that instead he used a staff general meeting to intimidate, threaten to investigate and uncover the sources of the anonymous letter and punish them.

Abuse of funds

Tlhwane is accused of abusing



Tlhwane

the company credit card – to be used to entertain stakeholders at MVAF events, buying expensive alcohol worth P700 to P9000 per quarter. In comparison MVA Fund only pays P7500 in funeral expenses when employees lose their loved ones in road traffic accidents.

Apparently, Tlhwane has flatly refused to increase the amount arguing that it would not be prudent to do so.

Tlhwane is said to be the biggest beneficiary of the local per diem policy introduced in April 2024, cashing P300 000 in 2024 while

denying staff the same benefits, accusing them of using local per diem as side hustles while sleeping in company vehicles.

Abuse of office/ Gross mismanagement

The petitioners alleged that Tlhwane and Senior Manager-Information Technology mishandled the situation when MVAF suffered a ransomware attack of its database in October/ November 2021, losing thousands of sensitive claimant records. Instead, the duo negotiated with the black hackers for the access key to the lost data and in January 2022 bought crypto currency worth between P250 000 and P300 000 to pay them.

"The ransomware attack highlighted that MVA Fund which handles sensitive personal data, operates its IT systems without an offsite data recovery centre, which is a requirement for organisations of its size.

In other allegations, P6 million was spent on an external consultant from South Africa to build the lost MVAF database and padi in full, yet the system continues to experience on-going data issues.

Nepotism

Some members of particular tribe linked directly to some executives are alleged to have received preferential treatment within the organization such as promotions, loans, and utilization of MVA Fund resources.

Other allegations against the CEO include financial impropriety, irregular recruitments; unfair dismissals; a governance vacuum and lack of oversight due to the absence of a Board of Directors; Victimization of unionized employees; and escalating litigation against the MVA Fund.

The Patriot on Sunday is in possession of an internal recording of a staff general meeting, where Tlhwane reads the riot act to employees at MVAF, warning them against hiding behind anonymity to make wild unsubstantiated allegations. Instead, he advised employees to use existing internal mechanisms to register their grievances. In the recording, Tlhwane went to great lengths to explain the complexity of sexual relationships and cultural influences, advising employees to disregard complaints made by faceless sources who cannot be verified

as MVAF employees. Tlhwane then cautioned employees to avoid engaging in sexual relationships and later, when relationships turn sour, complain that they were sexually harassed or claim that they are victims of gender-based violence. He expressed shock that no formal report has been made to MVAF internal structures, yet complainants claim that some intruders- who are senior male employees, have made it a habit to enter their rooms while they were naked and fondled their buttocks. Such incidents are said to occur during staff retreat or team building exercises out of town.

However, he warned employees to desist from pursuing colleagues when they clearly indicate that they are not interested in the proposed sexual relationships as that constitutes sexual harassment.

It is this 'neutral' reaction by Tlhwane, which sparked the anonymous report to the DCEC as the complainants felt that he was protecting the perpetrators instead of reprimanding them despite that nobody was named in the anonymous letter enumerating their grievances.

Boko is BIUST Chancellor

LETTICIA MAKUKU
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

PRESIDENT DUMA BOKO WAS inaugurated as the new Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) Chancellor at a glamorous ceremony at the institution's campus near Palapye on Thursday morning.

The significant occasion marks a new chapter in BIUST's continued pursuit of academic excellence, innovation and national development. Boko will serve as the second honorary head of BIUST, providing strategic guidance and reinforcing its mission to advocate science, engineering and technology for the socio-economic transformation of Botswana.

In his welcome remarks, the Acting Vice Chancellor of BIUST, Professor Elisha Shemang stated that BIUST was founded upon a bold and deliberate ambition of serving as a centre of excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, to generate knowledge that expands the frontiers of discovery, to nurture talent capable of shaping Botswana's future.

"Mr President, as you assume the Chancellorship of this university, we are confident that BIUST will continue to flourish as a hub of innovation, research excellence and human capital development, not only for Botswana, but for the region and the African continent. The installation of a Chancellor symbolises continuity of governance, stability of vision, unity of purpose between the university and the Republic it serves. As we mark this historic occasion, we do so with clarity of mission and confidence in our trajectory, to position BIUST as a centre of scientific advancement, a catalyst for industrial innovation and

a strategic partner in national and continental development," he said.

For his part, the Minister of Higher Education, Prince Maele noted that the inauguration is a moment of profound institutional and national significance. It is affirmation of a powerful national statement that higher education, research, science and technology remain central to Botswana's transformation agenda. He noted that his Ministry recognises universities as strategic entities of national development. He further said that BIUST occupies a unique and critical space as a flagship institution dedicated to science, engineering technological innovation.

"In this connection you assume the Chancellorship at a pivotal moment in our nation's development trajectory. Your installation as Chancellor therefore carries both symbolic weight and strategic meaning. The Chancellor serves as the moral and ceremonial head of the University, the guardian of its statutes, the embodiment of its values and the highest authority in conferring degrees. Beyond ceremony, the Chancellor represents the University at the highest national and international levels, safeguarding its reputation and aligning its national priorities. By accepting this role, you affirm that science, innovation and knowledge production are at the heart of Botswana's future," he said.

Maele noted that Botswana is transitioning from resource based economy to a knowledge driven economy and that shift demands highly skilled graduates, relevant research output, stronger industry partnerships, commercialisation of innovation/ digital transformation and youth empowerment through STEAM. He further stated that Boko's Chancellorship strengthens



President Boko

the bridge between national policy and academic innovation. It reassures the university community that government and academia are not parallel entities, they are partners in nation building.

In his keynote address, the Chancellor of BIUST, President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko lauded the Ministry of Higher Education and BIUST Council for entrusting him with the responsibility of serving as Chancellor of Botswana's Premier research-intensive institution.

"I accept this responsibility with both humility, gratitude, enthusiasm, resolve; humility for having been chosen to serve ahead of a great number of own people who are equal to the task, grateful for the confidence bestowed upon me, enthusiastic about the promise that lies ahead and resolute in my

determination to serve this great institution with integrity, dedication and vision. Allow me to pay tribute to my distinguished predecessor, His Excellency Festus Gontebanye Mogae, former BIUST Chancellor. His exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to national development played a decisive role in the establishment and nurturing of this institution during its formative years," he said.

Boko noted that BIUST was established to spearhead Botswana's transition from a resource dependent economy to a knowledge driven economy, from extraction to innovation, from consumption to creation. He further said that the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) pledges to transform education into a key pillar for a knowledge based economy,

focusing on STEAM, digital literacy, research and curriculum modernisation in order to match graduate skills with labour market needs, as well as creating high value employment.

"As Chancellor, I pledge to provide strategic and external leadership in support of the governing authority of the University. I will champion BIUST'S mission, advocate for its interest and promote its achievements within Botswana and beyond. I therefore commit myself to working with the BIUST Council and Vice Chancellor, the leadership of the University and the entire academic community in strengthening governance, expanding partnerships and advancing research excellence. Let BIUST be a place where ideas are born, where innovation flourishes and where the future is shaped," he said.

In his closing remarks, the Chairman of BIUST Council, Dr Howard Sigwele noted that in accepting the Chancellorship of BIUST, Boko has not only elevated the stature of BIUST, but has also ignited renewed confidence in its mission as a crucible of innovation and intellectual excellence. He further noted that the serves as a timely reminder of BIUST'S enduring mandate; to stand as a premier, research intensive institution, resolutely committed to advancing Botswana's transformation into a knowledge based economy.

"As Chancellor, your visionary leadership will serve as both compass and catalyst, guiding our ambitions and inspiring us to reach even greater heights. Under your stewardship, we are confident that BIUST will continue nurture a new generation of scientists, engineers and innovators who will drive Botswana's socio-economic transformation and anchor its future property," he said.

GBV crisis: Social workers petition govt

- Demand their deployment in tackling the national GBV Crisis
- Boko observed people increasingly fail to manage their anger

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL Workers has petitioned president Duma Boko and the Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs (MYGA) Lesego Chombo demanding that government should urgently address and engage Social Workers on Gender Based Violence (GBV) intervention strategy.

Movement for Social Workers is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that aims to serve as a united voice for all the unemployed Social Workers in Botswana and speaks particularly to about Social Work profession or contributions of social work professions in the communities in pursuit for human rights and dignity. Spokesperson of the movement Tapiwa Offer said the letter to Boko and Chombo on GBV is quite critical, noting that the despite promises of reform and justice, the government's response to GBV remains fragmented and ineffective.

Offer said the movement blames the government of its negligence in systematic amendments and implementation of laws or protections such as the Domestic Violence Act and Children's Act. "The movement is holding government responsible for negligence in absorbing professionals equipped to fight GBV using integrated strategies. We are demanding immediate action, inclusion in the fight against GBV," said Offer.



Chombo

In addition, Offer said the movement is demanding Community African Centered participatory interventions with clear monitoring, evaluation as well as declaring GBV a state of emergency. Offer said there has been several individuals within the movement who submitted GBV intervention strategy to the government last year with several follow ups made without any response. The movement said as the economy faces tightening pressures, they know from professional experience that such strain often acts as a catalyst for increased domestic conflict and abuse. "We do not need more awareness walks; we need the immediate, strategic deployment of professional social workers across all sectors," the movement said in a statement.

Chombo

Presenting the budget estimates for MYGA in Parliament this week,

TO PAGE 6

Hear everything

Introducing BTC VOLTE

Botswana's first Voice over LTE experience

Calls so clear it feels like you're in the same room.

Activate it in your settings and utlwa HD ka BTC VolTE

Live connected.

DOWNLOAD THE BTC APP www.btc.bw

ABRIDGED UNAUDITED GROUP FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Choppies Enterprises Limited

(Registration number: BW00001142508)

↑ Group retail sales 8.9%	↓ EBITDA (7.8%)	↓ Adjusted EBITDA (13.5%)
↓ Earnings before interest and tax (20.0%)	↑ Free cash flow 122.6%	

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Figures in Pula millions	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2025 BWPm	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2024 BWPm	Audited 12 months ended 30 June 2025 BWPm
Continuing operations			
Revenue	5 125	4 717	9 173
Retail sales	5 091	4 677	9 107
Cost of sales	(4 084)	(3 712)	(7 214)
Gross profit	1 007	965	1 893
Other operating income	34	40	66
Expenditure	(889)	(815)	(1 641)
Profit on disposal of plant and equipment	1	-	2
Net impairment losses	-	(9)	(7)
Gain on derecognition of payables	20	-	-
Loss on sale of business	-	(14)	(14)
Administrative expenses	(792)	(677)	(1 400)
Selling and distribution expenses	(23)	(27)	(53)
Foreign exchange (losses)/gain on lease liability	-	(6)	2
Expected credit loss movement	(1)	(4)	(4)
Other operating expenses	(94)	(78)	(167)
Operating profit before interest	152	190	318
Finance income	-	1	1
Finance costs	(53)	(52)	(101)
Profit before taxation	99	139	218
Taxation	(22)	(24)	(67)
Profit from continuing operations	77	115	151
Loss from discontinued operations	-	(30)	(56)
Total profit for the period	77	85	95
Basic earnings/(loss) per share - thebe			
Continuing operations	4.2	6.1	8.4
Discontinuing operations	-	(1.6)	(3.1)
	4.2	4.5	5.3
Diluted earnings/(loss) per share - thebe			
Continuing operations	4.2	6.0	8.3
Discontinuing operations	0.0	(1.5)	(3.0)
	4.2	4.5	5.3

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Figures in Pula millions	Unaudited 31 December 2025 BWPm	Unaudited 31 December 2024 BWPm	Audited 30 June 2025 BWPm
Assets			
Non-current assets	1 934	1 690	1 847
Property, plant and equipment	1 061	833	948
Right-of-use assets	686	661	712
Goodwill	111	108	110
Intangible assets	10	7	9
Loans to related entities	42	41	41
Deferred tax	24	40	27
Current assets	1 152	1 251	1 088
Inventories	753	741	644
Trade and other receivables	273	346	262
Taxation refundable	6	13	12
Cash and cash equivalents	120	151	170
Total assets	3 086	2 941	2 935
Equity and liabilities			
Equity	301	199	224
Non-current liabilities	794	837	790
Long-term borrowings	113	166	112
Lease liabilities	636	633	636
Deferred taxation liabilities	45	38	42
Current liabilities	1 991	1 905	1 921
Trade and other payables	1 560	1 405	1 388
Current portion of long-term borrowings	111	139	151
Current portion of lease liabilities	233	248	266
Taxation payable	16	34	31
Bank overdraft	71	79	85
Total liabilities	2 785	2 742	2 711
Total equity and liabilities	3 086	2 941	2 935

HEADLINE EARNINGS PER SHARE COMPUTATION

Figures in Pula millions	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2025 BWPm	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2024 BWPm	Audited 12 months ended 30 June 2025 BWPm
Basic earnings	77	112	153
Profit on disposal of asset	(1)	-	(2)
Impairment losses	-	9	7
Loss on sale of business	-	14	14
Gain on derecognition of payables	(20)	-	-
Non-controlling interest	-	-	-
Tax impact	-	(1)	(1)
Headline earnings	56	134	171
Number of shares for basic earnings	1 824 461 674	1 824 461 674	1 824 461 674
Weighted average number of shares	1 824 461 674	1 824 461 674	1 824 461 674
Diluted weighted average number of shares	1 846 857 355	1 852 580 135	1 846 857 355
Headline earnings per share - thebe	3.1	7.3	9.4
Diluted headline earnings per share - thebe	3.0	7.2	9.3

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Figures in Pula millions	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2025 BWPm	Unaudited six months ended 31 December 2024 BWPm	Audited 12 months ended 30 June 2025 BWPm
Profit before taxation	99	139	218
Non-cash and other adjustments	208	217	403
Changes in working capital	54	(6)	158
Interest income	-	-	1
Dividends paid	(11)	(26)	(55)
Taxation paid	(26)	(20)	(46)
Net cash generated from operating activities	324	304	679
Cash flows from investing activities			
Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities	(127)	(156)	(329)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Net cash used in financing activities	(218)	(211)	(396)
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	(21)	(63)	(46)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	85	125	125
Effect of foreign currency translation on foreign currency balances	(15)	10	6
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	49	72	85

OPERATING SEGMENTAL INFORMATION

December 2025 unaudited BWP millions	Botswana	Namibia	Zambia	Liquoroma	Rest of Choppies	Inter-segment or unallocated	Total Group
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income							
Revenue	3 040	533	983	510	288	(229)	5 125
Retail sales	2 991	532	983	506	288	(209)	5 091
Gross profit	620	87	157	69	61	13	1 007
Operating profit/(loss) (EBIT)	125	(8)	5	(1)	23	8	152
Add back							
Depreciation and amortisation	92	15	16	19	13	-	155
Impairment losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EBITDA	217	7	21	18	36	8	307
Adjustments to EBITDA							
Profit on disposal of plant and equipment	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	(1)
Movement in credit loss allowance	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diesel costs to mitigate load-shedding	-	-	13	-	-	-	13
Foreign exchange (gains) on lease liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gain on derecognition of payables	-	-	-	-	-	(20)	(20)
Adjusted EBITDA	217	7	34	18	36	(12)	300
Operating profit/(loss) (EBIT)	125	(8)	5	(1)	23	8	152
Adjustments to EBITDA as above	-	-	13	-	-	(20)	(7)
Adjusted EBIT	125	(8)	18	(1)	23	(12)	145
Statement of financial position							
Assets	1 560	374	510	234	238	170	3 086
Liabilities	1 546	317	356	259	268	39	2 785

December 2024 unaudited BWP millions	Botswana	Namibia	Zambia	Liquoroma	Rest of Choppies	Inter-segment or unallocated	Total Group
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income							
Revenue	2 948	442	715	554	268	(210)	4 717
Retail sales	2 905	441	715	551	268	(203)	4 677
Gross profit	631	78	121	68	58	9	965
Operating profit/(loss) (EBIT)	(164)	6	17	2	14	315	190
Add back							
Depreciation and amortisation	86	12	11	15	11	(1)	134
Impairment losses	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
Impairment losses - Zimbabwe loan	328	-	-	-	-	(328)	-
EBITDA	259	18	28	17	25	(14)	333
Adjustments to EBITDA							
Profit on disposal of plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movement in credit loss allowance	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Diesel costs to mitigate load-shedding	-	-	18	-	-	-	18
Foreign exchange losses on lease liability	-	-	6	-	-	-	6
Profit on sale of business	-	-	-	-	-	(14)	(14)
Adjusted EBITDA	263	18	52	17	25	(28)	347
Operating profit/(loss) (EBIT)	(164)	6	17	2	14	315	190
Adjustments to EBITDA as above	4	-	24	-	-	(14)	14
Impairment losses	328	-	-	-	-	(328)	-
Adjusted EBIT	168	6	41	2	14	(27)	204
Statement of financial position							
Assets	1 614	308	382	307	318	12	2 941
Liabilities	1 610	241	284	185	377	45	2 742

COMMENTARY

1. Nature of business

Choppies Enterprises Limited ("Choppies" or "the Company" or "the Group") is a Botswana-based investment holding company operating in the retail sector in Southern Africa. Dual-listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange ("BSE") and Johannesburg Stock Exchange ("JSE"), its operations include food, liquor and general merchandise retailing as well as milling and manufacturing and financial services transactions. These are supported by centralised distribution channels through distribution and logistical support centres.

Each week, approximately 2.5 million customers visit 302 stores across seven formats in three countries. With an annual revenue of more than BWP 9 billion, Choppies employs over 11 000 people and competes against retailers, wholesalers and the informal market in both rural and urban Africa.

2. Basis of preparation and accounting policies

The unaudited interim consolidated financial statements for the six months ended 31 December 2025 have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the BSE Limited ("BSE Listings Requirements") and JSE Limited ("JSE Listings Requirements"), as well as the requirements of the Botswana Companies Act, as amended.

The interim reports have been prepared in accordance with the framework concepts and the measurement and recognition requirements of IFRS® Accounting Standards and contain the information required by IAS 34 *Interim Financial Reporting*.

The accounting policies used in the preparation of the interim consolidated financial statements are in terms of IFRS Accounting Standards and are consistent with those applied in the previous year, and the methods of computation are consistent with those of the previous annual financial statements.

3. Directors' responsibility for the consolidated financial statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the unaudited interim group financial results and financial position of the Group in accordance with BSE and JSE Listings Requirements and the Companies Act of Botswana.

4. Going concern

The Board evaluated the going concern assumption up to the date of signing of the Group financial statements, considering the current financial position and its best estimate of the cash flow forecasts, and deemed it to be appropriate in the presentation of the consolidated annual financial statements.

The Board has reviewed the cash flow forecast for the next 12 months, as prepared by management, and is of the opinion that the Group has sufficient liquidity to support its working capital requirements adequately and, consequently, is satisfied with the Group's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

The Board is satisfied that the Group is a going concern and therefore continues to apply the going concern assumption in the preparation of the financial statements.

5. Group results

The following impacted Group profitability:

- Reduced consumer liquidity driven by the Botswana diamond market slump
- Devaluation of the Pula to combat economic strain from a severe downturn in the global diamond market
- Constrained spending due to Botswana government's austerity measures
- Inflationary cost base
- New stores not yet reaching the maturity curve
- Implementation of living wage in Botswana
- Government subsidised commodities in Namibia
- Deflation on key food lines in Zambia due to the Kwacha appreciating
- Promotional intensity in a constrained consumer market.

The Group's retail sales increased by 8.9% to BWP 5 091 million (2024: BWP 4 677 million), driven by 25 new stores, inflation, and volume growth. Choppies segments achieved volume growth of 3.8% and price growth of 7.1%, while sales for like-for-like stores increased by 2.9%.

The gross profit margin declined by 0.8% to 19.8% (2024: 20.6%) due to lower margins in all segments except Liquorama. The Liquorama gross profit margin improved from 12.3% to 13.6% compared to the prior year.

In Pula terms, gross profit increased by 4.4% to BWP 1 007 million (2024: BWP 965 million), despite the competitive and challenging economic environment.

Total expenses increased by 9.1% due to new stores, inflation, the derecognition of payables and loss on the sale of businesses in the previous year. The loss of BWP 14 million last year relates to the sale of the Zimbabwe segment and this year included a gain from the derecognition of payables resulting from the discontinued operations of Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique, which were shut down in the 2019 financial year.

Excluding the derecognition and loss on sale of businesses, total expenses increased by 13.5%.

Operating profit (EBIT) decreased by 20.0% from BWP 190 million to BWP 152 million. Adjusted EBIT decreased by 28.9% from BWP 204 million to BWP 145 million. The EBIT decline is due to costs growing at a much faster rate than Pula gross profit.

Net finance costs grew 1.9% due to lower debt offset by higher interest on leases as a result of new stores.

The effective tax rate of 22.2% (2024: 17.3%) is slightly higher than the standard rate primarily due to losses in Namibia for which we have not yet raised any deferred tax, and non-taxable gain on derecognition of payables. Last year's rate was lower than the standard rate due to deferred tax raised on carried forward tax losses in the Zambia segment.

Statement of financial position and cash flows

The Group reduced non-IFRS 16 debt by BWP 55 million despite investing BWP 127 million in new stores and logistics. Working capital improved from BWP 6 million outflow in the prior year to this year's inflow of BWP 54 million, strengthening liquidity.

During January 2026, the Group settled in full the consortium debt raised in 2021.

6. Operational overview

Choppies Botswana

As a consequence of the slump in the diamond market and government austerity measures, consumer demand collapsed from July 2025 due to reduced household spending and high economic pressure. This led to competitors with excess inventory as consumers, facing rising costs for essentials, significantly decreasing their purchases of foods and other groceries. Retail turnover was impacted by aggressive competitor discounting activity over the reported trading period. Inflation was elevated due to the unexpected devaluation of the Pula in July 2025. The devaluation resulted in incremental costs of BWP 64 million, which could not be passed on to customers.

Sales from Botswana increased by 3.0%, with like-for-like sales declining 1.1% due to the weaker economy in Botswana, but the business showed strong resilience in an increasingly challenging economic environment. Sales increased to BWP 2 991 million (2024: BWP 2 905 million), supported by volume decline of 3.8%, price inflation of 5.9%, and nine new stores.

EBITDA and adjusted EBITDA decreased by 16.2% and 17.5%, respectively, as gross profit increased slower than costs. The gross profit rate declined by 1.0%. New stores and inflation drove costs. The new stores opened over the last 12 months will need time to reach full potential.

The introduction of the living wage in this segment has placed short-term pressure on profitability but is expected to strengthen long-term employee retention and brand reputation.

Overall, despite the lower profitability, we are pleased with the performance resulting from good in-store execution, improved customer engagement, and enhanced availability due to the inventory optimisation. We are continuing to manage pricing aligned to competitive price gaps and elevated inflation.

Our 21st anniversary promotion in October significantly boosted store traffic and customer engagement, as we provided a fully furnished two-bedroom house as a prize. This offset the negative impact of the weak economy. A loyalty programme was launched to deepen retention and we will accelerate the penetration rate in the balance of the financial year.

Choppies Namibia

Namibia experienced sales growth of 20.6% and like-for-like sales growth of 9.6%. From July 2025 to November 2025, the Namibian government introduced subsidies for commodities primarily aimed at boosting food security. Maize, pilchards, soya, rice and oil were subsidised. These are major contributors to sales for Choppies Namibia, putting pressure on overall sales and leading to lower margins and profitability.

EBITDA declined 61.1% and EBIT last year of BWP 6 million moved to a loss this year of BWP 8 million.

Choppies Zambia

The Kwacha has experienced a 11% appreciation against the Pula since the end of the last half year, primarily due to stronger copper export revenues.

Although inflation has moderated, household purchasing power continues to be strained by high food, energy, housing and transport costs. The country faces persistently high unemployment and underemployment levels, particularly among youth, women and urban informal workers.

All these factors led to lower margins or lower profitability.

Zambia experienced sales growth of 37.5% in Pula value, equating to an increase of 23.0% in Kwacha value, like-for-like sales growth of 11.7% in Pula value, and like-for-like sales growth of negative 0.2% in Kwacha value. Six new stores were opened during the year.

In Pula terms, adjusted EBITDA declined 34.6% and adjusted EBIT declined 56.1%.

Choppies Botswana - Liquorama segment

Sales decreased 8.2%, driven by the weak economy and offset by five new stores. Like-for-like sales declined by 10.9%. The gross profit rate increased from 12.3% in the prior year to 13.6% this year due to better control over promotions.

EBITDA increased by 5.9% and EBIT reduced to a loss of BWP 1 million (2024: profit of BWP 2 million) attributable to incremental depreciation on new stores.

Rest of Choppies segment

The Rest of Choppies segment includes the milling, manufacturing and hardware businesses. The milling and manufacturing businesses are profitable.

The hardware segment losses narrowed from BWP 4 million to BWP 1 million. It will take another six to 12 months to turn around this business, including opening new stores and expanding into the other countries in which Choppies currently operates.

Overall, the Rest of Choppies segment increased adjusted EBIT from BWP 14 million in the last year to a profit of BWP 23 million this year.

7. Events after the reporting date

There have been no material changes in the affairs or financial position of the Group for 1 January 2026 to the date of this publication.

8. Outlook

We expect continued uncertainty in our business and the Southern African economy due to the duration and intensity of global credit conditions, impact of tariffs, the devaluation of the Pula, military conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine, slower economic growth, surging prices for energy and commodities, renewed supply chain disruption, financial market volatility, volatility in employment trends and consumer confidence, all of which may impact our results.

Our strategic priorities remain:

- Consolidating profitability in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia
- Completing the turnaround of Builders Mart and Liquorama
- Extracting efficiencies from distribution and inventory systems
- Maintaining cost discipline amid macro-volatility
- Rolling out the new ERP
- Maintaining financial discipline
- Advancing ESG initiatives.

The Board remains confident that Choppies is positioned for sustainable growth and improved shareholder returns.

9. Distribution to shareholders - ordinary dividend number 11

The Board has declared an interim dividend (number 11) of 1.0 thebe per ordinary share (2024: 1.6 thebe), payable on 29 April 2026.

For and on behalf of the Board



DKU Corea
Chairman

25 March 2026



R Ottapathu
Chief Executive Officer

Registered office: Plot 28892, Twin Towers, Fairground, Gaborone, Botswana

Sponsors: BSE: Motswedi Securities (Pty) Ltd, JSE: PSG Capital

Company Secretary: BP Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd, Plot 28892 Twin Towers, Fairground, Gaborone, Botswana

Auditors: Forvis Mazars, Plot 139, Finance Park, Gaborone, Botswana

Social workers petition govt

FROM PAGE 3

Chombo said her ministry is collaborating with a multi-sectoral team to establish One-Stop Service Centres for GBV survivors to address the gap between reporting gender-based violence (GBV) and accessing justice. Chombo further said the initiative marked a significant shift toward a comprehensive, survivor-centred approach, enabling victims to receive integrated medical, legal, counselling and psychosocial support in a single location. She emphasised that such a model was essential for a coordinated national response and ensured that survivors did not navigate a fragmented system alone. She also indicated that women's economic empowerment was a key defence against vulnerability and violence. To tackle the link between economic disempowerment and GBV, Chombo said the ministry was accelerating women's economic participation through programmes such as EntreprenHER and a major milestone was the Memorandum of Understanding signed between government and Stanbic Bank.

Anger

Meanwhile, Boko recently during the 52nd Botswana Police Service Senior Officers Annual Conference at Otse Police College expressed concern over escalating violence which has now

shifted from Gender GBV to widespread of aggression across the communities.

Boko said people are increasingly unable to manage their anger. "We see violence among family members, lovers and even over minor disputes. Many of these incidents occur in private spaces, making prevention difficult," Boko regretted the violence scourge.

In addition, Boko said it seems that people are unable to control their emotions as they fight and kill each other over petty issues that could have been solved peacefully and further regretted that in most cases the police are blamed and expected to have stopped such incidents before they occur. For her part, Police Commissioner Dinah Marathe said although Botswana continues to hold high status as one of the peaceful nations in the world, the nature of crime is increasingly becoming brutally driven primarily by GBV and drug abuse. She said in 2025, crime rate increased by six percent as compared to 2024. She said violent and serious crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, stock theft and vehicle theft recorded a six percent decline in 2025. According to Marathe, growing intensity of violence threatens to erode public confidence in policing despite notable progress in reducing certain categories of crime.

BCP dismiss education company

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

DOUBT HAS BEEN CAST on the government's plan to improve infrastructure in public schools through the newly established Education Infrastructure and Management Company Limited (EIMC).

The Ministry of Child Welfare & Basic Education (MCBWA) established EIMC as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to take care of infrastructure development and management in all government schools nationally.

Unique approach
In an introductory statement issued last week EIMC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chandada Masendu- Kusane said what distinguishes them from other companies is not only what they do but how they will be doing it.

Masendu-Kusane said most importantly, EIMC introduces a single, dedicated institution responsible for the full cycle of school infrastructure, from planning and design to construction etc. She said EIMC also shifts the system from reactive to preventative management, adding that rather than responding to infrastructure failures after they occur, EIMC will implement planned maintenance regimes, routine inspections and early intervention systems.

This, she said, not only reduces disruptions but also extends the life of infrastructure and lowers costs overtime. "Another defining feature is its commitment to professionalization. EIMC brings specialized expertise in

- 'Our school's infrastructure problem doesn't need CEOs' – Hikuama
- BOSETU hopeful EIMC will deliver, warns against corruption

infrastructure planning, project management, and facilities operations under one roof," she said.

But educationist and Botswana Congress Party (BCP) shadow cabinet minister of Education in Parliament, Caterpillar Hikuama is not convinced by the explanation. He dismissed the company as a misaligned project by the UDC government.

Misaligned project

Hikuama said the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) led government continues to prioritize the optics of 'transformation' through the creation of the (EIMC), adding that the BCP views the move as a classic political stunt. He added that in a time of severe fiscal constraint, creating a new parastatal, complete with a board, executive salaries, and administrative overhead, is not just tone-deaf; it is a betrayal of the taxpayer.

"Our schools do not need more CEOs and corporate offices; they need plumbers, electricians, and builders. We must move away from 'Big Government' solutions and toward efficient, localised action," said Hikuama, adding that with the current budgetary deficit and the need for economic recovery, the establishment of a new state-owned enterprise (SOE) is fiscally irresponsible. He noted that there would be a high cost of bureaucracy associated with EIMC, adding that every pula spent on the company directors'



Hikuama

fees and office rentals is a pula taken away from textbooks and school feeding programs.

Hikuama also said another challenge is the efficiency trap more so that Botswana already has a history of SOEs becoming white elephants that struggle with delivery. Therefore, adding another layer of red tape between the ministry and the schools will only slow down urgent repairs. He said the BCP alternative

is adoption of the District School Maintenance Centers (DSMCs) model instead of a centralized company, and there should be empowerment of the talent already sitting on the government payroll.

Speaking to resource alignment, Hikuama said the Schools and District Councils already employ skilled craftsmen buttressing that the resources are often underutilized due to a lack of

resources such as transport and other requisites, as well as centralized coordination.

Corruption, Mismanagement

Meanwhile, Publicity Secretary of Botswana Sector of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU), Oreeditse Nyatso said although they appreciate government efforts to address infrastructure challenges in schools, their expectation is that

EIMC effectively delivers. Nyatso said they hope EIMC should not be another vehicle for corruption citing that the issue of infrastructure maintenance in schools is currently hit hard and most of the developments are pending due to mismanagement of allocated funds. He said BOSETU members and students are exposed to hazardous infrastructure in schools and their belief is that the situation will improve given introduction of EIMC.

Nonetheless, Nyatso said it looks like the UDC government priorities are not aligned, indicating that they hoped UDC would address the painful government education system. He said the education system in relation to conditions of service for teachers seems to be not a priority for MCWBA despite BOSETU's efforts to advocate for better conditions of service in teaching fraternity. "It is a continuation of the old guard. We believe that teacher welfare should also be one area that is supposed to be prioritized just like infrastructure. There are other many problems in the sector and we are not saying that only teachers should be prioritized," said Nyatso.

According to an introductory press release from the company, EIMC said it is Botswana's newly established institution responsible for the modernisation, professional management, and long-term sustainability of public-school infrastructure across the country. EIMC marks a major milestone in advancing the quality of learning environments nationwide, the ministry explained.

Govt borrows P8.1 billion

FROM PAGE 1

Approving the loans across the aisle, MPs cautioned Gaolathe over excessive borrowing but said their expectations are that the loans would be channeled effectively to what they were secured for.

Last year, Government borrowed P3 billion from the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF). The loan has a tenure of seven-year maturity inclusive of the two-year grace period, which would provide reprieve on debt service obligations and builds toward improving its liquidity position.

Gaolathe at the time said borrowing by government would allow BPOPF in

meeting the local investment requirement set out in the Act.

Suppliers owed billions

Meanwhile government is struggling to settle P3.6 billion owed to its various suppliers. Minister of Tourism Wynter Mmolotsi while responding question in Parliament on behalf of Gaolathe said government is working hard to pay the suppliers.

Mmolotsi attributed government's failure to settle suppliers to not meeting its statutory payment turnaround of 10 working days due to "liquidity constraints and cash-flow pressures. He explained that failure to government to meet the

statutory 10 days payment turnaround is not due to administrative lapses but rather to prevailing liquidity constraints and cash flow pressures. "These circumstances have necessitated a shift from a "First In, First-Out" (FIFO) payment method to have a prioritized system guided by available cash balances," he said.


Molepolole North Member of Parliament Arafat Khan had asked the minister to provide total debt of government to suppliers in 30 days, 31-90 days, 91-180 days and 181-365 days categorized by each ministry and/ or departments.

suppliers have lamented that lack of payments from

government is negatively impacting on their businesses as the associated funding costs are high and are forced to borrow elsewhere.


One renowned CEO and a supplier from the manufacturing and retail sector noted that business operation costs are increasing because of delayed payments from the government. "Production costs are weighing high on us. This is because even some of our clients from the private sector who supply government are struggling to pay us because they also don't get payment from government. Cash flow is a big challenge," said the supplier in protest.

27th 31st
MAY 2026



Northern TRADE FAIR

Be Part of the Edition



● MARKET ● NETWORK ● EXPLORE

Francistown BB Grounds Gerald Estates

395 459

kelemogile@bb.org.bw
boitumelo@bb.org.bw
susan@bb.org.bw

BPF: Vultures Hovering

FROM PAGE 1

AP note that Ookeditse is highly regarded as a strategist and great leader by AP leader Gaolathe, who is said to be pursuing his party to convince Ookeditse to work with AP in a best possible way that can be agreed.

Those in the know say that it is Gaolathe who pursued President Advocate Duma Boko to consider Ookeditse for cabinet appointment although he was in the opposition. "Gaolathe envies Ookeditse as leader and want him close to AP. He is encouraging the central committee to closely monitor the BPF situation and lure some of its politicians into AP and close to the government as well," said an impeccable source in the AP.

In an interview on Friday, AP Deputy Secretary General (DSG) Phemelo Kedumele said they are watching developments in the BPF faction because they are like-minded about the UDC coalition.

Kedumele said BPF is an independent party and AP would not necessarily interfere on its affairs or take sides between the warring parties of Ookeditse and Gaolathe Galebotse.

"However, what I can tell



Khama

you is that as political party we are recruiting members from anywhere but we would not like to recruit from the parties that we are working closely with.

I cannot say AP is launching a bid to pursue Ookeditse to join us. Everyone knows his political prowess but he remains BPF member," said Kedumele briefly.

Surrendered leadership
Efforts to contact Ookeditse and Mathoothe proved futile. Meanwhile, their camp's spokesperson Ogaufi Nthobelang on Friday said the faction has surrendered the leadership of the party to the interim committee led by Dr

Thoko Muzila as President. Nthobelang said for now the Ookeditse camp would watch from the sidelines and could not be drawn into discussing whether Ookeditse have been approached by AP or if the camp has plans to ditch BPF.

Nthobelang noted that BPF has known working arrangement with UDC and expectation is that its MPs would continue to work with UDC. "We are waiting for any communication from Dr Muzila and her committee regarding the current situation in BPF. That's all that I can say regarding our camp," said Ratsie calmly.

Khama quits

The party suffered a blow when former president Ian Khama officially resigned from the party.

Khama is a founding BPF Patron and stepped down from the position as he assumed his bogosi duties last year as Kgosi of Bamangwato. His close confidante and former BPF spokesperson Justice Motlhabani confirmed to the media Khama's termination of BPF membership. It is anticipated that his resignation would prompt more BPF members to also resign from the party.

Political analyst, Dr Adam Mfundisi said without Khama ties, the party is in disarray due to dearth in strategic leadership. He said the party is breaking apart and if it wants to prolong itself life in BW politics, it has to join the ruling UDC. "Otherwise, it enters the political wilderness drifting towards political oblivion. It is true that Khama was the unifier of the BPF, having been a patron of the outfit. Khama's popularity as the heir to Bangwato dynasty and former President, he propelled the BPF to glory in the 2019 and 2024 General elections," said Dr Mfundisi.

In Partnership with



Media Partner



Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



ADAM PHETLHE
ON SUNDAY!

WINNING THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION has exposed a side to President Duma Boko - that he is a man of contradictions i.e. someone who behaves in ways that conflict with their past actions, public image, or stated goals, often acting as an antithesis of himself.

Clearly, Boko has abandoned issues he was forthright in pushing during his time in the opposition ranks. The only thing he has not abandoned is the propensity to lecture audiences in law, laced with Latin phrases like *clausula rebus sic stantibus* and *stare decisis et non quieta movere*. It is rare that he drives a point couched in legal sophistry without spicing it with Latin, a gifted orator of note.

As a Constitutional and human rights law expert, Boko would have a good idea of how governments function, particularly regarding issues he passionately vouched to change. I will not deal with them in their entirety because they cannot be all articulated in a single conversation.

Killing death penalty

In an interview with the SABC's Mpho Tseudi in October 2014, Boko declared that as soon as the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)

Boko: a man of many contradictions

took power, he will impose a moratorium on the death penalty with the ultimate intention to abolish it.

This was borne out of the fact that his track record as a human rights activist supported his position against the death penalty. He had vowed to tell Batswana; "we will not be implementing the death penalty going forward". At the time of the interview, many Batswana supported the death penalty and his firm position on it could cost him the election. Nevertheless, he was resolute the death penalty had no place in his administration.

However, sixteen months after winning the 2024 general election, nothing has happened. This is a serious contradiction. Nothing has been done to abolish the death penalty. The Minister of Justice, Nelson Ramaotwana says Botswana maintains the death penalty, reaffirming that the envisaged moratorium may be off the table.

Clausula rebus sic stantibus

Clausula rebus sic stantibus refers to voiding existing agreements or contracts when prevailing circumstances do not permit. During the October 2024 Presidential debate, Boko talked passionately about the doctrine declaring and decreeing that once in government, he will tear to shreds any agreement made by the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) administrations, which could be deemed not in the best interest of Batswana. It would appear he selectively applied the doctrine.

Top of those cancelled is the P200 million Chema-Chema loan scheme which was transformed into grants for the applicants. But he did not tear the P 1.3 million furniture allowance for his cabinet ministers, neither



President Boko

did he do so with the contract on high value Presidential motor vehicles he currently rides.

Retention of Magosi

Ever since the appointment of Peter Magosi as the Director General of the Directorate of Intelligence Services (DIS) in 2018, he has

been in crosshairs of opposition political parties, and the public. To date, Magosi is described as heading a rogue spy agency. He has had numerous adverse court judgements against him. He has been implicated as the lead instigator of the infamous P 100 billion Bank of Botswana scandal. His conduct in the scandal permanently harmed Botswana's reputation among her neighbours. Botswana's economy also lost millions of pula due to numerous costs orders awarded against the DIS for making false claims of security threats against legitimate businessmen.

Magosi has also elevated himself to a superman over other state institutions. He bullied the Directorate on Corruption & Economic Crime (DCEC) when he raided and closed the offices of its Director General when he learned about their investigations against him. This was unprecedented. Boko promised to fire Magosi as soon as he came into power, and to reform the DIS. To date he has not done so! This is yet another contradiction.

Writing recently under the heading 'National Security, the last refuge of a scoundrel', Professor Monageng Mogalakwe concluded that Boko's retention of Magosi does not inspire confidence. I agree with Mogalakwe because Batswana and a

good number of DIS agents have lost confidence in Magosi. Boko should tell Batswana when Magosi suddenly became a good public officer, serving with meritocracy.

Review of Constitution

Speaking after appointing cabinet ministers, Boko promised that the Constitution would be reviewed within six months. Against all expectations, the Constitutional review is now on the back burner. Instead, he is pursuing the establishment of a Constitutional Court, which has evoked mixed reactions.

He argues that the Constitutional court must precede the Constitutional review to protect the human rights of minorities during the process, interpret and certify the Constitution. While the review is not totally off the table, the change of heart over the chronology of events creates a contradiction. The current process is akin to putting the cart before the horse, hence the telling cacophony of dissonance.

A contradictory person like Boko creates confusion for the nation because it becomes difficult to identify his true goals for the country. It also creates policy uncertainty.

I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself!

adamphetlhe08@gmail.com

Love's new vocabulary at the High Court

GOBE TAZIBA*

AS BOTSWANA APPROACHES ITS diamond jubilee of independence, the halls of our High Court are echoing with a conversation that would have deeply resonated with Jürgen Habermas, the great theorist of dialogue and democracy.

At the centre of this moment is a historic legal challenge: two women asking the state to recognise their union through marriage. Yet this case is not simply about marriage. It is a profound test of Botswana's democratic character—of our commitment to what Habermas called *discourse ethics*, and of our ability to confront the "pathologies of unreason" in the twenty-first century.

Habermas argued that in a truly democratic society, legitimacy does not flow from tradition, authority, or majoritarian impulse, but from the force of the *better argument*. He remained deeply sceptical of "governing philosophies"—the idea that a single religion, culture, or moral code should determine the lives of all citizens in a pluralistic state. For him, democracy depends on a delicate balance between the *formal sphere* of institutions such as courts, and the *informal sphere* of public debate, where citizens shape collective meaning.



Taziba

In Botswana, however, the debate around same-sex marriage often collapses into what can only be described as a clash of unreason. Appeals to "culture" or "religion" are frequently deployed as conversation-stoppers rather than as contributions to dialogue. Yet, through a Habermasian lens, the critical question is whether such claims can be translated into *public reason*. In a democracy, it is not enough to assert that something is "against our culture"; one must offer reasons that others—regardless of faith or background—can interrogate, contest, and understand.

It is here that critics of Habermas, such as Chantal Mouffe, provide an important counterpoint. Mouffe challenges the very possibility of a fully rational consensus, proposing instead the idea of *agonistic pluralism*. In her view, democracy is not about eliminating conflict but about organising it—transforming antagonism into respectful contestation among legitimate adversaries. From this perspective, the marriage equality case is not a threat to Botswana's social fabric; it is evidence of a vibrant and evolving democracy.

For the Batswana women at the heart of this case—and for the many others who see themselves reflected in their struggle—these philosophical frameworks are not abstract. They are tools of empowerment. Habermas offers a language, a "grammar," through which they can claim their place within the national conversation. He affirms that their lives form part of Botswana's *lifeworld*, and that the formal legal system must remain open and responsive to such lived realities.

Yet Botswana today faces a deeper structural tension. On one hand, the judiciary has demonstrated a capacity for progressive interpretation, as seen in the landmark 2019 decision to decriminalise consensual same-sex relations. On the other hand, public opinion remains sharply divided. This gap between the court and the street reflects what Habermas described

as a *legitimation crisis*: a moment when the alignment between institutional decisions and public consciousness becomes fragile.

If courts move too far ahead of society, they risk alienation. If society constrains the courts, it risks moral stagnation.

The significance of the current case, therefore, lies in its ability to shift the terrain of debate—from silence and stigma to open, reasoned engagement. By framing marriage equality as a question of democratic consistency rather than moral exception, these women are not asking for special treatment. They are asking the state to honour its own constitutional commitments.

They compel us to confront a fundamental question: who remains the "Other" in Botswana's democracy, and on what grounds are they excluded?

As Botswana marks sixty years of independence, it stands at a crossroads. It can retreat into the comfort of inherited certainties, or it can embrace what Habermas described as the "unfinished project" of modernity—a continuous expansion of rights, inclusion, and mutual recognition.

The women before our courts are not seeking to dismantle Botswana's culture. They are inviting us to enlarge it. They are asking us to develop a new grammar of love and citizenship—one grounded not in fear, but in reason; not in exclusion, but in dignity.

If Botswana can rise to this moment—if we can engage this debate with intellectual honesty, civic respect, and a genuine willingness to listen—then our diamond jubilee will signify more than longevity. It will mark a maturing democracy, one in which the better argument does not merely exist, but ultimately prevails.

***Vice Chair and Civil Society Representative on the Botswana Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism. He writes in his personal capacity and can be contacted at gobe.taziba20@gmail.com**

BMD, RAP condemn persistent health crises

AS PART OF ADDRESSING A SET OF ISSUES that are at the heart of democracy and development in Botswana and around the world, Botswana Movement for Democracy and Real Alternative Party as an opposition block hereby pledge to promote frontline activism by informing and organizing citizens and conducting cutting-edge campaigns on the critical challenges facing democracy in Botswana e.g. countering kleptocracy and disinformation.

Through this political block, we have agreed to commit to furthering some of these objectives:

- 1) Provide vocal, public support for pro-democracy activism, and respond to any violent crackdowns by authorities with public condemnation.
- 2) Bolster initiatives that promote transparency and accountability in governance, and by democracy activists in the arena of national development, the Real Alternative Party in collaboration with the Botswana Movement for Democracy, have resolved to work together issuing joint statements against corruption and unaccountable government practices including calling for investigation and prosecution of violators.
- 3) Present legislative proposals on human rights for UDC government to convert such into tangible commitments that guarantee equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination for every Motswana.
- 4) Mobilize and marshal for support in a coherent way the civil-society groups, faith-based organizations, business associations, trade unions, independent journalists, and human-rights defenders, in organizing solidarity events and other initiatives to strengthen political support for active protest against influences and acts that undermine democracy including Botswana's sovereignty.

We have seen it very crucial and equally important of the strategic imperative to unite around a politics of solidarity that can get us to work together with and between the differences of our political ideologies, through narratives that unite struggles for emancipation and social equality. We have resolved to move with and beyond the categories that push us apart like center and margin; we pledge to move beyond binaries that separate and divide, and instead find a way towards connectedness that denies unity, or oneness, and instead images solidarity and its tensions. We will support autonomous actions that become cross movement through the intersections that exist within each.

Acknowledging that democracies are only as strong as the people who inhabit society, we take responsibility for recognizing the educative nature for politics and by making education central to politics itself we will work to challenge the political forms of domination, manipulation and propaganda which freeze politics within a flood of shocks, sensations and simplisms that demand no thinking while erasing memory, thoughtfulness and critical dialogue. We will provide a politics that informs the masses and that exposes the flow of the machinery of social and political death

unleashed by the avatars of greed, disposability and exploitation while escaping into the global networks of finance and social irresponsibility.

Central to our platform is recognizing that Botswana faces a crisis not only of health, but also of politics and political memory, history, agency and hope. Given that agency is the condition of struggle, and hope is the condition of agency, and in light of this new political formation, Botswana Movement for Democracy and Real Alternative have taken action to petition the Minister of Health on the ticking time-bomb of deteriorating population health.


Of Little Action and Vows by UDC towards remedying the health crisis: In taking social value judgments into account, BMD and RAP note with dismay, the lack of recognition by UDC to address the determinants of health and the many factors placing barriers in the way of progress investments needed to improve public health services and population health. In 2026, the UDC Government has marked its first "anniversary" with no reasons for celebration as evidenced by the deteriorating population health. In spite of having launched itself as a government of human rights architecture, UDC has failed to commit to accelerating true reform of the system to become more people-centred, efficient, leaner, plural, more agile, and more inclusive of and accountable to health crisis-affected people.

Despite much-publicised pledges and promises to make improvements many health crises have persisted, with a total failure to address the underlying causes. The UDC Government has repeatedly spoken of the need to improve public health sector, but what little action there is, often

appears narrowly focused on the lamentations and promises of remedying the health crisis. The failure by UDC government to tackle the determinants of inputs, such as human resources and labor, pharmaceuticals/ medicines, and medical technologies to strengthen the health system is exacerbating existing problems, stretching health and care services even further and creating undesirable outcomes such as near-term hospitalisations, deaths, and loss of future life.

We submit that, good physical and mental health is an issue of social justice, with benefits that extend beyond economic concerns. Good health enables people to live well and engage fully with the things that matter most to them. In light of the aforesaid factual background, we have set to issue a petition to the Minister of Health, in the month of April 2026, for provisioning National Health and Clinical Excellence in coverage for effective treatments and efficient health services. On the overall, we implore the UDC government to move a proactive pro-health agenda by ensuring that healthcare systems are sustainable, equitable, and capable of meeting the needs of diverse populations.

Gaontebale Mokgosi
Brother Chairman
For Real Alternative Party
and Botswana Movement for Democracy
Issued on behalf of Botswana Movement for Democracy (BMD) and Real Alternative Party (RAP) with respect to the persistent, worsening health crises which has resulted in worsening public health.



Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd.

Applications are invited for the post of:

❖ BRANCH HEAD-

No. of post-1
The Person will be responsible for independently handling business growth and all-round development of the branch, supervising, monitoring, and exercising control over the functioning of the Branch, to comply with regulatory and administrative guidelines relating to the branch operations. The Person should be conversant with credit, operations, Treasury, Forex, and staff management-related functions.

ELIGIBILITY:

- **Qualification:** Graduate/Post Graduate Degree from a recognized University.
- **Professional qualification:** Certificate from any recognised Banking Institute.
- **Work Experience:** Minimum 10 years of experience working with a reputed Bank with international standards with at least 5 years as Branch Head.
- Minimum Age 35 years and maximum Age 50 years as of 28.02.2026.

Candidates fulfilling the above eligibility criteria may apply with their CV with 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- 3992700

Email- hrm.botswana@bankofbaroda.com
Ho.botswana@bankofbaroda.com

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be responded

Publisher
Inskip Investments (Pty) Ltd
Tel: +267 318 7951 / 40
Fax: +267 318 7952

Managing Editor
Mpho Dibeela
dibeela@thepatriot.co.bw

Editor
Ditiro Motlhabane
ditiro@thepatriot.co.bw

Advertising Manager
Boikanyo Mudongo
boi@thepatriot.co.bw
advertise@thepatriot.co.bw

Finance & Administration
Nonofu Mosetlha
nonofom@thepatriot.co.bw

Circulation/Distribution
circulation@thepatriot.co.bw



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, Fairgrounds 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

CHOPPIES



SUPER COMBO DEAL

...ALL FOR...

359⁹⁹

- D'LITE Cooking Oil
- + TASTIC Rice
- + SUPER A1/ CHOPPIES/ Maize Meal OR CHOPPIES Sorghum Meal
- + ALL GOLD Tomato Sauce
- + C&B OR EXCELLA Mayonnaise
- + LA LAGANE Macaroni
- + ROBERTSONS Spice



Except: Crushed Chilli, White/Black Pepper

MEGA COMBO DEAL

...ALL FOR...

599⁹⁹

- CHOPPIES Sorghum Meal
- + TASTIC Rice
- + WHITE STAR Maize Meal
- + CHOPPIES White Bread Flour
- + CHOPPIES White Sugar
- + ALL GOLD Tomato Sauce
- + EXCELLA/ C&B Mayonnaise
- + PAN Cooking Oil



CHOPPIES White Bread Flour

12.5kg

129⁹⁹

WHITE STAR Super Maize Meal

12.5kg

104⁹⁹

BONUS BUCKS

SAVE P10

WHITE STAR

SUPER MAIZE MEAL

THE CLEVER CHOICE

MOVE TO THE TASTE

12.5 kg

YARONA White Sugar

12.5kg

177⁹⁹

TASTIC Rice

10kg

123⁹⁹ EACH

BUY 3 OR MORE

D'LITE Cooking Oil

2Ltr

45⁹⁹ EACH

BUY 2 OR MORE

AVAILABLE AT: Choppies Super Store Gantsi | Choppies Superstore - Loja Mall | Choppies Hyper - Station | Choppies Super Store Old Lobatse Road | Choppies Super store Bobonong | Choppies Superstore Kanye | Choppies Super stores Serowe | Choppies Super Stores Phikwe mall | Choppies Superstore Mogoditshane Centre Mall | Choppies Super store-Borogo Junction | Choppies Super Stores Maun3 - Bosesa | Choppies Superstore Pilane | Choppies Superstore Tsabong | Choppies Superstore Shakawe | Choppies Super Store Zeerust Road Lobatse | Choppies Superstore Moruti Mall Molepolole | Choppies Superstore Tlokeng 1 | Choppies Superstore Dumela | Choppies Super Store Ramatswa Eastgate | Choppies Super Store Bodiba Mall | Choppies Lelihakane II | Choppies Molepolole

While stocks last we reserve the right to limit quantities. Prices vat include unless otherwise stated. E & O.E. All prices are per item unless otherwise stated. All Prices are in PULA.

Business

Letshego's solid performance

- Operating income at P3.48 billion in 2025
- Strong business fundamentals to continue to boost Letshego
- Growth anchored by Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique markets

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

PAN AFRICAN MICROLENDER Letshego Africa Holdings Limited has posted an impressive performance in 2025 full year performance driven by strong business fundamentals as the company embarks on a new phase by discontinuing operations in some markets in East and West Africa.

The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) listed Group released its 2025 full year results in Gaborone on Thursday, reporting a P2.4 billion in customer deposits.

Operating income jumped to P3.48 billion from P2.88 billion during the 2024 financial year.

Letshego Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Reinette van de Merwe said they enjoyed a strong performance with significant contribution coming from key markets of Southern African Development Community (SADC).

She said Botswana, Namibia and Mozambique remain key markets for Letshego and they would continue

to ensure that the markets are heavily protected and taken care of.

Van de Merwe stated that Letshego is exiting five markets – Uganda, Ghana, Tanzania, Rwanda and Nigeria.

Going forward, Van de Merwe said the group would focus on liquidity and capital optimisation, driving cost efficiencies and optimisation, adding that the business remains solid and well capitalised for the future.

“Our FY2025 results demonstrate that our business is executing with discipline and gaining momentum across its core operations. We are seeing clear improvements in earnings quality, credit performance and funding resilience, underpinned by more focused strategy and stronger operational execution,” she said.

STRONG FUNDAMENTALS

Meanwhile, outgoing Letshego Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Gwen Muteiwa said the business fundamentals are very strong and that is proven by solid performance



Letshego Group CEO, Reinette van de Merwe

across key business portfolios.

Muteiwa said the Deduction At Source (DAS) continue to be the backbone of business in terms of revenue generation.

Muteiwa said the Southern African markets are strong and have strong fundamentals on place that could guard the business, although the markets also have economic headwinds resulting in subdued growth.

According to Muteiwa, Letshego managed to reduce costs by P80 million as part of staff restructuring.

Muteiwa said the Profit after tax from continuing operations increased more than fourfold to P284 million (FY2024: BWP61.4 million).

The operating income, she said, grew by 8%, reflecting solid commercial momentum while the Net Impairments declined by 77%, with the loan loss ratio improving to 1%.

She said customer deposits increased to P2.2 billion, supporting enhanced funding diversification.

“We witnessed a strong revenue

performance from the core SADC markets. Also, the discontinued markets of Ghana and Tanzania also performed well. The discontinued markets are left in a good shape and are solid businesses,” said Muteiwa.

For her part, Poelo Mkpayah, the Group Head of Finance at Letshego, said the credit portfolio recorded an eight percent growth.

Mkpayah said the Group achieved double digit performance and growth in all of its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) both in the continuing and discontinuing markets.

She said the impairment expenses are trickling down, as demonstrated by the loan loss ratio from 4.5 percent in 2024 to one percent in 2025.

Mkpayah said the Group is committed to ensuring that every Pula that has been lost out is recovered, adding that what it is important is for Letshego to have an ability to collect the loans to ensure that the business remains afloat.

Choppies stronger, despite reduced profit

- Improves cash generation
- Pays P82m debt



Choppies Group CEO, Ramachandran Ottapathu
KITSO RAMONO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

CHOPPIES ENTERPRISES LIMITED saw a decline in profit before tax for the half-year ended December 2025, as tough economic conditions across its markets weighed on earnings and forced a reduction in shareholder returns. The retailer reported profit before tax of P99 million, down from BWP 139 million in the prior period, reflecting a sharp drop in profitability despite continued sales growth. In response to the weaker performance, the group declared an interim dividend of 1.0 Thebe per ordinary share, down from 1.6 Thebe previously, highlighting pressure on earnings and a more cautious payout stance. Operating profit (EBIT) fell 20% to P152 million as costs rose faster than revenue, driven by inflation, expansion-related expenses, and currency pressures. The group pointed to reduced consumer spending in Botswana, linked to the diamond market slump. Additional strain came from the devaluation of the Pula, government austerity measures, and increased promotional activity in a highly competitive retail environment.

Regionally, Namibia and Zambia delivered strong revenue growth but struggled to convert this into profits due to policy interventions and pricing pressures, while Botswana remained under strain from subdued demand.

Despite the earnings pressure, Choppies improved its cash generation, with free cash flow rising to P118 million. The group also moved to strengthen its balance sheet, fully repaying P82 million in consortium debt in January 2026. The retailer expects continued volatility but maintains that the slowdown in demand is cyclical. Management says focus will remain on cost discipline, improving efficiencies, and leveraging its expanded store network for future growth.

Absa: Income Up 5%, Profit Down 10%

KITSO RAMONO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

ABSA BANK BOTSWANA Limited made more money overall in 2025, but kept less of it, showing how tough the economic environment has become.

The bank's total income grew by 5% to P2.39 billion, thanks to more customer transactions and strong trading activity. But profits took a hit, with profit before tax falling 10% to about P951 million. In simple terms: the bank was earning more, but spending much more too.

Botswana's slow economy played a big role. The country's economy is estimated to have shrunk slightly in 2025, mainly because of weak diamond sales and tighter government spending. That meant businesses and consumers were under pressure, and that affects banks directly.

Managing Director Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane said the bank had to operate in a “challenging environment,” but remained stable.

Where the money came from

One bright spot was fees. The bank



Absa Bank Botswana MD, Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane
(PIC: GORATAONE KGOSIMORE)

made more money from transaction charges and services, with fee income rising 11% to P589.5 million. Trading income, money made from financial markets, jumped sharply by 67%.

But the bank earned less from its core business of lending money. Net interest income dropped 7% because it became more expensive to fund loans. In fact, interest costs shot up

by 41% as banks competed harder for deposits.

Why profits fell

The biggest problem was rising costs.

The bank spent 17% more than last year, with expenses reaching P1.33 billion. This includes staff costs, technology upgrades, and day-to-day running expenses.

At the same time, more customers struggled to repay loans, so the bank set aside more money to cover potential losses. These impairments rose 22% to P109.3 million.

Finance Director Kudakwashe Mukushi said this was a cautious approach to protect the bank in uncertain times.

Even with lower profits, the bank remains financially solid. The bank is also well-capitalised, meaning it has enough financial strength to handle shocks. Despite the drop in profits, the bank will still pay dividends. Shareholders will receive about 57.74 Thebe per share, totalling roughly P492 million.

What's next

The outlook remains uncertain. The economy is still weak, and challenges like low diamond demand and tight cash in the system are expected to continue. But there is some hope. Economic reforms and a possible recovery in diamonds could improve things going forward. For now, Absa is focusing on cutting risks, growing digital services, and finding new ways to make money beyond traditional lending.

BDC stares at P400m funding gap

... as the P5.8 billion portfolio returns just 1% and suffers 60% loan defaults

KITSO RAMONO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE BOTSWANA DEVELOPMENT Corporation Limited has sounded the alarm over a worsening revenue crisis, revealing that its multi-billion Pula investment portfolio is failing to generate sufficient cash to sustain operations.

Despite holding assets worth P5.8 billion, the state investment arm is only generating about P50 million in predictable annual cash flows, exposing a severe imbalance that has left the institution scrambling to plug a P400 million funding gap.

Addressing the media, Managing Director Oteng Keabetswe described the situation as a structural mismatch between assets and liquidity, driven by a combination of economic slowdown, underperforming investments and rising debt



BDC MD, Oteng Keabetswe
(PIC: GORATAONE KGOSIMORE)

obligations.

At the centre of the crisis is a collapsing revenue pipeline. BDC's investments, many built over decades to drive industrialisation, are no longer delivering returns, with

TO OPAGE 11



Scan for Pre-Registration



BHRDS
BOTSWANA HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT SKILLS FAIR
& CAREER CLINICS

BHRDS Fair &

Career Clinics 2026

Gaborone
14th - 17th April 2026
Fairground Holdings

Francistown
21st - 23rd April 2026
F/Town Council Stadium
(Old Stadium)

Maun
28th - 29th April 2026
The Life Centre Botswana

FREE ENTRY

HRDC invites all prospective students, potential exhibitors and sponsors to participate in the upcoming fair.

THEME

Creative Futures: Unlocking Skills, Culture, and Innovation for Youth Employability.

Partners



StanChart prioritises clients in Botswana exit

AMANDA DAVID
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK Botswana – one of the oldest banks in the country boasting of 129 years in existence in Botswana – has recently announced its plans to exit the Botswana market. The bank’s Chief Executive Officer Mpho Masupe told stakeholders in Francistown last weekend that throughout the process of selling the bank client satisfaction was at the forefront. Masupe said between the months of April and May, the bank would formally announce who is purchasing the bank, with the process expected to take between 12 and 18 months for the bank to have completed the sale. He further encouraged clients to continue banking with Standard Chartered as their needs would be prioritized above all.



Standard Chartered Botswana CEO, Mpho-Masupe

“We are very proud of our business, we are making sure that the person that buys it, first of all is able to look after our clients. That is the first thing in our whole checklist. That they have to be able to look after our

clients, they may not be able to give all the offerings that we were able to give but they might be able to give different kind of offerings, they might be able to give good things. Therefore, it would be great that you

continue to stay put,” Masupe reiterated. He clarified misconceptions that the bank might not be doing well in the Botswana market, adding that the bank is exiting the Botswana market to pursue other endeavors

and not because it is struggling. “This sale is not driven by the fact that there isn’t money in this country, because there is plenty of money. That is not the reason. The reason is purely a strategic issue where the group has said we want to go this particular direction in terms of strategy and not in this particular direction that we are currently having. We were biggest on retail, where 75 percent of our income comes from retail. We were a trade bank originally, the group has said we want to go back and become a trade bank, that is what we know best. The bank is doing great,” he noted.

The engagement brought together valued clients, business partners, and stakeholders for an afternoon of appreciation, connection, and dialogue, and at the same time marking a symbolic return to Standard Chartered’s roots as it first opened its doors in Francistown.

“Francistown is not just where our story began. It represents the deep relationships and enduring partnerships that have defined our journey in Botswana. For over a century, we have stood alongside our clients through growth, change, and opportunity, supporting businesses, families, and institutions as they shaped the nation,” said Masupe. Acting Head of Wealth and Retail Banking Diakolo Neo emphasized the importance of client relationships in shaping the bank’s evolution.

“This engagement is, above all, about appreciation. Our clients are at the heart of everything we do. Your trust has enabled us to grow, to innovate, and to continuously refine how we serve you. We remain committed to understanding your aspirations and supporting your financial journeys at every stage of life,” said Neo.

Orange Money partners with Taxi Association



Orange Money CEO, Seabelo Pilane

ORANGE MONEY BOTSWANA HAS ENTERED into a nationwide partnership with the Taxi Association to accelerate the digitisation of payments for Botswana’s public transport sector, marking a strategic shift toward cashless commuter experiences and enhanced financial inclusion.

The partnership will see the large-scale branding of taxis and combis across the country, alongside the onboarding of public transport operators onto Orange Money DuelaEasy merchant accounts. This dual approach is designed to formalize and modernize payment systems within the transport ecosystem, while creating new revenue streams for operators.

At the centre of the initiative is DuelaEasy, Orange Money’s digital payment solution that allows customers to pay directly from their Orange Money account using their phone. The service will now be accepted across participating taxis and combis. Orange Money CEO, Seabelo Pilane, said the partnership represents a deliberate push to embed digital financial services into everyday transactions.

“This partnership with the Taxi Association is a deliberate step toward transforming how commuters and transport operators handle payments during their daily journeys. Public

transport is a key touchpoint, and by enabling DuelaEasy payments in taxis and combis, we are making digital payments more accessible, practical, and relevant.”

Pilane added that the initiative is not only about convenience, but also about building a more inclusive and transparent financial ecosystem.

“We are bringing taxi operators into the formal digital economy by onboarding them onto merchant accounts. This empowers them with better financial management tools, improved security, and access to a broader suite of financial services.”

As part of its commitment to supporting and empowering operators, Orange Money has introduced an incentive programme that encourages taxi and combi drivers to assist customers who choose to pay using Orange Money.

“We understand that behavior change requires tangible value. These incentives are designed to directly benefit operators while encouraging the uptake of digital payments. Over time, this builds a sustainable ecosystem where both commuters and transport providers win,” Pilane said.

For commuters, the value proposition is anchored in convenience, speed, and safety. DuelaEasy eliminates the need for physical cash, reduces friction during peak travel periods, and enhances personal security by minimizing cash handling and transacting directly from your phone.

The nationwide rollout is expected to significantly increase DuelaEasy’s footprint, positioning Orange Money as a key player in Botswana’s digital payments landscape while reinforcing its commitment to innovation in everyday financial services.

The Taxi Association has validated and is supporting the rollout, ensuring alignment with operators and facilitating smooth implementation across regions.

Know Your Corporate Leader



Full Name: Daruosh Ghodrati

Position: President

Date Started: January 2026

Institution: NEC

Nature of business: The first private TVET institution in Botswana with a bright future for STEAM education

Anglo delists from the SIX Swiss Exchange

ANGLO AMERICAN PLC CONFIRMS that SIX Exchange Regulation has approved an application for the delisting of the Company’s 1,178,050,272 ordinary shares of US\$0.6239 each from the SIX Swiss Exchange.

Anglo American has decided to seek the Swiss Delisting as part of a review of its global share listings in connection with the proposed merger with Teck Resources Limited and because of a prolonged period of low trading volumes of Shares on the SIX Swiss Exchange and the regulatory burden

associated with multiple secondary listings.

Following the Swiss Delisting it will no longer be possible to trade Shares on the SIX Swiss Exchange. The last day of trading for Shares on the SIX Swiss Exchange is expected to be 25 June 2026. The Swiss Delisting is expected to be effective as of 26 June 2026. It is recommended that shareholders who trade Shares on the SIX Swiss Exchange consult with their investment advisors, brokers or other applicable professional advisors on the actions that should be taken as a result of

the Swiss Delisting.

As previously announced on 9 September 2025, on completion of the Merger, the Company expects to retain its primary listing on the London Stock Exchange as well as listings on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, the Toronto Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange (to be implemented as a listing of American Depositary Receipts), subject to the approval or acceptance of the applicable exchanges in the case of the TSX and the NYSE. [bse.co.bw]

MSc. International Finance and Investments

Applications for 2026 are now OPEN

Fees: P130,000.00

OVERVIEW

The programme is designed to meet the growing demand for highly skilled and intellectual professionals in wealth management. Learners will gain specialist knowledge in investment management and finance, while developing the ability to research, appraise and critically evaluate current issues in the financial sector. This programme covers topics in areas of pensions, socially responsible mutual funds and the impact of hedge funds on economic growth.

This programme is offered by Botswana School of Business Sciences in collaboration with Sheffield Business School which is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), placing them in the top 6% of business schools globally. In addition to excellent BAC tutors, learners also benefit from Sheffield Hallam’s exceptional teaching, which is rated 5* in the latest QS Top Universities rankings.

Programme Summary

- Develops transferable skills for national and international business.
- Explores financial markets, institutions, regulation and systems development.
- Analyses financial risk strategies for investment and portfolio management.
- Undertakes real-world learning to gain immediate value for current or potential employers.

Learning Methods and Mode of Delivery

This programme starts by developing a strong understanding of wealth management and the practical skills relating to investment management and finance practices globally. Learners are taught by staff who have industry experience and/or are active researchers.

Through a combination of teaching methods learners develop in-depth knowledge and a range of skills. Learners implement theories and techniques, problem-solving activities, research and teamwork – taking an active approach to their learning and self-development.

Future Careers

This programme prepares learners for careers as:

- Investment Analysts
- Financial Analysts
- Portfolio Analysts
- Equity or Fixed-Income Analysts
- Fund Management Assistants
- Risk Analysts
- Treasury Analysts
- Corporate Finance Analysts
- Financial Markets Analysts
- Investment Consultants

Entry Requirements

- The programme requires one of the following:
- 2:2 honours degree or above in a relevant subject
- A recognised postgraduate or professional qualification

Duration and Commencement Dates:

The minimum duration is 2 years. Application are now open. The course commences in September 2026. **Deadline for application 31st July 2026.**

How to Apply

Download application form from: <https://tinyurl.com/yc53s7c2> OR scan the QR Code



Completed application forms can be submitted via email to SHUApplications@bac.ac.bw or hard copy submitted to the Botswana School of Business Sciences, Gaborone New Campus, Ground Floor, Innovation Center, or at the Francistown Campus, Plot 31403, Moffat Street.

For Enquiries please contact: spgsadmin@bac.ac.bw or Call Tebogoo Bantitswe: +267 77 497 058 Monei Nthebolan: +267 75 373 995

Job Opportunity: Accountant

We are a fast-growing water purifying and bottling company in Botswana, committed to delivering safe, clean, and sustainable water solutions. Our innovative purification and Bottling systems and dedication to quality have positioned us as a trusted partner for households, businesses, and communities. As we expand, we are seeking a highly skilled **Accountant** to strengthen our financial management and compliance functions.

Position Overview

The **Accountant** will play a key role in ensuring accurate financial reporting, compliance with statutory obligations, and effective budgetary control. We are looking for a professional who is analytical, detail-oriented, and experienced in managing complex financial operations. The incumbent should have a proven track record in financial management, management and cost accounting, financial reporting, throughput accounting as well as extensive experience in both debtors and creditors management. Such experience needs to be demonstrated by a traceable track record of the candidates’ employment history. The candidate should be proficient with various accounting software, having the ability to coach and train junior team members under their supervision.

Key Responsibilities

- Prepare and authenticate financial statements in line with IFRS and GAAP.
- Manage costing, budgeting, and cash flow projections to support operational efficiency.
- Manage plant and operational efficiency ratios to optimize energy and utility usage and ensure production materials are efficiently utilized in cost effective manner.
- Ensure production is linked to the bill of material financial setup.
- Oversee accounts payable/receivable, reconciliations, and supplier confidence-building measures.
- Ensure compliance with tax regulations and statutory obligations.
- Implement and manage ERP/accounting systems for accurate reporting and inventory control.
- Liaise with auditors, regulatory bodies, and management to ensure timely submissions.
- Provide financial insights to guide strategic investment and operational decisions.

Qualifications and work experience

- A trained and qualified Chartered Accountant
- A minimum of 10 years’ experience in accounting and finance roles
- Strong knowledge of IFRS, GAAP, and tax compliance.
- Proficiency in ERP/accounting software (e.g., Sage, Syspro, Flowcentric, Tally).
- Excellent leadership, communication, and analytical skills.
- Ability to thrive in a dynamic environment and deliver timely, accurate reports.
- Experience in the Food & Beverage manufacturing industry, FMCG and Water Purification & Bottling Industry is an added advantage.

Details of benefits will be communicated to successful candidates only.

Send your applications to:

blazinggroup123@gmail.com

Closing date: 13 April 2026

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Stanbic launches Zero-Deposit Home Loan

KITSO RAMONO

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA HAS introduced a new home financing solution designed to expand access to housing and ease the burden on citizens struggling to build despite owning land.

The Legae Home Loan scheme, launched in Gaborone, offers up to P650,000 in financing with no deposit requirement, moving away from traditional mortgage models that often demand substantial upfront contributions.

Speaking at the launch, Stanbic Bank Botswana Chief Executive Chose Modise said the initiative reflects the bank's commitment to addressing real challenges faced by Batswana. He emphasised that a home is more than a financial asset, describing it as a foundation for families, a space where values are shaped and a driver of community growth. He noted that

many people remain locked out of home ownership due to limited financing options and complex processes, and said the new product is aimed at removing those barriers.

Modise added that the launch aligns with the bank's broader strategy of pursuing inclusive and sustainable growth, with a focus on solutions that make a meaningful impact in people's lives rather than simply increasing lending volumes.

Acting Head of Personal and Private Banking Legae Motladiile said the product was developed after the bank identified a persistent gap between land ownership and the ability to build. He explained that while many citizens already have land, accessing financing and managing construction remains a major challenge, often leading to delays, rising costs or abandoned projects.

He said the Legae Home Loan was structured to bridge the gap between personal loans and traditional mortgages by offering full financing, eliminating the

Legae Home Loan scheme



Stanbic Bank CEO, Chose Modise

[PIC: GORATAONE KGOSIMORE]

need for a deposit and extending repayment over a period of up to ten years to improve affordability. The product also removes additional costs such as legal, valuation and bond registration fees, which are typically associated with conventional mortgages.

Motladiile further highlighted that the bank will appoint project managers to oversee construction from start to finish, ensuring that homes are completed and that clients are supported throughout the process. She said the ultimate goal is not just to issue loans, but to ensure that families are able to move into finished homes.

The scheme also incorporates a sustainability component, with pre-designed one-, two- and three-bedroom housing options developed through a partnership with local industry stakeholders. These designs include features such as solar energy, rainwater harvesting and natural lighting, reflecting a growing emphasis on environmentally responsible housing.

Minister of Water and Human Settlements Onnetse Ramogapi welcomed the initiative,

describing it as a timely intervention that complements government efforts under the Bonno National Housing Programme. He said while government has made progress in delivering housing units, financing for end-users has remained a major challenge, particularly for low- and middle-income households facing affordability constraints and limited access to credit.

Ramogapi noted that the Stanbic scheme comes at a critical time as more housing units are expected to enter the market, and said partnerships between the public and private sectors will be key in addressing the country's housing deficit.

Stanbic Bank says the success of the Legae Home Loan will be measured not only by uptake, but by the number of completed homes, the stability of families and the growth of communities.

The bank believes the initiative will also stimulate economic activity by supporting construction and related industries, while contributing to broader national development goals.

Debswana to drive economic diversification

- establishes business development department for the project



Debswana Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Ian Modubule

DEBSWANA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO), Ian Modubule has outlined that Debswana has established a new Business Development Department, with its primary mandate of creating a permanent and institutionalised capacity to advance the company's contribution to Botswana's long term economic diversification. He said the department represents a deliberate strategic step toward positioning Debswana as a key partner in shaping a sustainable and resilient future for the country as anticipated in the 2036 Vision roadmap.

Modubule highlighted that at its reflection point and aligning to its new strategy, Debswana saw it fitting to pivot on the formation of the department. Part of this, he said is to demonstrate its long-term commitment to expanding value beyond diamond mining.

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) declared that the Business Development Department will ignite breakout businesses that will transform the business and lead it into new territories. He noted that, while diamonds remain central to the company's legacy, the new structure enables a focused approach to identifying and developing opportunities that support broader economic growth and innovation.

He reiterated that to deal with global business dynamics, Debswana pivots on its agile approach principle aware of the fact that yesterday's

success does not guarantee tomorrow's success. Modubule explained that through the new department, Debswana is transforming its core purpose from primarily a resource extraction company to a sustainable economic architect that contributes to building new industries, enterprises and capabilities in Botswana.

Modubule furthermore shared that the department will leverage Debswana's existing strengths, with a strong emphasis on human capital as a driver of innovation and enterprise development. He said by harnessing internal expertise and nurturing capabilities, the department will explore ventures that create long term value for both the organisation and the nation. He outlined that central to the department's success will be strategic external partnerships with government, State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), entrepreneurs and development stakeholders across the country. He said these collaborations are expected to enable Debswana to unlock opportunities that extend beyond the mining sector and foster inclusive economic participation.

Modubule said beyond pursuing individual ventures, the Business Development Department aims to build thriving and self-sustaining businesses and systems that contribute meaningfully to Botswana's economic landscape, reinforcing Debswana's role as a catalyst for sustainable national development.

BDC stares at...

FROM PAGE 9

some failing to pay dividends altogether.

The broader economic climate has compounded the problem. Weak diamond revenues and sluggish market activity have filtered through to businesses across the economy, dragging down performance within BDC's portfolio and forcing the corporation to impair asset values.

But it is the debt book that poses the most immediate threat.

More than 60 percent of BDC's loans are non-performing, effectively choking cash inflows and limiting the corporation's ability to recycle capital. Businesses funded by BDC are struggling to repay, leaving the institution exposed and its revenue streams severely constrained.

At the same time, BDC faces annual debt servicing obligations of about P450 million, far exceeding the cash it is able to generate internally.

Historically, the corporation relied on dividends and the sale of listed equities to bridge funding gaps. That option has now narrowed, with weak market liquidity and declining stock performance making it difficult to unlock value from investments.

Compounding the pressure is BDC's heavy exposure to real estate, which accounts for 37 percent of its portfolio. The sector is under strain from high borrowing costs and declining yields, further eroding returns.

Faced with mounting pressure, BDC is now moving aggressively to stabilise its finances.

Management has established a dedicated recovery unit tasked with

pursuing defaulters, enforcing securities and reclaiming capital tied up in non-performing loans. The corporation has signalled a tougher stance, warning that repossessions and legal action will be used where necessary.

At the same time, BDC is overhauling its investment strategy — targeting high-yield, cash-generating sectors to rebuild revenue streams.

Recent investments in firms such as Letshego and Bayport Financial Services mark a decisive shift towards financial services, where returns are quicker and more predictable.

In just seven months, BDC has deployed P550 million into new investments expected to generate P74 million annually, a sharp contrast to the weak returns from its legacy portfolio. The corporation is also reviewing long-held assets, with plans to exit underperforming investments and redeploy capital into ventures capable of delivering double-digit returns.

Internally, efforts are underway to restructure and refinance debt, easing pressure on repayments while freeing up capital for reinvestment. For now, BDC has paused its regional expansion strategy, choosing instead to focus on domestic investments aimed at stimulating economic activity and job creation.

Yet even as it fights to restore financial stability, the corporation insists it remains committed to its development mandate, balancing commercial returns with national economic impact.

Audited annual results

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Taking brands beyond borders

CA SALES HOLDINGS LIMITED T/A CA&S GROUP

CA&S
group

Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa

Revenue	Operating profit	Earnings per share	Headline earnings per share	Dividend per share
↑ 2.3%	↑ 10.0%	↑ 13.4%	↑ 17.1%	↑ 17.4%

Nature of business

CA Sales Holdings Limited ("CA&S", "the group" or "the company") is an Africa-focused group of route-to-market specialists, with a dual listing on the Botswana Stock Exchange and the JSE Limited. The group holds a portfolio of dynamic fast-moving consumer goods service businesses that partner with global and local brand owners to get their products to consumers – ensuring their brands reach the right stores and shoppers across Southern and East Africa.

The group connects brands to retail channels and shoppers. Its end-to-end capabilities span selling and tailored distribution models, warehousing and logistics, retail execution and merchandising. Beyond operational delivery, the group adds value through shopper marketing and activation, advisory and training, point-of-sale and promotional support, as well as data, technology and analytics solutions that drive smarter decisions and measurable growth.

Every day, the group's people are on the ground – navigating complexity, solving last-mile challenges and ensuring products are available and visible on the shelf. With deep insight, local roots and regional scale, CA&S turns brand ambition into market reality – helping clients protect and grow their market share across the African retail landscape.

Financial highlights

The group delivered a resilient performance for the year ended 31 December 2025 against a backdrop of tough trading conditions in some of its key markets. In particular, the slowdown in the Botswana economy weighed on consumer spend during the period under review. Revenue increased by 2.3% to R12.81 billion (2024: R12.52 billion). In an environment characterised by constrained consumer activity, the group's ability to achieve topline growth reflects the successful onboarding of new clients through a continued focus on expanding its client portfolio. Operational efficiencies resulted in a gross profit increase of 7.2% to R2.06 billion (2024: R1.92 billion).

Effective cost containment and increased income from associates as a result of the acquisition of the Tradco Group in East Africa, bolstered profitability. Operating profit for the year increased by 10.0% to R860.88 million (2024: R782.57 million). Earnings per share increased by 13.4% to 143.95 South African cents ("cents") per share (2024: 126.89 cents per share). Headline earnings increased by 17.9% to R690.25 million (2024: R585.31 million). Headline earnings per share increased by 17.1% to 143.72 cents per share (2024: 122.71 cents per share). Total assets increased by 11.7% to R6.31 billion due mainly to the increased investment in associates explained below, and increased cash resources from R1.17 billion to R1.45 billion on 31 December 2025, derived from operating activities. The group approved capital investment of R300 million during the year under review for the acquisition and development of land and buildings in Eswatini. As at the reporting date, 49% of the approved capital expenditure has been deployed in line with the planned project timeline.

In line with the group's geographical expansion strategy, CA&S acquired 35% of the share capital of Trapin Holdings Limited ("the Tradco Group") for R108.4 million on 17 February 2025. The group has the option to acquire an additional 20% in 2026. The Tradco Group is a trade marketing and branding services and distribution business based in Kenya with further operations in Uganda and Tanzania.

The dividend declared increased by 17.4% to 28.69 cents per share (2024: 24.44 cents per share). The value is in accordance with the company's dividend policy.

Outlook

Our geographical expansion in priority markets is predominantly client-led. In parallel, we will broaden our product and service portfolio through complementary offerings that strengthen our value proposition.

Digital transformation remains a strategic priority, enabling improved data insight, service execution and operational consistency across territories. Continued focus on operational efficiency will remain critical as we scale the business while maintaining effective cost management, ensuring we remain future fit.

Our diversified geographic footprint provides both resilience and growth opportunity, supported by strong local leadership, long-standing client relationships and deep market understanding.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Shareholders are referred to the announcement released on SENS and X-News on 26 March 2026 ("Full Announcement").

This short-form press announcement contains only a summary of the information in the Full Announcement and does not contain full or complete details. For additional information, please refer to the Full Announcement which is also available for viewing on CA&S' website at <https://casholdings.co.za/results-reports/>.

Any investment decisions by investors and/or shareholders should be based on consideration of the Full Announcement as a whole, published on SENS and X-News and available on CA&S' website.

Our priorities remain clear, and we will continue to approach execution with the same discipline that has supported the group's long-term growth.

This short-form press announcement is the responsibility of the directors of the company.

For and on behalf of the board

26 March 2026

JA Holtzhausen
Chairperson

DS Lewis
Chief Executive Officer

Dividend declaration

Notice is hereby given that the final gross ordinary share cash dividend of 28.69 (2024: 24.44) South African cents ("cents") (or Botswana thebe equivalent) per share in respect of the year ended 31 December 2025 was declared by the board, from income reserves, on Thursday, 26 March 2026. In line with the group's dividend policy, the dividend was maintained at 20% of the headline earnings. The dividend declaration salient dates are as follows:

Declaration date	Thursday, 26 March 2026
Finalisation date	Tuesday, 7 April 2026
Last day to trade cum dividend	Tuesday, 14 April 2026
Trading ex-dividend commences	Wednesday, 15 April 2026
Record date	Friday, 17 April 2026
Payment date	Monday, 20 April 2026

To facilitate settlement of the dividend to shareholders on the South African share register, share certificates may not be dematerialised or rematerialised between Wednesday, 15 April 2026 and Friday, 17 April 2026, both dates inclusive. Shares cannot be moved between the South African share register and the Botswana share register and no such transfers of shares between the South African share register and the Botswana share register shall be registered, between Tuesday, 7 April 2026 and Friday, 17 April 2026, both days inclusive.

For shares held on the South African share register, the cash consideration in itself will be exempt from income tax as it constitutes a dividend. The cash consideration will generally give rise to a liability for dividends tax at the rate of 20% in accordance with the Income Tax Act, No. 58 of 1962, as amended. A shareholder who does not qualify for an exemption from the dividends tax will receive a net dividend of 22.952 cents per share.

The exchange rate applicable for the conversion of South African rand to Botswana pula, tax implications and other information on the payment to shareholders on the Botswana share register will be confirmed in a separate announcement to be released on BSE X-News and the JSE SENS on Tuesday, 7 April 2026, being the finalisation date.

The number of issued shares at the declaration date is 481 218 764. The tax registration number of the company is 9390266170.

Shareholders must take individual advice as to applicable taxes.

The dividend is being paid from South Africa.

Audit opinion

The consolidated annual financial statements were audited by the group's auditors Deloitte & Touche, who expressed an unmodified audit opinion thereon. The full audit opinion, including any key audit matters, is available on the group's website at <https://casholdings.co.za/results-reports/> together with the group annual financial statements.

Company registration number: 2011/143100/06

Registered as an external company in the Republic of Botswana

Botswana registration number: BW00001085331

JSE share code: CAA BSE share code: CAS-EQO ISIN: ZAE400000036

Registered office: 1st Floor, Building C, Westend Office Park, 254 Hall Street, Centurion, South Africa, 0157

Independent non-executive directors: JA Holtzhausen (Chairperson), FW Britz, LR Cronje, B Marole, E Masilela, B Mathews, JS Moakofi, B Patel, J Craven (Alternate non-executive)

Executive directors: DS Lewis (Chief Executive Officer), FJ Reichert (Chief Financial Officer)

Company secretary: B Naude

JSE Sponsor: PSG Capital (Pty) Ltd

BSE Sponsoring Broker: Imara Capital Securities (Pty) Ltd

lifestyle

Geopolitical Chokepoints of Artificial Intelligence

THE YEAR 2026 IS IN MANY ways the year of AI datacenter and semiconductor bottlenecks.

The Helium Shortage
“The Iran War has created a choke point in the supply of helium, a byproduct of natural gas processing and LNG production that’s used in more than 20 steps of semiconductor fabrication...” Helium, of all things? Helium’s unique physical properties make it irreplaceable for modern chip fabrication. Qatar is the source of 34% of global helium supply.

The Strait of Hormuz closure has blocked exports, leaving a significant portion of global supply stranded. South Korea is the most exposed, sourcing 64.7% of its helium from Qatar. This could exasperate the HBM Bottlenecks that was already in place with rising prices. Samsung and SK Hynix produce over 60% of global memory and supply most HBM used in Nvidia’s AI GPUs.

HBM is a major bottleneck for AI GPUs. HBM is essentially a 3D skyscraper of DRAM dies. This creates a “manufacturing bottleneck” that slows down the entire AI supply chain. When military strikes in the Iran War hit the Ras Laffan Industrial City in Qatar. This single facility accounts for roughly 30% to 33% of the world’s helium supply. How geopolitics and the semiconductor industry intersect is obviously way more complicated than of us realize.

The Datacenter Slowdown
New data center announcements fell by half in Q4 2025. In Ed Zitron’s latest piece: The AI Industry Is Lying To You, he goes over some interesting issues here. The source of Paul Kedrosky and Zitron appears to

be data from Wood Mackenzie. This accelerating slowdown of datacenter announcements have many factors. “Of the 241GW of disclosed data center capacity, only 33% of it is actually under active development.” According to the sources, planned capex remains skewed towards large, speculative projects.

DRAM Shortage - RAMageddon
So as of March 2026, the industry is experiencing what analysts are calling “RAMageddon” — a severe, structural shortage of both High Bandwidth Memory (HBM) and conventional DRAM.

What appears to be happening, and I’m not an expert here, is that unlike previous “boom-bust” cycles caused by temporary oversupply, this shortage is driven by a fundamental reallocation of global silicon wafer capacity toward AI. The real bottleneck for GPUs is TSMC, but let’s not even go there today.

ARM Announces AI Chip
In somewhat unrelated AI chip news: ARM finally announced it’s much anticipated AI chip. It’s called Arm AGI CPU. This marks a historic departure from the company’s 35-year-old business model of purely licensing intellectual property (IP) to partners like Apple, Qualcomm, and Nvidia. Instead of just selling blueprints, Arm is now selling physical chips to the likes of Meta, OpenAI, SAP, Cloudflare and others.

They announced this in an ARM Everywhere keynote on March 24th. I found it all fairly interesting. The company claims its flagship AI chip is specifically designed to handle the orchestration required for Agentic AI—autonomous systems that reason and act with minimal oversight.

Modipane is Miss Botswana 2026



MAGDELINE MODIPANE has been crowned Miss Botswana 2026. Mosa Gontshwanetse and Michelle Bagoleng were crowned first and second princesses, respectively. Buoyed by corporate support from Lucara Botswana, who pledged P500,000 to the pageant and an additional P600,000

to Change Africa to support initiatives aimed at empowering women ahead of the grand finale last Saturday. Lucara Botswana Managing Director, Naseem Lahri said the sponsorship was aimed at empowering young women who are the best exporters of Botswana’s beauty and culture on the international platforms. She said the funding

allocated to Change Africa - a social enterprise that supports innovative entrepreneurship and thought leadership development, would help advance a pilot programme in Maun aimed at uplifting and teaching women how to grow crops, rear animals, and to sustain themselves and the community, while building entrepreneurial skills.

Give to Gain

The strength, balance, and resilience of women in banking



Absa, Head of People Function, Segomotso Banda

SEGOMOTSO BANDA
Absa, Head of People Function

EVERY DAY, ACROSS BANK branches and boardrooms, women are holding more than just roles, they are holding balance.

They are driving performance in high-pressure environments while embracing sisterhood and showing up as daughters and mothers; raising families, supporting communities and navigating expectations that often go unseen. Their stories are not always told, but their impact is undeniable.

As we mark International Women’s Day under the theme Give to Gain, we are reminded that progress is not accidental. It is built on the resilience, adaptability and determination of women who continue to rise, even in the face of challenges.

For many women in banking, success is not linear. It is a constant balancing act between ambition and responsibility, leadership and expectation while still finding moments to carve out time for self-care. Balance is not about perfection; it is about making intentional choices and finding the strength to keep moving forward.

Yet, the journey is not without barriers. Many women still face being overlooked, underestimated or required to prove themselves more than others. Broader societal challenges, including gender-based violence, continue to impact their ability to fully participate and thrive.

Through it all, women continue to

rise. Across the sector, women are shaping strategy, driving innovation and influencing the future of financial services. Their leadership is not only changing the face of banking but also strengthening it.

Resilience alone is not enough. It is support that drives real progress. No woman succeeds in isolation. Behind every success story is a network of mentors, colleagues, families and organisations that create space for growth.

This is the essence of Give to Gain. When we invest in women, through mentorship, opportunity and inclusion, we unlock potential that benefits everyone.

At Absa Bank Botswana, this belief is embedded in how we develop our people and support our communities. We are committed to creating an environment where women can grow into leadership, access opportunities and define success on their own terms. Beyond the workplace, we continue to support women entrepreneurs and communities, recognising that true empowerment must be inclusive.

As we reflect on the progress made, we must also recognise that more remains to be done.

Creating a future where all women can thrive requires deliberate action from all of us. It calls for mentorship, advocacy and a commitment to opening doors for others.

It is through giving that we do not lose, but gain. We gain stronger workplaces. Stronger communities. And a more inclusive, resilient future for all.

Moreri is Miss Millenium 2026



MRS LEANO Sekakela-Moreri from Molepolole was crowned Miss Millennium 2026 at Millennium Jazz Restaurant in Mogoditshane last Saturday night. Phatsimo Ranjo won the First Princess while Tshepiso Mphethe snatched the Second Princess.

CHOPPIES
itumelele week-ente
#Fly into Savings!
While stocks last we reserve the right to limit quantities. Prices vary include unless otherwise stated. E & O.E. All prices are per item only unless otherwise stated. All Prices are in PULA.

Pampers pants
Jumbo Pack
179⁹⁹
PAMPERS Pants

Butterfly TOILET ROLLS 2 PLY
18 ROLLS
86⁹⁹
BUTTERFLY Toilet Rolls 2-Ply each

Ellis Brown
750g
47⁹⁹
ELLIS BROWN Creamer each

Bonnita Long Life milk FULL CREAM
1 Ltr
18⁹⁹
BONNITA Full Cream Milk

Aquafresh
100ml
13⁹⁹
AQUAFRSH Toothpaste each

POTATOES
10kg
69⁹⁹
POTATOES Bag

PRICES VALID FROM 27-29 MARCH, 2026
AVAILABLE AT ALL CHOPPIES STORES COUNTRYWIDE

**11TH FEBRUARY 2026
TO 10TH MAY 2026**

AVAILABLE IN GABORONE ONLY

SPECIALS

Tel: 3951001 Whatsapp: 74 116 841 • email: gaborone@haskins.co.bw

HASKINS

tsotlhe di teng!

All Prices are 14% VAT Inclusive • Cash Only While Stocks Last • Subject to Statutory Prices Increases, E.&O.E.

H&C Taps & Mixers *The New Benchmark in Quality*

 BELLA Basin Mixer P419.95	 BELLA Bath Mixer with Hand Shower P834.95	 BELLA Sink Mixer Wall Type P589.95	 BELLA Bath/Shower Mixer P429.95
 BREO Sink Mixer Wall Type P649.95	 BREO Undertile Stop Tap P224.95	 BREO Basin Mixer P779.95	 BREO Bath Mixer with Hand Shower P1250.00

KWIKOT Geysers - SABS

 100L P4,495.00
 150L 4,695.00

PROMAC easycoat
Modern paint for modern living.
NEW RANGE



Easycoat Textured Acrylic (exterior) 20L
all standard colours in stock
P825.00



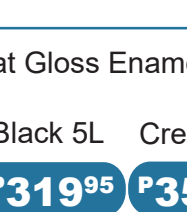
Easycoat Walls & Ceilings 20L
all standard colours in stock
P579.95



Easycoat Silk Acrylic (interior) 20L
all standard colours in stock
P895.00

Easycoat Roofcote 20L
all standard colours in stock
P799.95

Easycoat Gloss Enamel:

		
White 5L	Black 5L	Cream 5L
P389.95	P319.95	P359.95

Sanitaryware

 Basin 500mm Amalphi Lecico (1TH or 2TH) P299.95	 Basin 535mm Sarah Lecico (Basin Only) P650.00
 Geberit L/L Cistern (complete) P599.95	 Toilet Suite C/C Lecico (complete) P995.00

Lecico
Top Quality Ceramics

HONDA Generators with low oil alert

 6kVA Rope Start P13,995.00	 Genweid 180A 6KVA Rope Start P21,250.00
 EZ3000CX P16,495.00	 EZ3000CX P6,495.00

Pine Timber SABS. Grade S5. SOLIDS!

 38x38mm x 6.0m P59.95	 38x114mm x 6.0m P150.00	 50x76mm x 6.0m P150.00
---	---	--

GUMPOLES SABS. Grade H4. With Anti-Spill Plates

 Creosote 21m 75-100mm P79.95	 Creosote 24m 75-100mm P89.95	 Creosote 30m 75-100mm P119.95	 Creosote 27m 100-125mm P159.95
--	--	---	---

HONDA GP Water Pumps with low oil alert

 2" Pump P4,795.00	 3" Pump P5,195.00
--	--




Red Rhino Generators

 3.8kVA Inverter Rope Start P5,595.00	 5kVA E/S (excl. batt) P9,995.00
--	---

CAT POWER TOOLS

 Impact Drill 13mm 600W DX175 P519.95	 Rotary Hammer 4 Mode 800W DX2140 P1,850.00	 Angle Grinder 115mm 750W DX371 P569.00
 Demolition Hammer 15kg 1750W DX29 P9,695.00	 Angle Grinder 230mm 2350W DX351 P1,675.00	 Cordless Impact Drill 18V 2.0 Ah (1 battery) DX155 P1,375.00

EQUIP Power Products

 2" Pump P1,895.00
 3" Pump P2,150.00
 4" Pump P4,195.00

WATERPROOFING

 DURAM Flexikote 5L Kit (ALL colours) P159.95	 Flash Harry Drip Stop 5L P289.95	 Flash Harry Bitumen Mastic 5L P555.00
 Waterproofing Membrane 200mm x 10m P42.95	 Waterproofing Tape 50mm x 2.5m P225.00	 Tarpaulins Nylon PVC 2x3m P465.00
 75mm x 2.5m P349.95	 3x4m P930.00	 4x6m 1,850.00

STIHL

 Chainsaw MS172 1.5kW, 30cm P2,750.00
 Chainsaw MS310 3.2kW, 37cm P6,995.00
 Mistblower SR420 2.6kW P7,495.00
 Brushcutter FS3001 25.4cc 0.75kW - Domestic P2,495.00

PIPES

 Pipe HDPE Class 10 25mm / metre (sold in increments of 25m) P4.95	 Pipe PVC SABS U/G Plain P154.95
 Pipe HDPE Class 16 40mm / metre (sold in rolls only) P26.50	 PVC SABS Waste (S&V) 40mm x 6m P86.95
	 50mm x 6m P119.95

FENCING

 Veldspan 10STR/119cm/15cm (1.2x100m) SABS (Kalahari) P1,495.00	 Wire Galv 50kg 4.0mm x 503m SABS P1,150.00	 Wire Hi-Strain 50kg 2.24mm x 1650m SABS P1,150.00	 Barbed Wire 28.5kg SGL 2.0mm x 845m SABS P799.95
--	--	---	--

TANKS

 2,500L Makoro P2,250.00
 5,000L Makoro P2,995.00
 10,000L Makoro P8,395.00

CPVC Pipe

 16mm x 4m CL16 P64.95	 20mm x 4m CL16 P94.95
---	---

All other CPVC pipe and fittings on in-house special

UNION Lockset CZ682 C. P.

 2L SABS P249.95	 3L SABS P299.95
 Double Cylinder SABS P339.95	

STEEL DOOR FRAMES Extra Heavy Duty 1.2mm

 813x2032x115mm P514.95	 813x2032x230mm P734.95
--	--

SOLID DOORS

 Hardboard 813x2032mm P239.95	 Tudor White 813x2032mm P369.95	 Meranti 6 Panel 813x2032mm P1,050.00	 Meranti FL&B 813x2032mm P1,695.00
 Townsend White 813x2032mm P369.95	 Meranti 8 Panel 813x2032mm P1,050.00	 Saligna FL&B 813x2032mm P999.95	



WE DELIVER

Francistown
Tel: 241 2301
francistown@haskins.co.bw
Whatsapp: +267 74 595 000

Kasane
Tel: 625 0124
kasane@haskins.co.bw
Whatsapp: +267 71 288 952

Palapye
Tel: 492 0300
palapye@haskins.co.bw
Whatsapp: +267 76 127 695

Pandamatenga
Tel: 623 2036
jan@haskins.co.bw
Whatsapp: +267 71 288 963

Gaborone
Tel: 395 1001
gaborone@haskins.co.bw
Whatsapp: +267 74 116 841

Maun
Tel: 686 0221
maun@haskins.co.bw
Whatsapp: +267 77 129 645

We Accept



Sport

Ntungga invades Cairo

Seeks glory at Africa Junior Championships U-18 in Cairo, Egypt

BAKWADI LEKOPANE
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

BOTSWANA'S TENNIS sensation, Ntungamili Raguin had on Friday morning qualified for both the singles Final and the doubles Final of the Africa Junior Championships (U18) in Cairo, Egypt.

He secured a place in the Singles Final with a strong 6-2, 6-3 win over Egyptian player Wageh. He achieved this feat after a day that seemed to stretch endlessly, after rain delays, and after a match that went deep into the night.

A day before, Ntungga smashed into the semi-finals of the African Junior Championships (U18) in Cairo,

Egypt on Thursday after beating Ahmed Darmoul (Tunisia) 6-4, 6-1.

And then, an incredible doubles battle followed. Together with Ali Missoum of Mali, they saved 2 match points, came through a rain-delayed thriller, and won the match at 10pm. The final score was 5-4 (7-4), 2-4, 11-9 in a short sets format. A big day. A big fight for Ntungga and his partner in the quarter finals.

After yet another intense match, which finished at midnight on Thursday, Ntungga and Ali are through to the Doubles Final. They won 4-5 (5-7), 4-1, 10-7 (short sets format) in the third battle of the day.

Earlier on Tuesday, Ntungga advanced to the singles Quarter-finals, after achieving a similar feat in the



doubles. Accompanied by Coach Killian Sinclair, Ntungga is competing against a strong field, including a significant number of local Egyptian players. Traditionally strong on clay, he continues his run in the tournament and remains among the final eight players. In the 1/4 finals, he will face Ahmed Darmoul of Tunisia. Ntungga is taking on a tougher challenge in the Under 18 category after winning the Africa Junior Championships at U-14 and U-16 levels before. The ITF/CAT Africa Junior Championships Under 18 is taking place from the 23-27 March 2026. The continental meet brings together Africa's top Juniors and represent a key milestone in the ITF/CAT Junior Competitive Calendar. As Ntungamili continues to progress on the international stage, he will use the tournament as a competitive

objective and preparation for the upcoming clay season. He will also use the Africa Junior Championships U-18 as preparation for the French Junior Open coming in June.

Ntungga travelled to Egypt after recently bowing out in the quarterfinals of the ITF J200 in Spain after losing to Mexico's Luis Andres Flores Avila. Ntungga's father, Dominic Raguin was over the moon on Friday: "Some weeks say a lot about a journey. This one says everything. Two finals. At the African Championships. In the same week. There are moments in a journey where you realise something is changing. Not just results, but belief, presence, and direction. This is one of those moments. Very proud of Ntungamili. Deeply grateful for everyone walking this journey with us. And ready for what comes next".

WAR26: Debswana splashes P16 million

STAFF WRITERS
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

DEBSWANA DIAMOND Company, on Thursday announced a P16 million sponsorship to ensure the success of the World Athletics Relays (WAR) Gaborone 26, billed for the National Stadium on 2nd - 3rd May 2026, the first ever global meet to be held on African soil. The sponsorship presents a grand opportunity for Debswana cement its global brand presence.

"As the world turns attention to Gaborone, Debswana will leverage the moment to tell the authentic and compelling story of natural diamonds, a story rooted in positive impact, sustainability, and national development," said Debswana Managing Director, Andrew Motsomi. "This generous gesture is a bold statement of confidence in our country, in our people, and in our shared vision for the future. It



Unveiling of the sponsorship

reflects a commitment to national development, to excellence in sport, and to the power of partnership in achieving great things," he added.

The naming rights partnership firmly positions Debswana at the heart of what promises to be a truly world-class event, according to the Minister of Sport & Arts, Jacob Kelebeg. Going forward, the WAR Gaborone 26 will now carry the Debswana name,

an enduring symbol of Botswana's strength, resilience, and progress.

The World Athletics Relays 2026 is expected to attract approximately 1,735 athletes and officials, alongside hundreds of technical personnel and volunteers, and thousands of international visitors.

According to the World Relays, the event will deliver unprecedented global exposure, with over 1 billion

online impressions, coverage by more than 150 international broadcasters, and participation from over 120 accredited international journalists and photographers.

The event programme will feature world-class relay competitions, including the Men's and Women's 4x100m, 4x400m, and mixed relay events, and is expected to attract top athletes from around the world.

Through this partnership, Debswana aims to utilise this platform to revive the diamond market by promoting the natural diamond story to the world highlighting the critical role diamonds play in transforming lives, supporting communities, and driving sustainable economic growth in Botswana.

"This partnership represents a powerful opportunity to amplify Debswana's global brand presence. As the world turns its attention to Gaborone, we will leverage this moment to tell the authentic and compelling story of natural diamonds, a story rooted in positive

impact, sustainability, and national development," said Motsomi.

Motsomi added that the sponsorship aligns strongly with Debswana's broader brand and national storytelling objectives, particularly in advancing Botswana's visibility on the global stage and reinforcing the value proposition of natural diamonds in an evolving luxury market.

Moses Bantsi, CEO of World Athletics Relays Gaborone 26, expressed his appreciation for the landmark contribution: "This generous sponsorship from Debswana is a game-changer for the World Athletics Relays.

It reinforces the strength of public-private partnership in Botswana but also ensures that we deliver a world-class event that showcases our nation's capability to host global competitions. We are thrilled to have Debswana on board as title sponsor as we prepare to welcome the world to Gaborone."

A series of activations will be rolled out before, during, and after the event to maximise brand visibility, stakeholder engagement, and global impact to ensure that Botswana's diamond story resonates with international audiences.

FNBB drills sport media

BOTSWANA PREMIER LEAGUE (BPL) title sponsor FNB Botswana held two highlevel sessions from 24th to 25th March 2026 as part of an engagement strategy targeting both premiership clubs and sports journalists.

The FNB Premiership Club Engagement and the FNB Premiership Media Engagement sessions brought together key stakeholders across the football value chain. The club session drew representatives from FNB Premiership teams, while the media engagement convened sports journalists and practitioners.

Central to both engagements was a strong focus on financial literacy and fraud awareness as critical tools for sustainability within the football ecosystem. Sessions were facilitated by FNBB experts who delivered practical insights on financial management and fraud awareness tailored to the realities of clubs and media professionals.

The media engagement was further strengthened by a workshop led by a seasoned journalist, who guided attendees on telling impactful local football stories, underlining the media's role in shaping the sport's narrative and growth.

FNBB Communications & Public Relations Manager, Boga ChilindeMasebu, said the initiative reflects their longterm vision for football development in Botswana. "We are deliberate about going beyond sponsorship because we recognise that football is an ecosystem made up of clubs, players, administrators and



FNBB Communications & Public Relations Manager, Boga Chilinde Masebu

the media. Our role is to contribute meaningfully to its sustainability," she said, emphasising that financial literacy remains a key pillar in empowering stakeholders to operate more effectively and responsibly.

"When club managers are financially informed, they are better positioned to manage resources, support players and build institutions that can stand the test of time. The same applies to media practitioners who influence public perception and industry credibility," she noted.



NEON RUN GC

AIRPORT JUNCTION

P150 / P250

4KM / 8KM

REGISTER NOW

11 April 2026

17h00



SCAN TO REGISTER








✉ redex@redpepperprc.com ☎ 71 900 006