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P15.00

Debswana World Relays 2026

P676 000
World Record

P540 000
Gold medal

STAFF WRITERS
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THE STAGE IS SET. Gaborone is rolling out the red carpet. The world's best athletes are here. Botswana has never witnessed the frenzy and excitement of a sporting event of this magnitude before, where it is even banking on its own superstars to dominate.

After months of intense preparations, the organisers are now breathing much easier as work on the National Stadium has now been concluded and the general logistics are coming together with various sponsors coming out to ensure a successful event.

Debswana is the headline sponsor, having poured in P16 million into the event, with other corporates Okavango Diamond Company at P10 million, Stanbic Bank P5 million; Sesigo Insurance, Ministry of Communications and Innovation through Bofinet and BTC, KFC Botswana and others having dived in to unveil their support for the event.

As the day of the event draws closer, the full attention switches to the line-up of athletes that will ignite the full passion of the sport lovers in the two days of May 2-3,

2026.

Botswana men's 4 by 400m team comes into the event as world champions who, though on home soil, are due to face a stiff challenge from the world relays champions South Africa and from Jamaica, who are said to be bringing a strong team.

Pre-season preparations and performance of Botswana's key men Collen Kebinatshipi [400m world champion] and Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo have been sensational, with Collen in particular running the fastest 100m of the year at 989 seconds.

Even more motivating for the participants is the mouthwatering financial rewards at hand – with sources close to the organisers saying over P7.1 million has been set aside for medal winners.

The World Athletics list gold medal as fetching US\$40 000 [translating to P540 000]; silver medal US\$20 000, and bronze medal US\$10 000 with the breakdown sliding down to US\$2 000 for the team coming eighth. The icing on the cake is the US\$50 000 [P676 000] bonus on offer for any team breaking the world record. Gaborone is well braced for the world's fastest men and women and local athletics will never be the same again!



SALESHANDO'S HEADACHE

Lucas vs Dr Dow

- To stick with Lucas or choose Dr Dow for strategic purposes
- Dr Dow could make BCP sellable in its Going South campaign
- Dr Dow dares detractors who dismiss her as new in BCP

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BOTSWANA CONGRESS Party (BCP) President, Dumelang Saleshando is in a dilemma over who to endorse as the vice President between party heavyweights Dr Unity Dow and the incumbent - Taolo Lucas ahead of their crucial elective congress, insiders say.

BCP will in July convene for an elective congress in Mogoditshane. Once revered as the most organized and peaceful political party, the BCP now finds itself in a precarious position as the battle of heavy weights for influential leadership positions threatens to leave the party divided into camps, political observers caution. Saleshando – the Leader of the Opposition (LOO) in Parliament, is said to be treading carefully not to take



Saleshando

sides in the hotly contested VP race between MP for Kgatleng West and MP for Bobirwa.

During a BCP media briefing this week, Saleshando could not be drawn in discussing the matters related to the congress only indicating that an Electoral Board has been constituted with attorney Busang Dutch Leburu appointed the Chairperson.

On Friday, Dr Dow officially launched her lobby list dominated mostly by new faces that never served in the Central Committee, supported by veteran MP and former BCP vice President, Dr Kesitgile Gobotswang as the national Campaign Manager. Another heavy weight in the lobby is Dr Senny Obuseng, who is currently serving in the central committee as the Secretary for Economic Affairs. Dr Obuseng is now contesting for Chairmanship.

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UNION LEADERS SHOWDOWN

Fight over bargaining council

- Manual workers want PSBC constitution nullified, secretariat dismantled
- Andrew Motsamai, Tobokani Rari at the centre of a storm

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Rari

THE ADAGE THAT 'IT IS the grass that suffers when elephants fight' is very true for local unionised civil servants, as they have been left to watch from the sidelines while union leaders tussle.

Their hopes for the resuscitation of the Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC) were dashed this week when National Amalgamated

Local Central Government, and Parastatal Workers Union (NALCGPWU) alias Manual Workers Union, filed a lawsuit at Maun High Court seeking to nullify the process.

At the centre of the case is none other than Labour Consultant at NALCGPWU, Johnson Pikinini Motshwarakgole. He does not forgive his rivals or forget them easily. When he puts a stranglehold on something, he never let's go until his enemy is defeated.

When he purges detractors in disagreement, he pursues them until they are annihilated.

Among the scalps he claimed victory over is former Permanent Secretary to the President – Carter Morupisi, currently serving a seven-year jail term for corruption and abusing public office, after he undermined a court order obtained by Manual Workers Union suspending BPOPF Board of Trustees operations in 2015.

Earlier in 2010, together with his close confidante and right-hand man – Samuel Molaudi, Motshwarakgole led a group of trade union leaders across the border into neighboring

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Hemp production takes shape

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■ BITC visits hemp innovation pilot project, reaffirm govt commitment

BOTSWANA INVESTMENT and Trade Centre (BITC) management, led by CEO Keletsositse Olebile conducted a tour of the Hemp Innovation pilot project at NARDI on Thursday afternoon, as part of ongoing assessment of progress and to strengthen collaboration with investors pioneering Botswana's emerging hemp and medicinal cannabis industry.

The visit comes against the backdrop of Government's deliberate and strategic commitment to establishing a regulated hemp and medicinal cannabis sector in Botswana. In line with this priority, Government has moved with speed to develop the necessary legislative, regulatory and monitoring frameworks to ensure full compliance with international standards governing the production, processing and export of hemp

and medical cannabis products. Two companies supported by BITC have been granted licenses to commence operations in the hemp industry with pilot projects. The pilot projects are undertaken in partnership with NARDI and the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN), marking a critical milestone in transitioning from policy to implementation.

Beyond the pilot phase, BITC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, has facilitated land allocation in Dibete for large-scale commercial production. Preparatory works, including de-bushing and land development, are currently underway in parallel with the pilot at NARDI. The Dibete site, spanning significant hectares earmarked for industrial cultivation is expected to usher in full-scale production, with



BITC conducted a tour of the Hemp Innovation pilot project at NARDI

commencement anticipated in the near term following the successful conclusion of pilot trials.

During the engagement, Hemp Innovations Botswana also facilitated under

BETP, presented its project implementation strategy, highlighting key considerations such as evolving legislation, export market readiness, and global trends within the hemp and medicinal cannabis sectors.

The company indicated that hemp production cycles average three months to maturity, positioning the crop as a viable and responsive agricultural commodity.

Medicinal cannabis, particularly Cannabidiol (CBD), presents vast opportunities across pharmaceuticals, food processing and wellness industries.

The development of this sector is expected to unlock an extensive value chain, from cultivation and processing to manufacturing, packaging, logistics and export; creating meaningful opportunities for citizen participation. Botswana stand to benefit through employment, enterprise development and skills transfer across various stages of production and distribution.

The sector is also poised to contribute significantly to Botswana's economic diversification agenda,

generating export revenue while positioning the country as a competitive player in the global hemp and medicinal cannabis market.

Olebile expressed appreciation to Hemp Innovations Botswana for the engagement and commended the progress made thus far. He reaffirmed BITC's commitment to supporting investors through every stage of project development to ensure long-term sustainability and success. He further noted that interest in the sector continues to grow, with additional companies expressing intent to invest in Botswana's hemp and medicinal cannabis industry. BITC will announce these developments in due course, subject to the completion of all regulatory approvals and clearances.

BITC remains steadfast in its mandate to attract and facilitate high-impact investment that drives economic growth, creates jobs and positions Botswana as a hub for emerging industries.

Injectable HIV Prevention Drug Botswana to launch lenacapavir



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THE UNITED STATES program to scale up access to lenacapavir, a twice-yearly injectable drug used for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), will soon see Botswana launching the long-acting injectable HIV prevention drug, bringing hope to people living with HIV/AIDS, and marking a significant shift in the fight against new infections.

The announcement follows an expanded global commitment by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Igrim a brief, the Global Fund said Botswana has been added to a list of 12 additional countries set to introduce the drug, as part of efforts to reach three million people globally with long-acting HIV prevention by 2028.

Lenacapavir represents a new generation of HIV prevention tools, offering an alternative to daily oral PrEP pills. Health experts say the injectable option could significantly improve adherence, particularly among high-risk groups who struggle with daily medication.

The announcement comes as early rollout programmes gain traction across Africa. Countries including Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe have already begun administering the drug, with initial data showing strong uptake among priority populations such as adolescent girls, young women, and pregnant and breastfeeding women. Global health agency UNAIDS welcomed the expansion but cautioned that more needs to be done to

ensure equitable access. "Three million is a step forward, but not enough," UNAIDS said, calling for urgent action to make the drug affordable and widely available, particularly in high-burden countries like Botswana. Botswana has long been regarded as a leader in HIV response, with one of the most comprehensive treatment programmes in Africa. However, the country continues to record new infections, especially among young people and key populations, underscoring the need for innovative prevention strategies.

Public health analysts say the introduction of lenacapavir could be a "game changer" if effectively integrated into existing HIV prevention frameworks. "The key advantage is convenience and discretion. For many people, especially young women, a twice-yearly injection removes the burden of daily pill-taking and reduces stigma," a regional HIV policy expert said.

The rollout in Botswana is expected to be supported through partnerships involving the Global Fund and international donors, although local health authorities are yet to announce a specific timeline for implementation.

Advocacy groups, including AVAC, have urged governments to move quickly, warning that delays could undermine the potential impact of the drug. It is understood that if successfully implemented, the injectable prevention programme could mark a turning point in Botswana's ongoing effort to curb HIV transmission and move closer to epidemic control.

Thabas build healthy families in S/Phikwe

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DAILY WE ARE bombarded with horrendous stories of pain, violence, suicides, and hurt as GBV spreads like cancer throughout our beautiful land. In the midst of this bad news, Healthy Families Foundation has been invited by the Mayor and Town Clerk to Selebi Phikwe to bring solutions and hope to the town. Healthy Families Foundation has an 18-day program which is evidence based to stop GBV, stop Substance Abuse, absentee parenting, depression, etc.

Their model is quite simple - provide practical tips on how to improve every aspect of the family. Fix the root. Fix the fruit.

Healthy Families Foundation, led by Percy and Ashley Thaba, has realized that most of society's problems originate in problems at home. By fixing the root, the fruits of GBV, suicide, fatherlessness, substance abuse, vulnerable children improve dramatically. They address a different topic daily such as: how to curb cheating in relationships, how to manage financial stresses, how to improve parenting, improve relationship with in-laws, deal

with unmet expectations in relationships, improve conflict resolution skills, etc. All of these teachings are freely available on their Facebook page: Healthy Families Foundation.

Phikwe participants are coming in the thousands to a tune of around 4000 attending the training daily. In an effort to help more people who can't make it physically to the training, Healthy Families Foundation freely offers these teachings on their Facebook page: Healthy Families Foundation. To date, they have directly taught over 34,000 people nationwide seeing thousands of families changed



Percy and Ashley Thaba

for the better.

Interviewing one participant, she said, "My wife and I have been having a lot of conflict lately. The economy is tight and financial problems have really caused a lot of tension. We have only been attending a week and

already there is so much peace in our homes. The solutions are easy to apply."

General Mophuting, Commander of the Botswana Defense Force, personally visited Phikwe and attended a training session of the family building campaign to observe the impact on the BDF participants in the campaign. He expressed his gratitude to the Thabas and Healthy Families Foundation for their practical teaching which leads to productive open conversations and real life change with issues such as GBV.

One taxi driver at the rank said, "Many of us taxi drivers are the perpetrators of some of these social ills. Once we realized how helpful these

teachings from Ashley and Percy Thaba are, we grouped ourselves and have around 100 taxi drivers attending the sessions daily. We want to help each other be better men."

A police officer, who attends the daily sessions, has been teaching hawkers at the rank what he learns. When asked how the experience has been, he responded, "this has been awesome! We should do more of this! It is really helping us as police to serve and protect our community. We really don't want to only encounter people when they come to report crimes. It is better we prevent them from happening at all."

The people of Phikwe, including soldiers, prisoners, police officers, informal sector, churches, government and private offices, clinics, Ikageng, WDC, dikgosi, etc. are working together to bring hope, peace and light to their community. They say it takes a village to raise a child. Maybe it will take a town to change a nation. Phikwe is to be commended for joining hands to change the narrative of despair to hope.

NG32 saga: Tawana Landboard under fire

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THE TAWANA LAND Board is facing mounting criticism from residents of Bojanala ward, who have accused the authority of corruption and involvement in illegal practices within the NG32 concession.

The Land Board is currently conducting community consultations across the concession as part of a process to review and renew its management plan. Land board chairperson, Reamogetse Yekenge explained that the consultations are intended to address and resolve ongoing land disputes in the area. The meetings come amid escalating tensions, with allegations that some tourism camps are operating illegally without proper documentation. Residents have also raised concerns over the rapid increase in ploughing fields, with claims that some individuals are registering fields in an attempt to alter land use patterns within the concession.

NG32 is currently managed



Land Board Chairperson, Reamogetse Yekenge

by the Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust (OKMCT), which serves the settlements of Quxao, Xaxaba, Boro, Daunara and Xharaxao. However, the trust has boycotted the ongoing consultations. Yekenge confirmed that although OKMCT had been invited, it chose not to participate. She said the Land Board would proceed with the process regardless, expressing confidence that the review of the management plan would help resolve the disputes.

Yekenge further revealed that funding has been secured to engage a consultant for the review, with the process expected to take between six and 12 months.

two, arguing that this would provide a practical solution to ongoing conflicts. He said Ditshiping, despite being located in a resource-rich area, has not benefited meaningfully from the concession's natural resources. Boikaego added that the community has since distanced itself from OKMCT and established its own entity, the Honey Guide Adventure Trust, which it believes should represent its interests.

Residents also called on the Land Board to evict squatters from camps operating within the concession, stressing that such enforcement falls squarely under the Board's mandate. They questioned why the Land Board is now appealing to communities for assistance, arguing that this responsibility should not be transferred to residents.

Furthermore, some community members accused both the Tawana Land Board and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks of contributing to the ongoing conflicts, alleging that their decisions have exacerbated tensions within the concession.

Commercial Courts start tomorrow (Monday)

THE ADMINISTRATION OF Justice (AoJ) will on Monday launch Commercial Courts at the Gaborone High Court, in what insiders say is the first step towards a broader restructuring of the Judiciary.

The new courts will be

constituted by Justices Onkagetse Pusoentsi, Dr Onkemetse Tshosa and Mmakoto Abram, alongside acting Judges seconded from the Industrial Court, Diratsagae Molomo, Tapiwa Marumo and Isaac Bahuma.

Justice Pusoentsi told

attorneys appearing before him in court on Thursday that he will transition to the Commercial Court next week.

The appointments signals a long-term plan to absorb the Industrial Court into the Administration of Justice, with similar reforms in the pipeline

for other quasi-judicial bodies. The Land Tribunal and Public Procurement Tribunal are also earmarked for conversion into courts under the Administration of Justice, to bring them all under the High Court.

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Teachers demand unions' support

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AGGRIEVED TEACHERS WHO are owed examination invigilation fees by the Botswana Examination Council (BEC) have implored their trade unions to support their struggle, failing which they threaten to terminate their subscriptions.

Examiners and invigilators on Wednesday stormed BEC offices to handover a petition without the full backing of trade unions, a development that observers say it demonstrates a divided house. The educators say they have not been paid for marking and invigilation duties for the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE), Junior Certificate Examination (JCE), and Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE). They have raised concern over the prolonged delays and are calling on the council to urgently address the matter and settle all the outstanding payments, warning that failure to do so may prompt them to initiate legal action and vow to disrupt 2026 examinations.

BEC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Moreetsi Thobega

- Want BOSETU, BTU to finance their struggle against BEC
- Teachers disappointed, question unions' loyalty to them
- Examiners petition BEC over 2025 unpaid invigilation fees



Frustrated teachers stormed BEC offices demanding their overdue exam payments. PIC GORATAONE KGOSIMORE

acknowledged the petition and said BEC would act on the demands made by teachers.

In an interview on Thursday, the Assistant Coordinator of the petition on behalf of examiners and invigilators, Basitetswe Hosea said it was unfortunate that trade unions did not support their struggle against BEC although the affected teachers are bona fide members of both BOSETU and BTU and

pay monthly subscriptions. Going forward invigilators want their trade unions to fund their activities, to demonstrate that their monthly subscriptions are beneficial to them, especially during the struggle against BEC. "We hope BEC will respond to us in five (5) days. We will then determine the way forward based on the response. We are also going to write to our unions and demand a response in five days. Our demand is

that they must support our struggle financially. We pay subscriptions and they must help us," he said, explaining that some trade unions leaders contributed money from their pockets for mobilization of the petition but said teachers do not want such arrangements but rather demand proper support from trade unions. Asked why the teachers decided to go solo and petition BEC without unions being at the forefront of bargaining, Hosea said invigilators have not been paid from October last year and the expectation was that unions will lead in engaging BEC but that has not been the case, adding that they need swift action.

BEC exploitation

BOSETU Secretary General Oreeditse Nyatso said they have cautioned and continue to caution teachers that BEC is exploiting them. Nyatso said unions have on many occasions warned that the examiners are giving BEC too much power to abuse them. "BEC has always delayed payments and it is not something that starts with the UDC

government. The sole reason is that the agreements between examiners and BEC is not binding by any instruments," said Nyats, adding that although BEC does not recognize trade unions, BOSETU continues to use informal engagements for teachers to be assisted, adding that both BOSETU and BTU were with teachers when they submitted the petition. He said BOSETU even financed some logistics and preparations despite teachers demanding more effort.

Meanwhile, Hosea said the prolonged delay has left the teachers financially strained despite having fulfilled their duties in full. He said the delayed payment issue is not isolated, with growing concern that delayed payments have become a recurring problem within BEC. He also highlighted taxation as another major concern noting that teachers are increasingly burdened by tax deductions on their earnings.

"Previously, BEC provided a subsistence allowance covering food, accommodation, and transport payments that were not taxed. However, the allowance has since been discontinued, meaning teachers now incur higher tax deductions while covering basic expenses," said Hosea.

GBV fight killed by withdrawn cases

- DPP moves to block withdrawal of defilement, child abuse cases

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RISING WITHDRAWALS OF gender-based violence cases, driven largely by societal pressure, are weakening efforts to prosecute offenders and protect victims. This was revealed by Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Kgosi Ngakayagae, during a media briefing on 21 April 2026.

The Directorate of Public Prosecutions is responsible for handling criminal cases on behalf of the State, including deciding whether individuals should be charged in court, initiating and conducting prosecutions, taking over cases from other prosecutors when necessary, and discontinuing proceedings where there is insufficient evidence or other legal grounds.

The DPP has moved to tighten prosecution in child cases, including blocking the withdrawal of defilement and other child-related cases. Ngakayagae said cases involving children are treated as serious criminal offences that must proceed in court, given that children are highly vulnerable and often have little or no say in decisions to withdraw them.

He lamented that many GBV cases are withdrawn before reaching trial, often due to pressure from family members, relatives, and community expectations, or attempts to resolve matters privately outside the justice system.

"Our efforts to address this situation, which has resulted in significant loss of life, particularly among women, are often undermined by society. Many of these cases are ultimately withdrawn, not because the prosecution seeks to discontinue them, but due to societal pressure on victims and their families," he said.

He said this places prosecutor in a difficult position, as criminal trials rely heavily on witness testimony. Without witnesses willing to testify in court, cases become unsustainable, often forcing the State to withdraw charges or avoid proceeding to prevent unsuccessful prosecutions.

Ngakayagae called on society, including traditional leaders, to engage in dialogue on the issue, warning that GBV will not be defeated as long as societal pressure continues to undermine prosecutions. He stressed that prosecutors are limited by available evidence, adding that without witnesses, cases cannot proceed in court.

"It does not matter how violent the



Ngakayagae

abuser is or their history of gender-based violence. If we do not have a witness, or if a witness is unwilling to assist in the prosecution, regrettably, we must withdraw," he said.

The Sexual Offences Unit within the DPP has recorded cases of rape, murder and defilement over the past five years, with a significant number still pending before the courts. Assistant Director-DPP Mmapatsi Tshimologo said concluded rape cases stood at 1,077 including convictions and acquittals, while 1,568 remain ongoing. He further noted that 261 murder cases have been concluded, with 936 still ongoing, while defilement cases total 1,094, of which 845 have been concluded.

He said deliberate efforts are also being made to enforce the new Bail Act, which will ensure courts consider whether offenders are repeat offenders in order to deny them bail.

The Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) has welcomed the directive, saying it strengthens the protection of vulnerable victims and reinforces access to justice in cases involving minors. The organisation said offences against children cannot be resolved through informal or out-of-court settlements, warning that such practices undermine justice and weaken accountability efforts.

"This development sends a clear and necessary message: the protection of children is a collective responsibility. Families, community leaders and society at large must reject practices that prioritize compromise over accountability. Instead, communities should actively support reporting, witness cooperation and the protection of survivors throughout the legal process."

BONELA further implored communities to play an active role in upholding children's rights by reporting abuse, supporting survivors and refusing to participate in arrangements that obstruct justice as this will support the effective implementation of this directive and always prioritize the best interests of the child.

Decline in tourists hurts Botswana

- Country steadfast in diversifying tourism offerings

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BOTSWANA IS PLANNING TO shift from its long-standing high-value, low-volume tourism model as the country records a continued decline in international tourist arrivals, the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Wynter Mmolotsi has announced.

The model has served the country well over many years, but Mmolotsi warned that global dynamics are changing and Botswana must adapt.

Speaking at the recently concluded HATAB Annual Conference in Maun, Mmolotsi noted that tourism markets, visitor expectations, and climate realities are all evolving.

"The tourism economy is becoming more competitive, more diverse, and more dynamic. If Botswana is to remain resilient, relevant, and highly competitive, then we too must adapt," he said.

The minister revealed that

Botswana has experienced a steady decline in tourist arrivals since 2019. He added that the average length of stay among international visitors has also dropped significantly—from 6.3 nights in 2019 to 4.9 nights in 2025.

Tourist spending patterns have also fluctuated. Average daily expenditure rose from P1,328 in 2022 to P1,718 in 2023, before declining to P1,493 in 2024 and further to P1,183 in 2025.

Mmolotsi said these trends highlight structural challenges within Botswana's tourism sector, stressing that attracting visitors alone is no longer sufficient. "We must encourage tourists to stay longer, explore more destinations, and spend across a wider tourism value chain. Diversification is not optional — it is essential," he said.

He further revealed that the ministry engaged the World Bank to conduct a diagnostic study of Botswana's tourism sector. The findings confirmed that the country remains heavily dependent on high-end wildlife tourism, with diversification progressing slower than required.

The study also warned that climate change poses a direct threat to the ecological foundations



Minister of Environment and Tourism, Wynter Mmolotsi

of Botswana's tourism product. Additionally, it identified weak infrastructure, cumbersome land allocation processes, and lengthy environmental approval systems as barriers to investment.

Mmolotsi emphasized the need to develop stronger inter-district tourism circuits, linking destinations

such as the Okavango Delta and Tsodilo Hills, while integrating wildlife tourism with culture, heritage, business, and urban experiences. "Our goal must be to build a Botswana in which the visitor who comes for the Delta stays for culture, travels onward for business, and returns again for events,

heritage, or leisure," he said.

He added that Botswana is deliberately expanding beyond a tourism model focused solely on wilderness to include cities, heritage, culture, and community-based experiences. The minister highlighted early success in city tourism initiatives in Gaborone and Francistown, where visits to the Botswana National Museum and the Three Dikgosi Monument have increased significantly.

Plans are underway to expand city tourism to Maun, Kasane, Lobatse, and Selebi-Phikwe to ensure broader community participation in tourism growth. Meanwhile, Chairperson of HATAB, Lawrence Lecha, echoed the call for diversification, stating that the future of Botswana's tourism industry lies in broadening its offerings. While acknowledging that the high-end, low-volume wildlife model remains world-class, Lecha said Botswana must reposition itself as a premier destination for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism. He emphasized that this strategic shift requires strong collaboration between government and the private sector.

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Beyond Compliance: Embedding School Safety into Leadership Systems



MASEGO LEKGOWE*
From Policy to Practice

requirements, often driven by external expectations. Systems-based leadership, on the other hand, integrates safety into the core functions of planning, monitoring, and continuous improvement. In this approach, safety is not treated as an additional responsibility, but as a fundamental component of how schools are led and managed.

For school safety to be effective, it must be embedded into leadership systems in a structured and consistent way.

One key area is planning. Safety considerations should form part of routine school planning processes, including annual plans, operational priorities, and resource allocation decisions. This ensures that safety is not addressed in isolation, but aligned with broader school objectives.

Another critical area is monitoring and review. Leadership systems should include regular review of safety practices, including risk assessments, incident reports, and the effectiveness of existing procedures. Without structured review mechanisms, it becomes difficult to identify emerging risks or evaluate whether current measures are working as intended.

In addition, safety should be integrated into decision-making processes. Whether schools are managing infrastructure improvements, organising activities, or responding to behavioural challenges, safety considerations should be part of how decisions are evaluated and implemented. This helps shift safety from a reactive function to a proactive one.



Importantly, embedding safety into leadership systems also requires capacity and support. School leaders are expected to manage increasingly complex environments, and

effective safety governance requires specific skills in risk management, systems thinking, and data-informed decision-making. Strengthening leadership capacity in these areas can enhance the ability of

schools to manage safety in a structured and sustainable way. There is also a role for institutional alignment. Leadership systems at school level should be supported by clear expectations and guidance

from district and national structures. When leadership practices are aligned across the system, it becomes easier to maintain consistency and reduce variation in how safety is managed.

Experiences from other sectors reinforce this approach. In high-reliability organisations, safety is embedded into leadership routines through structured processes such as regular safety reviews, performance tracking, and continuous improvement cycles. These practices ensure that safety is not dependent on individual initiative, but is sustained through systems that guide and support leadership action.

Education systems operate in similarly complex environments and can benefit from adopting comparable approaches. Schools are dynamic settings where risks can evolve quickly, and leadership systems need to be responsive enough to manage

these changes effectively.

Moving beyond compliance does not require introducing entirely new structures.

Rather, it involves strengthening and aligning existing leadership processes so that safety becomes an integral part of how schools function on a daily basis.

As Botswana continues to build on its strong policy foundations, embedding safety into leadership systems presents an important opportunity to enhance implementation. By integrating safety into planning, monitoring, and decision-making processes, schools can move toward a more consistent and proactive approach to risk management.

Ultimately, effective school safety is not achieved through documentation alone, but through leadership systems that ensure policies are translated into practice, monitored over time, and continuously improved. Strengthening

these systems is a critical step toward building an education environment that is not only compliant, but resilient, responsive, and equipped to protect both learners and educators.

Lekgowe* is a research specialist in public health and education safety systems, focusing on risk management, occupational health, and health innovation to advance safer learning environments and a resilient workforce. She is a Mofutsana based in Ireland, Dublin, best described as an educator, speaker, author, and advocate whose work spans formal education, training, and systems that support safety and wellbeing. Her professional journey began in primary school classrooms, where she gained first-hand experience of the responsibility, resilience, and influence teachers hold at the foundation of society. She is the author of *You Are Not Just a Teacher*.

Chornobyl Nuclear Accident

Ukraine Embassy marks 40th anniversary

■ 'It's a story of heroism to us' - Ambassador Syvak

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EMBASSY OF UKRAINE IN Botswana will today (Sunday) join Ukrainians back at home and the world to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the largest man-made disasters, the accident at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

The disaster occurred on 26th April 1986. Ambassador of

Ukraine Dr Oleksiy Syvak said the disaster marks an important lesson to the world in terms of management of nuclear plants because technology although it is good for the lives of people, it can also be harmful like in the case of Chornobyl accident. He said large territory of Ukraine suffered from the accident as about 300 000 people were displaced.

He said to him, the commemoration is very

personal because my father was deployed into the rescue team and I still remember very well how disastrous the accident was.

"Chornobyl is not only the story of a crime and a tragedy. It is also a story of heroism. Heroism of ordinary people. And we need to be thankful to them. Today, we have a new generation of heroes.

Our energy workers," said Dr Syvak.

Dr Syvak said at some point, Russia invaded the Chornobyl territory capturing Ukrainian Nuclear Scientist and put them to jail, adding that Ukraine is pushing to have them released.

He said such act posed threat not only to Ukraine but the rest of the world as radiation explosion would add another disaster to global history.

According to him, the estimated damages caused by Russia's occupation of the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone



Ambassador of Ukraine Dr Oleksiy Syvak

amount to approximately 100 million Euros. "It is clear that Russia has learned nothing from the history of Chornobyl. On the contrary, the current regime in Moscow resembles

that of 1986, which led to the largest man-made nuclear catastrophe in human history. Dr Syvak said Ukraine has learned how the situation can be easily broken and be very

difficult to bring it back to normal, and therefore Ukraine appreciates efforts of the open-minded global community of building roofs to protect nuclear plants.

Fight over bargaining council

FROM PAGE 1

Northwest Province of South Africa for a weekend retreat. The end result was Thaba Thula Declaration – a resolution to establish a secretariat for BOFEPUSU and support a united opposition against the then Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) Ian Khama administration. Andrew D'bois Motsamai – then Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU) President, was the first Secretary General of BOFEPUSU manning offices near Tsholetsa House just outside the main mall in Gaborone.

The simplest description of the relationship between Motshwarakgole and Motsamai has been anything but antagonistic since the formation of breakaway federation – BOFEPUSU. Being the biggest and well-resourced trade unions in Botswana by far, Manual Workers Union and BOPEU were at the forefront of the formation of BOFEPUSU – then known as Botswana Federation of Public Sector Unions.

This was a strategic maneuver to enable trade unions representing civil servants an opportunity to engage the employer – Botswana Government represented by the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM), as a unit – away from the noise and the hostility brewing against the militant Botswana Federation of Trade Unions (BFTU). The latter had private sector trade union members, among them

Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU), who were often tough on government.

At the height of the infamous 2011 public sector strike, government started sowing seeds of discord between trade union leaders. Motsamai was alleged to attend clandestine meetings with the Khama administration operatives. This infuriated Motshwarakgole and other trade unions, who removed Motsamai from office. The last straw that broke the camel's back came just before the 2014 general election.

Led by Motsamai, BOPEU broke ranks with other trade unions, refusing to support a united opposition that had crystallised into the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) to remove the heavy handed and stubborn BDP from power. He maintained that BOPEU was apolitical, much to the chagrin of Motshwarakgole and co. He even withdrew BOPEU from the federation and eventually facilitated the collapse of the then PSBC by challenging its legality and registration in court alongside government machinery. Tobokani Rari would later replace Motsamai and become the longest serving SG, before he was removed by the Motshwarakgole camp at a BOFEPUSU congress and replaced by Robert Rabasimane – the current Deputy Executive Secretary of NALCGPWU.

Now, Motsamai and Rari find themselves defending against Motshwarakgole and the Manual Workers Union from

the same corner.

The case

The National Amalgamated Local and Central Government and Manual Workers Union has filed a case at the High Court to interdict Andrew Motsamai and Tobokani Rari from 'acting in a representative capacity for the Public Service Bargaining Council [PSBC]'

The two officials currently hold the position of Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the PSBC respectively, with the Manual Workers Union having been opposed to the appointment of Motsamai in particular, to the extent that they filed an urgent application at court to block it.

When the Manual Workers Union lost the urgent application, other parties proceeded with formalising the appointments.

The Manual Workers Union has reacted by filing an application with the Maun High Court to interdict their appointment, arguing that they be restrained and prevented from acting for the PSBC.

Once the court grants that, the union says the Attorney General should call a meeting of the member unions for the negotiation of a new Constitution of the PSBC as per Section 52 of the Public Service Act.

The union wants the court to declare that the Constitution, as it is, is "incurably bad and is therefore null and void".

"Declaring that the purported meeting of the 30th January 2026 held by the parties is

invalid and nullity and all decisions and resolutions adopted at that meeting including the appointments of the 8th and 9th respondents as Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Public Service Bargaining Council are invalid and null and void," the Manual Workers Union ask the court.

The union leadership had earlier this year addressed a press conference in which Motshwarakgole pronounced unequivocally that they would not support the appointment of Motsamai, saying he lacked the necessary integrity for the role. "We will not allow Rre Motsamai to be the Secretary of the Bargaining Council because he lacks integrity," said Motshwarakgole.

The tussle

What ensued thereafter was the trading of legal letters between the two men, with Motsamai asking for retraction for what he considered to have been damaging statements.

Motshwarakgole and his legal team defied the threat, insisting that he had said nothing damaging, as all the issues were public and in court records.

The attempt by the Manual Workers Union to stop Motsamai from taking office were thwarted when their application to the Lobatse High Court for the matter to be heard under the certificate of urgency were denied by the court. They lost the case with costs.

The parties are now awaiting the announcement from the court of the date in which the substantive matter will be heard.

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China's Zero-Tariffs Policy: A Breakthrough for Botswana, Africa

AT A TIME WHEN BOTSWANA'S economy is facing global pressures from weaker diamond demand, declining foreign reserves, and stagnant GDP growth, Botswana has found a timely opportunity to turnaround her fortunes by looking to the East, to exploit opportunities presented by the roll out of zero-tariff measures across the board to all 53 African countries having diplomatic relations with China, starting next week.

China offers zero tariffs for African countries exporting to their market. Botswana and China signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the two governments in July 2025 in Gaborone, the capital of the southern African country. With the implementation of the agreement and other outcomes of the 2024 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, cooperation between the two countries in various fields will be further deepened.

Botswana's Vice President and Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe praised China's remarkable achievements and expressed gratitude for China's continuous support to Botswana, saying cooperation with China will contribute to Botswana's economic growth and the well-being of its people. While on the other hand, Chinese Ambassador to Botswana, Fan Yong observed that China and Botswana have long enjoyed a strong friendship, yielding fruitful results in practical cooperation.

According to official statistics, in the first half of 2024, bilateral trade between China and Botswana amounted to USD 419 million, up 12.5 percent year on year. In 2023, bilateral trade between the two countries reached USD 710 million U.S. dollars, marking a 15.7 percent year-on-year increase.

Diplomatic relations between Botswana and China were established on January 6, 1975, and were upgraded to a strategic partnership in September 2024. The unilateral opening-up, offering zero tariffs for African countries exporting to China, represents a vivid example of China's principle of sincerity, real results, amity, and good faith and its commitment to pursuing the greater good and shared interests. It injects strong momentum into Africa's development, while presenting Botswana—a gateway to Southern Africa—with a historic opportunity to upgrade trade, revitalize industries, and improve people's livelihoods. It also highlights China's commitment to standing in solidarity with Africa and joining hands to advance modernization.

Breakthrough in China-Africa Cooperation

China's zero-tariff policy for Africa is not a fleeting gesture, but a consistent and progressively deepening institutional arrangement. From its initial application to 33 least developed countries in Africa in December 2024, to its full expansion to all African countries with diplomatic relations with China by 2026, China is effectively turning its Ultra-Large Market into a shared resource for Africa's development through actions that truly honor commitments.

The policy covers all sectors including agricultural products, minerals, light industry, and manufacturing. Supporting measures such as the green channel for African agricultural exports to China, digitalization of rules of origin,

Starting May 1, 2026, China will fully implement zero-tariff treatment on 100% of tariff lines for 53 African countries that have established diplomatic relations with China. This measure covers all product categories and comes with no quotas or political conditions. This major favorable policy presents a grand opportunity for African nations and their people, **STAFF WRITER BAKWADI LEKOPANE** observes.



VP and Finance Minister Ndaba Gaolathe

and mutual recognition of inspection and quarantine are being upgraded simultaneously, greatly reducing customs clearance costs and time, and enabling quality African products to reach the Chinese market directly. This is the first time a major global economy has introduced across-the-board zero tariffs on African products—a move aimed at breaking trade barriers and upholding multilateralism.

Aligning with Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP)

The zero tariffs policy comes at a time when Botswana is aggressively implementing the Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) - a national strategy aimed at diversifying Botswana's economy, creating high-value jobs, and achieving high-income status by 2036.

Synergy with BETP's four strategic pillars: **Diversification to a services-led economy:** Zero tariffs incentivize Value-Added Manufacturing, allowing Botswana to export processed goods rather than raw materials. **Regional financial hub:** Botswana's political stability makes it an ideal gateway for Chinese capital entering Southern Africa. **Investor confidence and governance:** The legal certainty provided by this trade agreement enhances the ease of doing business and attracts private

Chinese capital. **Effective delivery and accountability:** Using "Big Fast Results" (BFR) methodologies, Botswana can fast-track the 200 selected projects—spanning beef, leather, textiles, and horticulture—to meet Chinese demand.

Investment and Job Creation

BETP is designed to mobilise P514 billion in investments and create over 512,000 jobs over the next decade. It builds on the previous Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP), a P14.5 billion stimulus developed after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Botswana and China have reached an agreement that establishes a cooperation framework, providing a basis for further substantive negotiation on trade facilitation, inclusive growth and resilient supply chain. It is part of China's broader effort to strengthen economic ties with Africa and increase the continent's share of exports to China, and is expected to benefit sectors such as beef, leather, horticultural produce, textiles, and other non-mineral goods.

As a key economy in Southern Africa and a close partner of China on the continent, Botswana stands as a primary beneficiary of the zero-tariff policy, reaping comprehensive gains across its economy, industries, people's livelihoods, and trade.

A Steadfast Partner in Africa's Development and Revitalization

China's zero-tariff policy for Africa is not a one-sided concession, but a strategic choice for mutual benefit and common development. It reflects three clear commitments.

First, China is sincere and friendly, and attaches no political conditions. China always respects the development paths independently chosen by African countries. The zero-tariff policy is purely aimed at promoting trade and development, with no political prerequisites and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. Unlike certain countries that engage in trade bullying and arbitrary pressure, China stands on the side of equality and mutual respect. Second, China is pragmatic and responsible, honoring its commitments with concrete actions. From the ten partnership actions outlined at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), to the implementation of zero tariffs and increased investment support, China delivers on its promises. By forgoing substantial tariff revenue, China shares its development opportunities with Africa, acting as a steadfast supporter, participant, and contributor to Africa's modernization.

Third, China advocates shared progress and the building of the All-Weather China-Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era. China firmly believes that without the modernization of China and Africa, there can be no global

modernization. The zero-tariff policy serves as a vital bridge in the joint pursuit of modernization by China and Africa. By fostering trade prosperity, industrial upgrading, and improved livelihoods, China and Africa are moving from trade cooperation toward full industrial chain collaboration, ensuring that Africa is not left behind in global development.

China's zero-tariff policy for Africa is a policy of friendship, development, and mutual benefit. For China-Africa relations, it marks a new starting point for deepening traditional friendships and expanding cooperation. China will continue to uphold the principle of sincerity, real results, amity, and good faith, using the zero-tariff policy as a catalyst to work with Tanzania and all African countries in facilitating trade, deepening cooperation, and promoting shared development, so that the flower of China-Africa friendship will bloom forever.

Policy Innovation Reflects China's Responsibility

Amid sluggish global economic growth, the rise of trade protectionism, and intertwined geopolitical risks, China remains committed to opening its doors ever wider. As a hallmark of China-Africa cooperation in the new era, the zero-tariff policy represents a significant initiative by China to proactively expand unilateral openness.

Starting with the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in September 2024, China announced zero-tariff treatment for 100% of tariff lines for 33 African least developed countries, which will be expanded to all 53 African countries on May 1.

This presents China as the first major global economy to open its market to all of Africa, achieving a giant leap from local pilot programs to "pan-African coverage," ensuring that the dividends of modernization are no longer restricted by developmental stage thresholds.

The 2026 "Two Sessions" of China, the annual meetings of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, have been concluded with success. The "Two Sessions" have laid out plans for the social and economic development of China for the whole year and throughout the period of the 15th Five-Year Plan(2026-2030). China will stay committed to high quality development and innovation-driven development, boost domestic demand, further expand high-standard opening up and advance cooperation with Belt and Road partner countries. China will open new cooperation opportunities for the world with self-confidence and offer predictability to the world with its own development.

As the reliable friend and partner of Africa, China is committed to aligning its own development with that of Africa and regards Africa as a priority of its opening up and friendly cooperation. President Xi Jinping announced in his congratulatory message to the 39th African Union (AU) Summit in this February that China will fully implement zero-tariff treatment for 53 African countries having diplomatic relations with China starting from May 1, 2026. This is the latest major measure taken by China to enhance China-Africa cooperation.

The full implementation of zero-tariff treatment will lower the export costs for African countries when entering the mega Chinese market, thereby bringing tangible benefits to local exporters. Chinese enterprises will be incentivized to make investments and build factories in Africa, contributing to turn Africa from the source of raw material to the hub of manufacture, and promoting the integration of industrial and supply chains. China is removing tariffs completely to boost trade, multiply benefits for the people, and help Africa access the enormous opportunities of the Chinese market.

The world is undergoing turbulence and disruptions with the ever-widening deficits in peace, development and governance, and the African continent is facing multiple challenges. China is ready to strengthen solidarity with African and Global South countries, advocate together an equal and orderly multipolar world as well as the universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, implement the Global Development Initiative(GDI), the Global Security Initiative(GSI), the Global Civilization Initiative(GCI), and the Global Governance Initiative(GGI), promote handling of differences through equal dialogue and pursuit of common development through mutually beneficial cooperation, and join hands to journey on toward modernization and advance the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

PIC GORATAONE KGOSIMORE

Lucas vs Dr Dow

FROM PAGE 1

Lucas is yet to unveil his lobby list but it is believed that a good number of current members of the central committee who are seeking re-election and some BCP MPs would be part of his lobby list.

Sources inside the party noted that Saleshando believes that both Lucas and Dr Dow are equally important for the party from all aspects. "He understands the value that both Taolo and Dow are capable of leading the party as his deputy. Some members suggested that Lucas should be retained as VP because of his experience and loyalty to the party. Some believe that Dr Dow is influential and can make BCP

appealing as we intensify our Going South campaign," said one member of BCP central committee.

During the media briefing on Monday, BCP Secretary General, Goretsetse Kekgongile said the party is looking for ways to avoid lobby lists and pleaded with candidates to campaign outside them. He said lobbies are part of BCP culture but said they can also cause divisions in the party if not properly managed but said BCP have over the years managed properly the aftermaths of lobbies.

Kekgongile said it is important for all the BCP members interested in contesting for central committee positions to campaign in a fair manner and must not discredit

or attack their potential opponents as that could cause chaos in the party.

Enter Dr Dow

Dr Dow on Friday said she has been subjected to criticism by some members of BCP who argue that she is still new in the party and must not be vying for top positions in the party like the vice presidency. She joined the BCP in 2023 following her resignation from the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). She said there is no clause in the BCP constitution that point to how long a member should be in the party for them to contest for the Central Committee post.

"I am the most decorated member of



Dow



Lucas

this party in terms of experience or what it takes to lead. I have served in the Judiciary, Executive and Legislature as Judge, Minister and MP. I am serving third term as MP. There is now how I can be described as new by those who feel so. It's my nature to solve problems," said Dr Dow.

She said her Team Unity is also keen on ensuring that BCP grows as a party especially in the Southern part of the country, adding that she expects the party to win more seats in South during 2029 elections.

Currently, Dr Dow is the only BCP MP from the Southern part of Botswana. The party won 15 parliamentary seats in 2024 general election.

Elective Congress divides BCP

■ BCP leadership attempt to disband Lobby Lists fails ■ New Election Regulations divide members ■ Current CC accused of power consolidation

BAKANG TIRO
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TENSION IS MOUNTING INSIDE opposition Botswana Congress Party (BCP) ahead of elective congress scheduled for July in Mogoditshane as members of the party are divided over the new Election Regulations, with the Central Committee accused of trying to bar some members from contesting for the Central Committee positions.

The BCP CC approved new internal election regulations that are said to be only in the possession of the Central Committee and it is using them to their favour as anxiety grips the party amidst rising factions. BCP CC has indicated that if there is any conflict emanating from the regulations, the party constitution must prevail.

Some of penalties associated with the new regulations are that if a contestant is found to be engaging in bribery, intimidation or vote buying, will be subjected to disqualification, tempering with ballot papers- expulsion and breach of campaign code such contestant will be subjected to suspension or a fine.

Fielding questions during a BCP media briefing on Monday, Secretary General Goretsetse Kekgonegile confirmed that new election regulations will be used for the first time at the 2026 elective congress. He said the regulations would also be used in other structures such as ward, constituency, and regional elections, disputing growing allegations that Central Committee want to centralize power to it. He said the regulations would be made accessible to all members of the party without any fail.

Kekgonegile admitted that the party is grappling with emerging lobby lists ahead of the congress, but said the lobby lists



Kekgonegile

are part of BCP culture. He denied that there are factions in the party indicating that discussions are ongoing to see if the party can convince members to campaign independently and disbands the lobbies, a move facing resistance. "We are aware of the lobby list and they are part of our culture. We know that if not managed well, lobbies can cause harm to our unity and we have always managed the aftermaths of them," he said. Kekgonegile encouraged BCP members interested in contesting for central committee positions to do it in a fair manner and must not discredit or attack their potential opponents for the sake of getting votes. He noted that BCP remain intact.

Some members of the party have indicated that central committee want to bar them from contesting. The concerned members including some MPs who are said to be in a conflict with BCP leadership want the new regulations to be set aside, a development that observers hint that it will test BCP democracy. "Majority members of the current CC are afraid they could lose elections. A new dawn is imminent in the BCP leadership. A good number of incumbent CC members have overstayed and members on the ground want a completely new leadership," said one vocal BCP MP.

BCP president Dumelang Saleshando said

an election writ would be issued this week.

Going South

Meanwhile, Saleshando said the party is embarking on a rigorous campaign to build structures in South and position itself as a dominant force. He said there has been a narrative that BCP is a regional party particularly dominant in areas such as Ngamiland and Okavango.

According to Saleshando, people should not write the party off in the south following its heavy defeat during UB SRC elections last weekend. The BCP student wing, Student Congress, failed to attain a seat out of the 13 SRC cabinet posts while Umbrella for Democratic Change's Moono wa Baithuti scooped 12 seats and Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)'s GS 26 scored one seat, the presidency.

Saleshando said BCP is not shying away from the UB abysmal performance, adding that that BCP will look at the performance and people should not judge BCP strength in south based on UB. "Yes, we agree that UB is an important centre and that cannot be denied. We have scooped seats in other universities in the south such as at BAC. And as a party, we are moving to intensify our presence in the south and we are currently building structures. We have just had Gaborone region structures completed," said Saleshando.



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Lungu's body returned to funeral parlour



Lungu

SOUTH AFRICA'S COURTS ISSUED conflicting directives within hours on Wednesday over the custody of former President Edgar Chagwa Lungu's remains, first transferring control to the Zambian Government before an urgent intervention halted the move and ordered the body returned to a funeral facility.

The Gauteng Division of the High Court in Pretoria earlier confirmed that the remains had been handed to the Zambian authorities, acting on an August 8, 2025 ruling that authorised the Government to take custody for repatriation and burial. Attorney General Mulilo Kabesha said the transfer followed the family's failure to proceed with its case before the Supreme Court of Appeal, with the remains moved from Two Mountains Burial Services to a South African Government facility.

Within hours, the legal position shifted. A subsequent urgent application brought by members of the Lungu family prompted intervention by the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa, which ordered an immediate halt to any further movement of the remains and directed that the body be returned to Two Mountains Funeral Parlour.

Family spokesperson Makebi Zulu confirmed the ruling, stating that the court had granted a stay and instructed both governments to reverse actions already taken.

"The Supreme Court has just given us a stay. The Government of Zambia and the Government of South Africa have been ordered to take back the body to Two Mountains Funeral Parlour," Zulu said.

Court documents dated April 22, 2026, show that the matter was brought as an urgent ex parte application involving multiple members of the Lungu family, including Esther Lungu, Bertha Lungu, and Tasila Lungu, alongside other applicants. Respondents listed include the South African Police Service, the National Commissioner of Police, the Minister of

Police, and the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

The order directs authorities to ensure that the remains of the late former President are returned to the custody of Two Mountains Burial Services or another mortuary nominated by the applicants without delay. It also restrains respondents from handing over the body to the Zambian Government pending further proceedings.

In a further escalation, the court has ordered the respondents to appear and show cause why they should not be cited for contempt of court, a step that signals the seriousness with which the judiciary is treating compliance with its directives. "Further, there is an order for them to show cause as to why they should not be cited for contempt," Zulu said.

The legal clash follows the Zambian Government's attempt to enforce the earlier High Court ruling by taking possession of the remains on the same day. According to reporting by SABC News, the intervention by the appellate court came at the last moment, effectively suspending the transfer and reversing the movement already initiated.

Lungu, Zambia's sixth President, died in South Africa on June 5, 2025, and has not yet been buried due to a prolonged dispute between his family and the Government over funeral arrangements. The latest court action deepens the legal complexity surrounding the case, placing the remains back under contested custody and pausing any immediate repatriation.

The orders issued on Wednesday will remain in force until May 21, 2026, or an earlier date determined by the court, at which point the respondents are expected to return to court to address the contempt proceedings and the final determination of the matter.

Source: <https://www.lusakatimes.com/2026/04/23/court-blocks-transfer-orders-lungus-body-returned-to-funeral-parlour/>

Opinions, Reviews & Analysis

Comment | Don't ask if AI will take your jobs, ask who wants it to

THE REAL QUESTION IS NOT whether AI will take your job, but who controls the system that could. AI is not the threat, unchecked power in the hands of a few is. The future of work will not be decided by technology, but by leadership, governance and ethics.

Those who learn to work with AI will not be replaced, they will lead. Universities are not preparing students for jobs that exist, but for a future they must help shape. Alarm bells have been ringing about how artificial intelligence (AI) will replace certain, if not most, future jobs. But this fixation on job loss may be asking the wrong question. The real issue is not whether AI will take jobs; it is about who controls AI and how it will be used.

AI is not an autonomous entity or a corporation with incentives of its own. AI's impact is shaped by political decisions, corporate incentives and

the values of those in power, not by the technology itself. A small group of individuals control the most prominent, powerful and widely used AI software, and it is the motives of these individuals that should be questioned.

The real challenge, then, is not how to stop AI, but how to ensure that its power is shaped in the public interest. According to Prof. Linda du Plessis, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the North-West University (NWU), this technology needs a moral custodian, and public universities can ensure that society, not just corporations, has a voice in AI's future.

"The key question is not whether AI replaces humans, but 'who will own these systems and have a say in their development'. AI processes patterns and data, but it does not understand meaning the way we do.

AI can remix existing ideas, but original ideas and groundbreaking creativity

come from human imagination and lived experience.

Jobs that rely on empathy and form the backbone of a society – teaching, counselling, leadership and caregiving – require a real human connection that AI cannot replicate.

This is where universities play a critical role: they develop the ability to think, question and engage with complexity. Real life is messy. Humans adapt to unexpected situations far better than AI, which relies on patterns and structured inputs.

You cannot question what you do not understand. Ultimately, humans remain accountable," she states, adding that too much emphasis is being placed on the technology rather than those who control it.

"Whilst the world is speculating about the impact of AI on the future of jobs, my view is that this is not the right question to ask, as it frames the future as a technological issue. A deeper and more important question is:

who is leading the change, and in whose interest? AI does not develop in a vacuum. Therefore, the future of work is not just about technology, it is about leadership, governance and ethics," Prof. du Plessis explains.

"There are two possible directions for AI. AI can either replace or empower humans," she says, noting how humanity has been at similar technological crossroads before: "History has a way of humbling our certainty when it comes to technology and has repeatedly shown how augmentation can lead to empowerment."

This is where public universities such as the NWU will play an increasingly critical role in setting and maintaining a moral course for the owners and users of AI to follow.

"Universities are not just producing workers; they are producing critical thinkers, ethical decision-makers and future leaders. They also provide the

social environments where students learn to collaborate, communicate and engage with diverse perspectives. AI can process large volumes of data, but humans must decide what is right, fair and meaningful. Education must ensure that humans remain in control of technology, not controlled by it."

"Research shows that AI works best when it complements humans, not replaces them, especially in areas like leadership, problem-solving and collaboration. The direction we take depends on policy choices, leadership priorities and people's ability to adapt."

"With good leadership, AI can reduce inequality, improve quality of life and lead to the creation of new industries and jobs. AI is not the problem. The real issue is who controls it and whether we have a voice in that future.

The real danger is not AI, but rather a passive society. Our future depends on the choices we make and the people we trust to

lead," she says.

Although these concerns carry weight, Prof. du Plessis stresses that learners and parents should not respond passively but actively shape their place in future job markets.

"To allay fears about being replaced, the best way is to make yourself irreplaceable. To do that requires a focus on lifelong learning, disciplinary expertise that enables you to think critically and creatively, and the ability to use AI as part of your work. The most realistic future is humans working with AI, not being replaced by it. Those who learn to use AI will have an advantage." AI is not just a tool; it is becoming a core building block of the future, like electricity or the internet.

Yes, the AI alarm bells have been rung, but in an AI-driven world, those who think, adapt and act will not be replaced; they will lead.

Source: North-West University (NWU)

Democracy to Dynasty

▪ Tendai Biti's Warning Against Zimbabwe's CAB3 "Looting" Bill



Tendai Biti

COLLEN CHIKORE*

IMAGINE WAKING UP IN A COUNTRY where your vote—the very heartbeat of your agency—has been quietly transferred from your hands into the mahogany halls of a distant Parliament. For 17 million Zimbabweans, this isn't a dystopian fiction; it is the looming reality of Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 3 (CAB3). Prominent lawyer and Constitutional Defender Forum convener Tendai Biti isn't just calling it a policy shift; he is sounding the alarm on what he describes as a "constitutional coup" designed to transform fledgling democracy into an elite-controlled

monarchy.

At the center of this firestorm is a proposal to strip citizens of their right to directly elect their president. By handing this power to Parliament, the bill effectively mutes the voice of the common person. But the overhaul doesn't stop at the ballot box. CAB3 seeks to extend presidential and parliamentary terms from five to seven years, a move that would leave the public shackled to underperforming representatives for longer stretches with no way to demand accountability. Biti warns that the bill also targets the judiciary, removing the requirement for public interviews for judges to ensure the executive branch holds all the cards.

The legal jargon hides a much grimmer economic truth. Biti argues that the desperation to pass CAB3 is fueled by a "small elite" and powerful "cartels" intent on guarding their grip on national resources like gold and fuel. In his view, this isn't just about politics—it's about the "looting" of a nation. When corruption becomes systemic and protected by law, the consequences are felt in empty hospital pharmacies, crumbling roads, and a generation of youth left without the dignity of a job.

Perhaps the most chilling aspect of the bill is the tactical use of the word "notwithstanding." Biti describes this as a legal trapdoor that allows the government to bypass existing protections like term limits and referendums. If passed, it creates a precedent where any constitutional right can be suspended at the whim of those in power, leading to a permanent state of crisis and the rise of "dynastic" rule.

The path to this amendment has been paved with what Biti calls "heavy-handed" repression. From the arrests of activists to the violent disruption of public consultations, the message from the state has been one of forced silence. Biti's stance is unwavering: CAB3 must be withdrawn immediately to prevent a total national implosion. He is calling for a "National Transitional Authority"—a genuine dialogue between the state, the church, and civic society to reset the nation's course. For Biti, defending the 2013 Constitution is no longer just a courtroom drama; it is a desperate fight for the survival and future dignity of every Zimbabwean.

*Zimbabwe Human rights activist.
69 Montalt Road
Coventry
CV3 5LS

Corruption: a cancer we must defeat

MONTY CHIEPE

CORRUPTION IS NOT AN ABSTRACT evil. It thrives where it is practiced, tolerated, excused or even admired. Words alone cannot defeat it; decisive and immediate action must. To know of corruption and remain silent and apathetic is to leave its footprint unchallenged.

Every citizen, individually and collectively, forms the conscience of the nation. We all know the perpetrators who plunder our coffers and those who benefited from it. There is no such thing as a perfect crime. The corrupt survive only because society allows them to. Each one has co-conspirators, enablers, witnesses, and silent observers— an unbreakable block chain of evidence waiting to be acted upon.

In a nation as close-knit as ours, sudden and glaring changes in lifestyle cannot go unnoticed. There is no such thing as unexplained wealth. Otherwise it is a heist.

To pretend otherwise is to hide in plain sight. Leaders, officials, and citizens alike have the power to root out corruption with ease and finality, if only the will exists.

Corruption cannot become our national anthem. It robs us of dignity, stalls development, and steals the future from the youth. Our society reflects who we are. If Batswana choose to rise to the occasion, we can cleanse this land of the malignant cancer that corrodes it.

The corrupt survive by praying that witnesses remain silent, that the nation capitulates, and that courage fails. But silence is complicity. To shape the Botswana we want, we must act for the national interest and the public good.

Be alive to differentiate between those committed to uprooting it versus those who are defending it, being apologists for maintaining the status quo or paying lip service to it.

FATSHE LENO LA RONA!

Chiepe



BOFEPUSU stands with teachers owed by BEC

WE SPEAK WITH UNWAVERING resolve in solidarity with the teachers who have not been paid what is rightfully theirs by the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC). The burden of delayed or withheld remuneration is not a private grievance; it is a breach of trust between a public institution and the very people charged with shaping the future of our nation. It is a test of governance, accountability, and moral duty. To the teachers who stand in the breach, BOFEPUSU stands with you, in defence of your dignity, your livelihood, and your professional integrity.

We acknowledge the essential role of teachers in our society. They are the stewards of knowledge, the mentors who cultivate critical thinking, and the guarantors that every learner has a fair chance at a better life. When payment is delayed, the consequences ripple far beyond individual hardship: it undermines morale, disrupts families, erodes public faith in our education system, and signals a troubling misalignment between policy promises and financial realities. BOFEPUSU will not stand by as this gap widens. We demand immediate remedy and sustained protections against recurrence of such misguided practice.

To the management and governance of the Botswana Examinations Council: the responsibility to ensure timely and full compensation to your staff is non-negotiable. Your obligations are not mere clerical tasks; they are commitments to the people who administer exams, mark performances, and uphold the standards that define our educational quality. We call on BEC to demonstrate transparent, accountable, and humane financial stewardship. The pattern of late or partial payments cannot be dismissed as a temporary hiccup; it must be investigated, corrected, and guarded against through systems that prioritize predictability, fairness, and lawful obligation.

BOFEPUSU's stance is principled on three critical areas, in our insistence on timely payment, on our insistence on the rule of law, and on our fidelity to the public service ethos. We insist that teachers be



paid what they are owed, without excuses, without delays, and with respect for their constitutional rights to fair remuneration. Every day of delay compounds personal hardship and reverberates through households and communities. It's basically slave time's tendency to avoid paying workers after completing contractual obligations with their employer. Such a tendency has no place in modern society. The time for dithering and circumnavigation has passed. The time for decisive action is now.

We are informed by the core values of solidarity, fairness, and accountability. Our approach is not aimed at confrontation for its own sake, but at securing justice through lawful, peaceful, and well-organized means. We call upon our structures, members, and allies to stand together with determination and restraint, to document delays, to amplify the voices of affected teachers through legitimate channels, and to escalate only through proper collective bargaining processes or lawful public advocacy when necessary.

We further note that the human cost of wage arrears is not a mere statistic; it is a

lived reality for teachers who deserve to plan for their families, meet their obligations, and invest in their own professional development. Denied pay, they are denied the dignity of stable financial footing. Our solidarity is a shield against the erosion of workers' rights and a beacon for the future of public service integrity. We demand not only the payment of what is owed but also a clear, public commitment to a sustainable framework that prevents recurrence: regular budgeting practices, timely disbursements, and transparent reporting that holds both management and finance to account.

We urge the Botswana Examinations Council to adopt and publish a concrete plan that guarantees:

* Immediate processing of all outstanding salaries and allowances to affected teachers.

* A public timeline with specific milestones and quarterly progress reports until all owed amounts are fully paid.

* A grievance mechanism with accessible channels for affected staff to raise concerns and receive timely responses since the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs processes take forever to resolve labour disputes.

BOFEPUSU is prepared to engage in constructive dialogue, participate in joint oversight, and mobilize our membership in lawful and orderly actions that reinforce the urgency of this issue. We recognize the importance of protecting learning environments and the livelihoods of educators. When teachers are unpaid, the entire education system bears the cost. Our commitment is to shield students from any disruption by ensuring that the adults responsible for their instruction are treated with the seriousness and respect they deserve.

To our partners in government, civil society, parent-teacher associations, and the broader public: your support amplifies the demand for accountability and timely action. A well-funded, well-governed education sector is the cornerstone of a prosperous nation. We invite you to join us in pressing for urgent resolution, while also contributing to a broader culture of transparency, ethical governance, and respect for public servants.

We will not relent until justice is achieved. If the current administration lacks the political will to rectify this situation promptly, we are prepared to explore all lawful avenues to compel action—without compromising the safety, order, or rights of any party involved. Our objective remains clear: to ensure that every teacher receives the full, rightful remuneration owed, and to establish a resilient framework that guarantees fair wages for all public servants in the Botswana education system.

In closing, BOFEPUSU reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with the teachers owed by the Botswana Examinations Council. Your fight is our fight. Your struggle is our cause. Your earnings are not negotiable; they are a legal and moral entitlement. We call upon BEC to act with the urgency, transparency, and integrity that the moment demands. We will stand with you every step of the way to restore dignity, secure livelihoods, and safeguard the future of Botswana's education. We will be watching, we will hold to account, and we will prevail.



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 dibeele@thepatriot.co.bw /
ditiro@thepatriot.co.bw

AI regulation is moving fast- where is Africa's collective voice?

DR JANNIE ZAAIMAN
Secretary General of Technology Information Confederation Africa (TICON Africa)

THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION ON AI regulation is moving quickly, but not along a single track and not under the control of any one bloc. What is emerging is a polycentric governance landscape in which different regions are experimenting with different combinations of law, policy, standards, institutional design and sectoral oversight. The European Union has moved furthest with a comprehensive cross-sector legal instrument in the AI Act.

The United Kingdom has taken a strategy-led route through its AI Opportunities Action Plan. The United States has advanced through a national action plan as well, but within a more fragmented federal-and-state environment that includes state-level measures such as Colorado's 2024 AI law. The Council of Europe has also opened the first legally binding international treaty on AI for signature. Taken together, these developments show movement, but not closure.

More importantly, these approaches are becoming reference points that other regions will either align with or respond to. They indicate that AI governance is being built in real time, across multiple centres of influence, rather than dictated by any single region.

(European Commission, 2024; UK Government, 2025; The White House, 2025; Colorado General Assembly, 2024; Council of Europe, 2024). AI governance is not a future discussion as it is now being shaped across multiple centres of power. The question is not whether Africa will participate, but whether it will shape the rules or adapt to them after they are set.

Asia and the Indo-Pacific reinforce that point. Singapore launched its Model AI Governance Framework for Agentic AI in January 2026, extending its long-running practical approach to trusted deployment. Japan adopted its Artificial

Intelligence Basic Plan, linked to its 2025 AI Act and centred on "trustworthy AI".

South Korea passed its AI Basic Act, which took effect in January 2026. China has followed a more targeted regulatory path, including measures for generative AI services and deep-synthesis content.

Australia has issued a National AI Plan, while India has expanded the IndiaAI Mission through governance guidelines and the establishment of an IndiaAI Safety Institute. These are not identical models, but they show that important regulatory and strategic ideas are also coming from Asia, not only from Europe and North America. (IMDA, 2026; Cabinet Office, Japan, 2026; MSIT, Republic of Korea, 2024; Library of Congress, 2023a; Library of Congress, 2023b; Australian Government, 2025; IndiaAI, 2026a; IndiaAI, 2026b). This signals that governance can evolve alongside innovation, not only after it, offering important lessons for developing economies.

The same wider pattern is visible in Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East. Brazil's Plano Brasileiro de Inteligencia Artificial sets out a four-year programme with planned investment of R\$23 billion through 2028. Chile reports that, by April 2025, 78% of initiatives in its AI Action Plan were already under implementation or completed. In the Caribbean, CARICOM and UNDP have been building institutional AI capacity, while Trinidad and Tobago has advanced its AI policy development and UNESCO readiness work.

In the Gulf, the UAE continues to anchor its long-term approach in the UAE National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2031, and Saudi Arabia's National Strategy for Data and AI, aligned with Vision 2030, positions AI as part of economic transformation. This broadens the picture considerably: AI governance is not a Western monologue, but a globally distributed and still-evolving policy field. (Government of Brazil, 2024; Government of Chile, 2025; CARICOM, 2025; Government of Trinidad and Tobago, 2026; UNESCO, 2026; UAE Artificial



Dr Jannie Zaaiman, Secretary General of Technology Information Confederation Africa (TICON Africa)

Intelligence Office, n.d.; Saudi Data and AI Authority, n.d.). The key distinction across these regions is not policy intent, but execution and how quickly strategy translates into capability, infrastructure and institutional strength.

Seen in that wider context, the question for Africa is whether the continent is organising itself strongly enough to shape a governance architecture that remains open, contested and unfinished. Africa is participating in the conversation. The African Union endorsed the Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy in July 2024, explicitly setting out an Africa-centric, development-focused and inclusive approach to AI governance.

Nationally, Kenya has launched its AI Strategy 2025–2030; South Africa has published a National AI Policy Framework and convened a National AI Stakeholder Forum; Rwanda has developed a National AI Policy; Egypt has released the Second Edition of its National AI Strategy (2025–2030); and Nigeria has advanced a National AI Strategy and strengthened NITDA's coordinating role in national AI development.

engagement and institution-building. (African Union, 2024; Government of Kenya, 2025; Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, South Africa, 2024; Government of South Africa, 2025; Ministry of ICT and Innovation, Rwanda, n.d.; Government of Egypt, 2025; NITDA, 2025a; NITDA, 2025b). Africa is therefore not absent from AI governance. The deeper constraint is fragmentation with multiple national efforts without sufficient coordination to shape a unified continental position.

The challenge, then, should be described with care. Africa does face real readiness constraints, but so does much of the world outside the most advanced economies. The IMF's AI Preparedness Index places advanced economies at 0.68, emerging market economies at 0.46, low-income countries at 0.32, and Sub-Saharan Africa at 0.34.

That suggests Africa is not uniquely outside the picture; rather, many countries remain in early or intermediate stages of preparedness. UNCTAD makes a similar point in its 2025 report, warning that AI is advancing faster than governance capacity in many parts of the world and that infrastructure, skills and institutional

investment will determine who can translate policy ambition into meaningful capability. The implication is clear: announcing policy is no longer enough. Influence will come from those who can operationalise governance through talent, systems and implementation capacity (IMF, 2026; UNCTAD, 2025a; UNCTAD, 2025b).

That wider lens also expands where Africa might look for lessons. India is relevant because it is trying to combine inclusion, compute access, governance guidelines and an AI Safety Institute within a development context. Japan offers a model of trustworthy and adaptive governance. China shows how a state can regulate particular AI applications while also building domestic capability. Singapore demonstrates iterative, practice-oriented governance. Australia illustrates how capability, infrastructure and public benefit can be woven into a national plan.

Brazil and Chile show the value of moving from principle to execution, while Caribbean efforts underline that readiness-building, institutional learning and regional cooperation are themselves important parts of governance. Gulf strategies, particularly in the UAE and Saudi Arabia, show how AI can be tied explicitly to economic transformation. What emerges is not a single model, but a set of strategic choices available to Africa. These examples do not provide a single blueprint, but they do suggest that Africa can learn from a broad set of peers rather than only from Europe or the United States.

(IMDA, 2026; Cabinet Office, Japan, 2026; IndiaAI, 2026a; IndiaAI, 2026b; Australian Government, 2025; Government of Brazil, 2024; Government of Chile, 2025; CARICOM, 2025; UAE Artificial Intelligence Office, n.d.; Saudi Data and AI Authority, n.d.).

This is where the question in the title becomes useful. Where is Africa's collective voice? A collective voice should not be understood as consensus, but as coordinated influence and the ability to shape agendas, contribute standards and engage global processes from a position of alignment rather than fragmentation. It should also not be framed as an appeal to join a debate

that some others might feel they have already settled. It should be framed as a call to organise influence more strategically within a governance system that is still taking shape. Africa's collective voice can be strengthened across three levels:

Continental (African Union): Align strategy, standards and global representation; Regional (e.g. SADC, ECOWAS): Enable regulatory learning, shared sandboxes and cross-border coordination; and National: Focus on execution, skills, infrastructure, institutions and implementation.

That means using AU processes more deliberately, deepening regional regulatory learning, strengthening institutional capacity, and participating more assertively in multilateral digital forums, including processes linked to the Global Digital Compact. It also means contributing African priorities, such as equity, language diversity, developmental inclusion, public-interest deployment and institutional realism, to global AI discussions, not only reacting to external norms after the fact. The issue is therefore less about belated entry than about stronger coordination, clearer agenda-setting and more sustained participation. (African Union, 2024; United Nations, 2024; UNCTAD, 2025a).

If Africa does not organise its voice, the likely outcome is not exclusion, but passive alignment. Standards will be adopted rather than shaped and local priorities may be constrained by frameworks developed elsewhere. This would limit both policy autonomy and innovation potential. For TICON Africa, this creates a more balanced and credible policy position. The point is not to argue that Africa is standing outside AI governance while others decide everything. It is to recognise that AI governance is being shaped across multiple regions and institutional traditions, and that Africa's opportunity lies in engaging this polycentric landscape with greater confidence, stronger coordination and broader learning. AI governance is still being written. Africa's opportunity is not to catch up, but to shape what comes next through coordinated action, stronger institutions and a clear articulation of its own priorities.

These are meaningful signs of

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL HELD AT PALAPYE

In the matter between:
KENEILWE K KEAKEDITSWE
And
PHETSO MOTSUMI

CASE NO: CCMPLY-000651/25
PLAINTIFF
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASSED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to judgment of the above honorable Court the following property of the above – mentioned Respondent/Defendant will be sold by public Auction by Deputy Sheriff Kebonyekgosi Ntebele to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE: 02nd May 2026
VENUE: In front of Mahalapye Old Police Station,
TIME: 14:00 PM

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Jeep Grand Cherokee (Registration Number B292AUG), Sky Tv, 1x2 Camp Chair,Couch,Table, Office Chair, 1x2 Fan,Heater, Book Shelf, Hisense Fridge, Russell Hobbs Microwave, Cylinder, Caprie Gas Stove (2 Burner), Kitchen Table, 1x 2 Queen Bed,Woredrope, Mattress, Coat Hanger, Printer, Laptop, Dixon Speaker,Traditional Chair.

TERMS OF SALE: Cash or Electronic Fund Transfer.

DEPUTY SHERIFF KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE
P O BOX 774 ABG, SEBELE
GABORONE
Contact Mr. Ntebele @ 71694303

Why Nigeria must accelerate the shift to SF6-free switchgear

ADESINA GBADEBO*

NIGERIA IS THE LAND of abundance, richly endowed with natural resources, cultural diversity, and human capital. However, it is also this abundance that is putting the country's grid under tremendous pressure; it faces an urgent need modernise its infrastructure to keep pace with its growing industries, and importantly, population.

Today, Nigerian must not only generate more power, it must also ensure that the systems responsible for distributing electricity are

reliable, resilient and future ready.

Across Nigeria, aging infrastructure and persistent grid reliability issues continue to put strain on the country's ability to deliver consistent power. Currently, Nigeria's installed generation capacity is around 13,000 MW, but only about 7,000 MW is available for transmission, and actual delivered power is often closer to 4,000–5,000 MW due to technical and operational constraints.

Furthermore, access remains uneven, with approximately 60% of the population connected to the grid, and even those connected face frequent outages.

Overcoming infrastructure challenges with MV switchgear

The above highlights a significant infrastructure challenge, particularly within substations and distribution networks that

move power from generation sources to homes, businesses and industries.

One often overlooked element of this infrastructure is medium voltage (MV) switchgear, the critical equipment responsible for safely controlling and distributing electricity throughout the grid.

Taking it one step further, a lot of the MV switchgear currently in operation relies on sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) as an insulating gas. While SF6 has long been used because of its strong electrical insulation properties, it is also one of the most potent greenhouse gases (GHG) known, with a global warming potential thousands of times greater than carbon dioxide. Nigeria therefore now faces an important decision: whether to continue expanding the grid with legacy technologies which are environmentally unsafe or leapfrog directly to more sustainable alternatives.

The reliability of SF6-free technologies

The good news is recent innovations in switchgear design have introduced solutions that use pure air insulation and vacuum interruption, eliminating the need for SF6 entirely. Importantly, these modern switchgear offerings also provide considerable operational advantages. For example, digital monitoring capabilities allow operators to track equipment performance in real time, improving asset management, predictive maintenance and overall grid reliability.

Schneider Electric's SF6-free AirSeT switchgear range, built on proven MV design, replaces

SF6, with pure air insulation and vacuum interrupters, ensuring consistent performance without environmental compromise.

However, what sets it apart is its digital edge: IoT-enabled monitoring and predictive maintenance tools give operators real-time visibility, reducing downtime and extending asset life.

And for a country like Nigeria, where infrastructure resilience is essential to support economic growth, these capabilities represent a significant opportunity.

Speeding adoption

However, whilst the advantages of SF6-free technologies are clear, adoption in Nigeria has been slower than the market's long-term potential might suggest. The most immediate barrier is cost.

The upfront investment for advanced switchgear can be higher than conventional alternatives. In a market where electricity tariffs remain relatively low, infrastructure investments often face tight financial constraints.

Contractors and project developers frequently prioritise solutions with the lowest initial cost, even if more advanced technologies deliver better performance and lower lifecycle costs over time. Not every customer is ready to adopt the newest technologies immediately.

For this reason, the early adoption of SF6-free switchgear in Nigeria is often driven by organisations whose operational priorities already align with sustainability and digital transformation.

Projects funded by international development institutions, climate funds or foreign financial organisations, for example, often require environmentally responsible technologies as part of their funding conditions. In these cases, SF6-free switchgear becomes the preferred choice.

Similarly, large industrial operators - particularly those exploring energy diversification strategies - are increasingly looking for infrastructure solutions that support both operational efficiency and environmental responsibility.

Another important driver is Nigeria's growing renewable energy sector. Renewable projects such as solar farms can be deployed far faster than conventional power plants, but technology alone won't dictate the pace of change. Policy enforcement and accountability are critical to ensuring sustainability standards aren't watered down in the rush to cut costs.

Internationally funded schemes show that when strict environmental criteria are applied, developers deliver on their commitments. Nigeria has the chance to follow suit.

Next-generation solutions such as SF6-free switchgear prove that innovation can deliver reliability without sacrificing environmental responsibility. For Nigeria, embracing these technologies will be key to securing energy access and economic growth on a sustainable footing.

**Power & Grid Segment, Schneider Electric West Africa*

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

In the matter between:
MALEBOGO ZILBERMAN
And
LEBOGANG KAGISO ANNAH MOTOMA

BUSANG J.
CASE NO: CVHGB-000378-24
PLAINTIFF
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASSED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Judgment of this Honourable Court dated 22nd October 2024 and stamped on the 22nd day of October 2024 the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff D.P. Gabobakwe in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE: 12th June 2026
TIME OF SALE: 10:00 Hours
PLACE OF SALE: Tribal Lot 13500, Mochudi

TERMS OF SALE: Cash or EFT

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: The Defendant's rights, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 13500 Mochudi, measuring 1691m² (One Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety-One Square Metres), held under Title deed No. TL 1096/2016 dated 4th day of November 2016 and made in favour of **LEBOGANG KAGISO ANNAH MOTOMA**, together with the developments thereon being; (main building which comprises of an entrance veranda, living room, kitchen and two rooms; first out building which comprises of two rooms; and, second out building which comprises a room and a manual operating and non-waterborne toilet).

□ The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriff's Offices at the addresses below.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 14TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

Deputy Sheriff D.P. Gabobakwe
73900288/72901534
C/o Gobhoza Legal Practice
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 115, Kgale Mews, Unit 19
Gaborone International Finance Park
P O Box 26168, Game City
Gaborone

GOBHOZA LEGAL PRACTICE
Attorneys, Conveyancers, Notaries, Arbitrators & Corporate Services

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF KWENENG HELD AT MOGODITSHANE

In the matter between
INDUSTRO CHEM BOTSWANA
And
PETER DZINGAI
EZE MARAPIRA

CASE NO: CCMGM-000365/25
PLAINTIFF
1ST DEFENDANT
2ND DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASSED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment of the above Honourable Court the following movable property of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by **DEPUTY SHERIFF, ERNEST C. BECHANG RAMODISA** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE: FRIDAY 08TH MAY 2026
TIME: 10:30AM
VENUE: BROADHURST MAGISTRATE COURT

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Motorvehicle Ford Ranger Double Cab White in colour registration no: B 828 BI.

TERMS OF SALE: Cash, EFT or Bank Guaranteed Cheque.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS: 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ERNEST C. BECHANG RAMODISA
PLOT NO. 19410, PHASE 2
NEAR MASA PRIMARY SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 70697, UB
GABORONE
CONTACTS: 72296140
73766607
3116755

DEPUTY SHERIFF
E.C.B. Ramodisa
Tel: (267) 3116755 Fax: (267) 3116796

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

In the matter between:
MALEBOGO ZILBERMAN
And
PANANA ELVIS BOGATSU

RADIJENG J.
CASE NO: CVHGB-000379-24
PLAINTIFF
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASSED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Judgment of this Honourable Court dated 18th September 2024 and stamped on the 10th day of October 2024 the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff D.P. Gabobakwe in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE: 10th June 2026
TIME OF SALE: 10:00 Hours
PLACE OF SALE: Tribal Lot 7011, Mmankgodi

TERMS OF SALE: Cash or EFT

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: The Defendant's rights, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 7011 Mmankgodi, measuring 7444m² (Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Forty-Four Square Metres), held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. TL 278/2022 dated the 17th day of March 2022 and made in favour of **PANANA ELVIS BOGATSU**, together with the developments thereon being; (a bachelor pad, pit latrine toilet, gum pole fence and a sliding gate).

□ The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriff's Offices at the addresses below.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 14TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

Deputy Sheriff D. P. Gabobakwe
73900288/72901534
C/o Gobhoza Legal Practice
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 115, Kgale Mews, Unit 19
Gaborone International Finance Park
P O Box 26168, Game City
Gaborone

GOBHOZA LEGAL PRACTICE
Attorneys, Conveyancers, Notaries, Arbitrators & Corporate Services

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE

In the matter between:-
GDS BOTSWANA T/A DIGITALGAE TECHNOLOGIES
and
JENNIFER MANGOBE

CASE NO: CVHGB-003508-25
PLAINTIFF
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASSED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution of the above Honourable Court the following movable goods of the Defendant JENNIFER MANGOBE will be sold by public auction by **DEPUTY SHERIFF ONKGOPOTSE MOTLHAGODI** to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE: 21st May 2026
TIME: 10:30 hours
VENUE: Broadhurst Police Station

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: 1 x 1 White Volkswagen Amarok Double Cab Motor Vehicle, Registration No B 245 BUV

TERMS OF SALE: Cash or Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 21ST DAY OF APRIL 2026.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONKGOPOTSE MOTLHAGODI
CELL: 71 868324/ 73 321097
C/o ASHFORD KGOMOTSO AND ASSOCIATES
Plot No.884, Unit 4, Rizka House
African Mall, Gaborone
P.O. Box 1834 AAD
Poso House
Tel: 3114460
GABORONE

Business

Mining in deep contraction

■ Mining production down 45 percent in Q4 2025 ■ Sector subdued, diamond output falls by 46 percent ■ Kenewendo optimistic about diamond sector recovery

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

KEY ECONOMIC DATA RELEASED by Statistics Botswana (SB) suggests a record economic contraction in the local mining sector with mining production having declined by 44.7% in the fourth quarter of 2025.

The information is contained on the Index of the Physical Volume of Mining Production fourth quarter 2025 statistics brief.

Statistician General Dr Khaufelo Lekobane in the brief said the Index of Mining Production stood at 40.9 in the fourth quarter of 2025 compared to 74.0 registered in the corresponding quarter of 2024, showing a year-on-year decline of 44.7 percent.

Dr Lekobane said in a quarter-on-quarter comparison, the index declined by 58.4 percent from 98.3 recorded during the third quarter of 2025. On an annual basis, the total index of mining production stood at 67.1, showing a decline of 13.4 percent in 2025 when compared with 77.5 registered in 2024.

Statistics Botswana said the 3.4 percent decline in annual mining production followed another decline of 24.9 percent in 2024 and an increase of 4.3 percent in 2023.

The report noted that although the total mining production index showed increases during certain periods between 2015 and 2025, in overall it declined at an average annual rate of 2.3 percent over the past 10 years.

The mining sector is grappling with tough economic conditions characterised by sluggish diamond sales owing to weaker demand for rough diamonds globally.

The development has forced Debswana Diamond Company to scale down production as a cost containment measure. A downturn



Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo

in diamond sales and associated productivity since the third quarter of 2023 has largely been responsible for two consecutive contractions in the economy.

The slowdown has also deepened budget deficits, drained government savings, triggered a financial sector liquidity crunch and also accelerated

a pile-up in public debt. According to the national statistics agency, the main contributor to the decline in mining production were Diamonds which contributed 45.6 percentage points.

This decrease is primarily attributable to scheduled maintenance shutdowns: one major mine remained non-operational for the entire quarter

following prior plant-utilisation optimisation ahead of planned maintenance, while another mine conducted maintenance activities during October 2025 only.

“On a quarter-on-quarter basis, production also fell by 67.9 percent (4,157 thousand carats), during the fourth quarter of 2025, from 6,127

thousand carats produced during the third quarter of 2025,” said the agency.

Despite the contraction in mining, Minister of Minerals and Energy Bogolo Kenewendo has expressed optimism in the recovery of the diamond sector in the short to medium term. Kenewendo while responding to the 2026/27 national budget indicated

that ‘brighter, more sparklier’ future is ahead for diamonds, given the heavy investment by Botswana and other partners in joint marketing, as well as a warm-up in demand.

Kenewendo said that whilst the country needed to accelerate its transformation agenda, diamonds, as challenged as they are, continue to play



a significant role in the economy.

COPPER STRONG

Statistics Botswana said Copper in Concentrates and Salt contributed positively to the mining production growth at 1.0 percentage points and 0.1 of a percentage points respectively.

It said the quarter-on-quarter analysis shows a significant decline of 58.4 percent, with the index falling from 98.3 in the third quarter of 2025 to 40.9 during the period under review.

The latest Statistics Botswana (SB) International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) Monthly Digest-December 2025 report said Copper and Ore Concentrates was the leading commodity that Botswana has exported in December 2025 with copper exports valued P944.9 million accounting for 58.3 percent of total non-diamonds exports. According to the report, In December 2025, the country’s top fifty exported commodities excluding diamonds accounted for 31.9 percent (P1, 480.8 million) of Botswana’s total exports. Among the top fifty, Copper ores and concentrates was leading export commodity accounting for 58.3 percent (P944.9 million) of total non-diamonds exports.

Khowe leads MDCB



MDCB Caretaker CEO, Pelaelo Daniel Khowe

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF Minerals Development Company Botswana (MDCB) is pleased to announce the appointment of Pelaelo Daniel Khowe as Caretaker Chief Executive Officer, effective 20 April 2026.

Khowe is a seasoned finance and investment professional with over 20 years of experience across finance, accounting, grants management, and strategic leadership in both the public and private sectors. Prior to his secondment, he served as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Minerals and Energy, where he provided strategic oversight of Botswana’s mining and energy portfolio, including several key state-owned enterprises.

His appointment reflects the Board’s commitment to ensuring leadership continuity and strategic stability at MDCB during this transitional period. Mr Khowe brings extensive expertise in investment strategy, financial governance, and large-scale project oversight, underpinned by his involvement in major national initiatives, including Botswana’s landmark mining and energy negotiations and infrastructure projects.

Among his notable achievements, Khowe chaired the Finance Working Group during the Botswana-De Beers diamond negotiations. He has also played a pivotal role in structuring, negotiating, and delivering Botswana’s first 300MW coal-fired Independent Power Producer (IPP) project, as well as 10MW and 6MW Coal Bed Methane power pilot projects. His distinguished service has been recognised with the award of the Naledi Ya Botswana (N.Y.B) for meritorious service.

“The Board welcomes Mr Khowe to this role at a pivotal time for MDCB. His depth of experience, strategic insight, and strong understanding of Botswana’s minerals and energy landscape position him well to provide steady leadership and continuity. We are confident in his ability to guide the organisation as we advance our mandate and sustain momentum during this transition,” said Oabile Mabusa, Board Chairman, MDCB.

Debswana banks on hybrid strategy

- Brings BDC aboard to unlock diversification potential
- Debswana Hybrid Transformation Strategy rollout impressive
- BDC MD says the partnership vital in building next generation industries



BDC Managing Director Oteng Keabetswe sealing the MoU with Debswana MD Andrew Motsomi

BAKANG TIRO
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DEBSWANA DIAMOND COMPANY, the country’s leading diamond producer by value, is charting a new path by leveraging on its new 2025-29 Hybrid Transformation Strategy to derive maximum value for economic diversification through striking strategic partnerships, Debswana MD Andrew Motsomi has underscored.

Debswana Diamond Company is a 50/50 joint venture between the Government of Botswana and De Beers Group and is considered an important stakeholder in Botswana’s economic development for years.

On Tuesday, Debswana entered into a strategic partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding anchored on diversification with Botswana Development Corporation (BDC), government’s investment arm.

Highlighting the importance of Debswana-BDC partnership, Motsomi buttressed that at Debswana, they have embarked on a bold journey through their new Hybrid Transformation Strategy, which will fundamentally reshape how Debswana does business.

Motsomi said this strategy positions Debswana for the future by anchoring

its efforts around three key pillars of portfolio focus, with these pillars forming the basis of the 2025–2029 Organisational Strategy, designed to build a diversified, cash-generative portfolio by 2029.

“To achieve this, our strategy unfolds through three strategic pathways: Number 1, Transform and Leverage the existing Diamond Mining Business. Here, we aim to maximise value from our core operations through operational excellence, productivity, and cost optimisation,” said Motsomi.

On pillar two, he said, the strategy leverages Competencies, noting that this involves transforming internal capabilities into external business opportunities.

“And lastly, ignite Breakout Businesses on the Edge. This pathway is about vision and patience, making strategic investments in new ventures with the potential to create significant value and open new economic frontiers for our nation,” he added.

Motsomi said as Debswana ventures into pathways two and three of the strategy, transformation of this magnitude requires collaboration. He said Debswana must therefore build robust industry partnerships and alliances to enable the creation of shared long-term value.

In this context, Mtsomi said BDC stands out as a fundamental partner, adding that Debswana and BDC share a

common vision, one rooted in national prosperity, economic resilience, and institutional legacy. This partnership, he said, symbolises more than commercial opportunity, but a commitment to national transformation, in line with the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP).

Motsomi said Debswana and BDC together will advance national economic diversification through value-adding projects, promote long-term institutional legacy, and economic sovereignty. He also said the two organisations will drive citizen empowerment through employment creation, local enterprise participation, and local procurement.

Decisive Step
Meanwhile, BDC Managing Director Oteng Keabetswe said the partnership represents a decisive step in Botswana’s economic transformation journey.

Keabetswe said it formalises a strategic partnership between the BDC and Debswana, anchored on a shared commitment to industrialisation, diversification, and long-term economic resilience.

For decades, Keabetswe stated that Botswana’s growth has been underpinned by the strength of the diamond sector, adding that Debswana has been central to that success, providing both economic stability and a platform for national development.

“The question we must now answer, collectively and decisively, is how we leverage that legacy to build the next generation of industries. This partnership is a direct response,” said Keabetswe.

Keabetswe added: “At BDC, we have undertaken a deliberate strategic repositioning. We are transitioning into an impact-driven, catalytic investment institution focused on building scalable industries, mobilising capital beyond our balance sheet, and delivering measurable economic outcomes.”

BSB launches ambitious Pinagare 2029 strategy

BOTSWANA SAVINGS BANK (BSB) has officially launched its Pinagare 2029 Strategy, marking one of the most significant transformation agendas in the bank’s history. The strategy sets out a bold roadmap to position BSB as Botswana’s primary banking partner.

This forward-looking strategy ushers in a new era of growth, relevance, and national impact, as the Bank responds to evolving customer expectations, rapid digital adoption, increasing competition, and the need for long-term financial sustainability. At the heart of the strategy is a clear ambition: to become the bank customers rely on most for salaries, savings, payments, borrowing, business growth, and everyday financial needs.

BSB’s renewed direction is anchored in a strong strategic identity of being the bank customers rely on most, by delivering the simplest, most accessible, and most dependable financial solutions in the market; and to make banking simple, secure, and accessible by providing practical financial solutions that empower customers to manage their money, run their businesses, and grow with confidence.

BSB Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Wabo Moswate, described the strategy as a defining moment for the bank.

“This marks the beginning of a new chapter for Botswana Savings Bank. We are building a stronger, faster, and more customer-focused institution—one that earns the right to be the primary bank of choice for households, businesses, and communities across Botswana. Our focus is clear: disciplined execution, superior customer experience, stronger financial performance, modern digital capability, and meaningful national impact,” said Dr Moswate.



BSB Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Wabo Moswate

Over the next three years, BSB will aggressively pursue growth in primary customer relationships by expanding salary-linked banking, deepening savings relationships, increasing everyday transaction activity, and strengthening customer loyalty across all segments. The Bank will accelerate investment in digital banking, payments infrastructure, cards, mobile platforms, ATMs, and simplified customer journeys to make banking faster, easier, and more convenient.

A key pillar of the strategy is the expansion of SME and business banking. BSB aims to become a stronger financial partner to

entrepreneurs and enterprises by broadening access to lending, working capital, transactional banking, merchant acquiring, collections solutions, and relationship-led support. Through this commitment, the Bank seeks to play a more prominent role in advancing Botswana’s economic diversification agenda—stimulating private sector growth, supporting entrepreneurship, and contributing meaningfully to national transformation priorities.

The strategy also prioritises the development of new revenue streams through merchant acquiring, digital payments, treasury services, strategic partnerships, and ecosystem-led opportunities to strengthen resilience and diversify earnings.

At the same time, BSB will reinforce its institutional foundations through enhanced risk management, stronger governance, improved controls, advanced data capabilities, technology resilience, operational efficiency, and a culture of excellence. Recognising that transformation is driven by people, the Bank will invest in leadership development, employee experience, digital skills, commercial capability, and customer service excellence to build a high-performing organisation ready for the future.

BSB has reaffirmed its commitment to national development through expanded financial inclusion, SME growth, citizen empowerment, and increased participation in the economy.

“We are not only building a stronger bank—we are building a stronger national institution, one that expands opportunity, supports enterprise, empowers citizens, and grows with Botswana,” Dr Moswate added.

By 2029, BSB aims to be Botswana’s preferred everyday bank: a leader in simple and accessible banking, a digitally advanced and payments-led institution, financially resilient and sustainably profitable, and a trusted partner for households, businesses, and government.

Botswana raises \$64m to support SADC digital expansion

THE BOTSWANA TECH FUND (BTF) has launched a multi-stage venture capital initiative targeting approximately \$64 million in total commitments, aiming to accelerate digital transformation and support technology entrepreneurs across Southern Africa.

The fund is structured to leverage Botswana's relatively stable macroeconomic environment, strong governance framework, and high internet penetration, estimated at around 80%, to back scalable technology-enabled businesses. It also positions itself within the wider Southern African Development Community (SADC), a 16-nation bloc with a combined population of more than 370 million people, which fund managers describe as a key opportunity for regional scale.

BTF is being established as a strategic partnership between venture capital operators and family office investors. Launch Africa Ventures will act as investment adviser for Phase One under its managed accounts strategy, while Pula

Investments serves as anchor investor. Leadership includes Martin Davis, Managing Partner and former chief executive of FTSE 250-listed Molten Ventures, alongside Florence Bavanandan, General Partner and Head of Platform and Operations at Launch Africa Ventures.

The fund follows a dual-phase deployment strategy designed to support startups from pre-seed through growth. Phase One will deploy about \$6.4 million, including roughly \$1.3 million dedicated to pre-seed founders, alongside two to four growth-stage investments spanning primary and secondary transactions.

The long-term objective remains the full \$64 million commitment target, positioning BTF as a significant source of early- and growth-stage capital for the region.

According to the fund's investment approach, Southern Africa is at an inflection point in its digital transition, but continues to face a structural financing gap, particularly in application-layer technologies and digital infrastructure.

Botswana's positioning as a relatively well-governed market is seen as an advantage for structured venture investment, with expectations that capital deployment can be scaled across the broader SADC region.

To strengthen deal flow and ecosystem integration, BTF has partnered with the Botswana Innovation Hub, which will provide portfolio companies with physical infrastructure, access to local deal pipelines, and integration into the national innovation ecosystem.

The fund also draws operational support from Launch Africa Ventures, which has previously contributed to startups that collectively reached more than \$3 billion in market capitalisation through its portfolio activity.

BTF's backers say the model is designed to combine local ecosystem access with institutional-grade venture execution, as competition for early-stage African tech deals intensifies among global and regional investors. [africa.businessinsider.com]



Managing Partner, Martin Davis

G4S Botswana appoints Finance Director

G4S BOTSWANA HAS APPOINTED Tobile Lemo as its Finance Director, effective 11th March 2026. Tobile is a Chartered Accountant with over 15 years of extensive experience in accounting, finance, and audit. She previously served as Financial Controller within the organization. She joins G4S

Botswana from Bomaid, where she held the position of Finance Manager. Prior to that, Tobile has held several finance leadership roles in industry primarily oil and gas, multinational and parastatal. Tobile is a Fellow Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA, UK) and the Botswana Institute

of Chartered Accountants (BICA). The Board has also announced the resignation of Michael Groebblar from the Board with effect from 31st March 2026. Michael joined the Board as a non-executive director in March 2025 and has subsequently resigned from G4S Africa and the G4S Botswana Board. [bse.co.bw]

Know Your Corporate Leader

Full Name: Chandada Masendu-Kusane
Position: Chief Executive Officer
Date Started: 5 February 2024
Institution: Education Infrastructure and Management Company (EIMC)
Nature of business: Public School Infrastructure, Refurbishment, Management And Professionalisation.



Tourist arrivals decline in Botswana

SOLOMON TJINYEKA
 editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT and Tourism, Wynter Mmolotsi, has revealed that Botswana has experienced a decline in tourist arrivals since 2019.

Speaking at the HATAB Annual Conference 2026 in Maun, Mmolotsi said the average length of stay among international visitors has also dropped significantly. In 2019, tourists stayed an average of 6.3 nights, but by 2025, that figure had decreased to 4.9 nights.

Despite shorter stays, spending patterns have fluctuated. Average daily tourist expenditure increased from P1,328 in 2022 to P1,718 in 2023, before declining



Minister of Tourism and Environment, Wynter Mmolotsi

to P1,493 in 2024 and further dropping to P1,183 in 2025.

Mmolotsi said the trends highlight a critical issue within Botswana's tourism sector. He stressed that attracting visitors

alone is not enough, emphasizing the need to encourage tourists to stay longer, explore more destinations, and spend across a wider tourism value chain. "Diversification is not optional it is essential," he said.


Coming to a place near you!

Explore programmes, admissions and student life. Come and connect with our team.

- Shakawe:** Acacia Mall - 25 April
- Kasane:** National Library - 25 April
- BHRDS Maun:** The Life Centre Botswana - 28 - 29 April
- Nata:** Choppies Mall - 27 April
- BHRDS Francistown:** Council Stadium Francistown City - 21 - 23 April
- Ghanzi:** Choppies Complex - 23 April
- Lethakane:** Teemane Mall - 1 May
- Selibe Phikwe:** BBS Mall - 29 April
- Palapye:** Shopping Mall Palapye Junction - 1 May
- Kang:** Choppies Complex - 21 April
- Tsabong:** TM Mall - 19 April

#UBROADSHOWS2026
 Re On!

For more information contact +267 355 2284



LLR appoints new Company Secretary

LETLOLE LA RONA LIMITED ARE hereby notified of the resignation and appointment of the Company Secretary of LLR. LLR advises that Ms. Bothepa Obuseng has resigned from her position as Company Secretary with effect from 22 April 2026 and will vacate office on 28 May 2026. Ms Obuseng joined the Company in 2020 and has since served with professionalism, commitment, and integrity. During her tenure, she diligently guided the Board and its subsidiaries on matters of good corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and best practice, thereby ensuring and safeguarding the integrity of the Company. The Board extends its sincere appreciation to Ms Obuseng for her valuable contributions and dedicated service over the years and wishes her continued success in her future



Outgoing LLR Secretary, Bothepa Obuseng

will be appointed as the Company's Company Secretary with effect from 01 June 2026. Wise Leadership brings a wealth of experience and expertise in corporate governance, compliance, and secretarial services. The Board is confident that Wise Leadership will provide strong support and guidance to the Board and management and will continue to uphold the highest standards of governance, regulatory compliance, and best practice in the discharge of its duties. The appointment ensures continuity in the Company's governance framework and reinforces the Board's commitment to sound corporate governance and effective oversight. LLR welcomes the new Company Secretary and looks forward to their valuable contributions in supporting the Board and Management. [bse.co.bw]

RDCPL buys 30% stake in Stellenbosch's Bergkelder Precinct

RDCPL ACQUIRED A 30% EQUITY interest into a development company for the Bergkelder Precinct as well as provided a working capital facility for the project at R150million and R25 million, respectively. The Bergkelder Precinct represents a large-scale, phased mixed-use redevelopment opportunity within the Adam Tas Corridor in Stellenbosch, one of the Western Cape's most supply-constrained and structurally resilient property nodes. The site comprises approximately 12.7 hectares of strategically located land, including the historic Mons Cellarium buildings and adjacent industrial properties, positioned for transformation

into a high-density mixed-use precinct incorporating retail, residential, hospitality, commercial and public realm components. Under a disciplined structure with embedded capital and governance controls, Bergkelder offers RDCPL controlled exposure to long-term precinct value creation in a premium micro-market and benefits including:

- Exposure to large-scale precinct development in a premium node.
- Development-driven NAV growth rather than yield compression reliance.
- Capital protection through phased and structured deployment.
- Asset management and hospitality platform integration.
- Multiple monetisation pathways
- Participation in a policy-aligned regeneration project.

Pursuant to the Botswana Stock Exchange Equity Listings Requirements, shareholders must be provided with full, accurate and timely disclosure of information that may reasonably be expected to have a significant effect on the price, value or market activity in listed securities. In line with that obligation, the Company confirms the following:

- the transaction that was the subject of the cautionary announcement has been successfully concluded;
- the cautionary announcement published on 20 March 2026 is accordingly withdrawn;
- and • shareholders are no longer required to exercise caution when dealing in the Company's securities on account of that cautionary announcement. [bse.co.bw]

Botswana-China (Linyi) Investment and Trade Promotion Conference

PROFESSOR LEKOKO S. KENOSI, Ambassador of Botswana to China, led the Botswana delegation at the Botswana-China (Linyi) Investment and Trade Promotion Conference held on 20 April 2026, a key event aimed at strengthening economic cooperation between the two nations.

The conference forms part of Linyi's "Go Global" strategy, aligning with Botswana's broader agenda to diversify its economy through strategic international partnerships.

Addressing the conference, Miles Gengxu Nan, Presidential Envoy and Special Advisor (Asia-Pacific) on Trade and Investment Affairs, highlighted Botswana's strategic position as a gateway to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) market, offering access to over 300 million

consumers. He emphasized the country's stable political environment, strong legal framework, and investor-friendly policies as key drivers for international investment.

Discussions extended beyond traditional sectors such as mining, with a strong focus on energy, agriculture, and digital technology—underscoring Botswana's commitment to economic modernization and industrial diversification.

The participation of more than 160 Chinese companies reflected growing interest in expanding "made in Linyi" products into African markets, while also exploring opportunities within Botswana's open and emerging economy.

This high-level engagement further reinforced diplomatic and economic ties between Botswana and China, paving the



Professor Lekoko S. Kenosi way for increased trade, investment, and mutually beneficial partnerships. [Source: BITC]

Imperial School of Business and Science Empowers Future Professionals



Prospective learners were given a glimpse into a world of opportunity as the Imperial School of Business and Science (ISBS) showcased their wide range of programmes at the Botswana Human Resource Development Skills Fair and Career Clinics 2026.

The HRDS Fair, held from 14–17th April at Fairgrounds in Gaborone saw ISBS representatives engaging aspiring students at their exhibition stand, providing detailed information on academic offerings and career pathways aligned with current industry demands.

As a Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) accredited private tertiary institution based in Gaborone Main Mall, ISBS continues to stand out for its commitment to delivering industry-relevant education that equips learners with practical skills for today's competitive job market.

Established in 2003, ISBS offers certificates, diplomas, undergraduate degrees and post graduate qualifications, and professional qualifications in business, management, information technology, finance, health, education and logistics. The institution also provides full-time, part-time, and distance learning options, catering to both school leavers and working professionals.

Speaking at the BHRDS Fair, ISBS Marketing Executive Thatayaone Gareutlwane said the institution has evolved over the years and was ranked among the top three private institutions by the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) in 2018. This he said demonstrates the school's position in providing high quality and affordable education. "In 2016 we had 269 graduates, and in 2018 we had 405. The growth reflects the steady progress of the Imperial School of Business and Science," he said.

Among the key highlights of their programmes is the Postgraduate Diploma in Management, described as a bridge between a degree and a master's programme, designed to equip graduates with essential management skills across various fields.

The institution also showcased undergraduate degree programmes such as Finance and Banking, Digital Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Business Intelligence and Data Analytics, and Public Health, Primary Education, Logistics and Transport while emphasising flexible learning

pathways through certificate and diploma courses for students at different stages.

ISBS further reaffirmed its commitment to aligning its programmes with labour market needs, noting that its offerings are guided by skills demand and national priorities rather than volume. This approach, the institution said has strengthened graduate employability.

"We continuously review our programmes and phase out those that are saturated, while focusing on areas where there is real demand. Our goal is to ensure graduates are competitive in the job market," the institution noted.

In the final phase of study, students are required to undertake a mandatory industrial attachment, designed to bridge classroom learning with real workplace experience, allowing them to apply theory in practical settings and strengthen their employability.

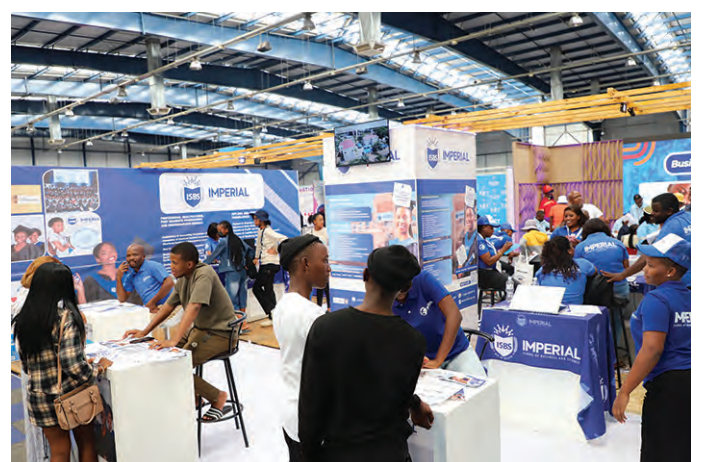
Student welfare also remains a priority, with ISBS providing dedicated support systems including a counsellor and student support officers to ensure learners are guided and supported throughout their academic journey.

Through its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, ISBS continues to widen access to higher education through the Santosh Scholarship, which supports Botswana students who attained between 33 and 35 points in their 2025 examinations but do not qualify for government sponsorship. The scholarship, valued at over P152,000 per student, undergoes a selection process to identify deserving candidates.

Now in its third year, the initiative reflects ISBS's ongoing commitment to supporting academically deserving students and contributing to education accessibility. ISBS also extends sponsorship support through partnerships aimed at strengthening community development.

Through its participation at the BHRDS Fair and Career Clinics 2026, ISBS reaffirmed its commitment to accessible, market-driven education and student support, continuing to equip learners with practical skills, guidance, and opportunities aligned to today's job market.

ISBS will also participate in the Francistown Career Fair scheduled for 21–23 April 2026, as well as the Maun Career Fair set for 28–29 April 2026, further extending its engagement with prospective students across the country.



New Era College Brings Future-Ready Engineering & Technology Programmes



In a world increasingly shaped by innovation, digital transformation, and evolving industry demands, New Era College made a strong impression at the Botswana Human Resource Development Skills Fair and Career Clinics (BHRDS) 2026, where it engaged prospective learners on a wide range of in-demand engineering, technology, and commercial programmes designed to shape their future careers.

Held from 14-17 April 2026, the BHRDS Fair provided an ideal platform for New Era College to showcase its industry-relevant qualifications, practical training approach, and strong commitment to producing skilled, work-ready graduates. The institution attracted significant interest as students and stakeholders flocked to its exhibition stand for guidance on career pathways, programme selection, and study opportunities.

Established in 2009, New Era College is a BQA-accredited private institution located in Block 8, Gaborone, operating on an expansive 8-hectare campus designed to foster innovation and technical excellence. The college is built on a strong foundation of modern, outcome-based education that goes beyond theory to ensure students are fully prepared for the workplace.

For NEC, participation in the fair is important as it provides direct feedback from prospective students and parents, helps demystify technical careers, and aligns student aspirations with national human development goals, particularly in addressing youth unemployment through skills development.

New Era's training approach is based on practical learning, where students gain hands-on experience to prepare them for the workplace. It also focuses on holistic development by instilling discipline, ethics, and responsibility, while ensuring all programmes are aligned with industry needs so that graduates are ready to meet Botswana's labour market demands.

At this year's career fair, New Era College highlighted its expanded academic offerings, including new programmes such as the Bachelor of Science in Cyber Security and Risk Management under the Faculty of Applied Science and Technology. Overall, New Era College offers 24 programmes across four faculties: Applied Science & Technology, Commerce and Industry, Engineering, and Societal and Vocational Education.

New Era College further strengthens its academic relevance through continuous curriculum development aligned with industry needs. This includes the involvement of advisory boards made up of industry leaders, structured internships that integrate real workplace experience, and a 60/40 assessment model (60% examinations and 40% continuous assessment) that balances theory with practical application. Modern laboratories equipped with industry-standard technology further ensure students train in environments that mirror actual workplaces.

Responding to The Patriot on Sunday inquiry, the school management said: "At New Era College,

we provide global-standard training that meets international benchmarks in engineering and related fields. We are committed to developing an entrepreneurial mindset, producing not just employees, but the employers of tomorrow. We also ensure access to financial support through partners such as the Ghodrati Foundation and DTEF sponsorship to make education more accessible."

As one of the colleges championing TVET education, New Era College representatives noted that the perception of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Botswana has shifted from a "fallback option" to a "first-choice career path." Through the establishment of the TVET Advisory Board, New Era College has further professionalised vocational training.

Through initiatives such as the Kago Scholarship Programme, a P250,000 Corporate Social Investment initiative launched in March 2026, New Era College is providing full tuition for ten beneficiaries to undergo a six-month, industry-aligned training in building and construction, focusing on practical skills such as bricklaying, tiling, and painting. These efforts demonstrate that TVET is a direct pathway to self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

Through its participation at BHRDS 2026, New Era College reaffirmed its position as a leading institution dedicated to shaping Botswana's next generation of engineers, technologists, and innovators.



Education for Life

lifestyle

Brutal Fruit Spritzer brings The Pink Table

A Celebration of Elegance, Expression, and Sisterhood.

ON SATURDAY, 18 APRIL, THE lush lawns of Duma Grounds were transformed into a breathtaking spectacle of pink hues, soft elegance, and undeniable feminine energy, as Brutal Fruit Spritzer hosted the first edition of the Pink Table. The Pink Table is an experience that redefined what it means to gather, celebrate, and truly belong.

Hosted by the ever-graceful Marang Selolwane, the afternoon unfolded like a living canvas where beauty, music and connection seamlessly intertwined.

At its heart, The Pink Table is not just an event, it is a declaration that moments shared among women can be luxurious, intentional and deeply meaningful.

The stage came alive with a curated lineup that balanced soul, rhythm and vibrant energy. Headlining the experience was South African Amapiano vocalist, Babalwa M., whose performance brought depth, emotion, and a magnetic presence that held the audience in a collective moment of awe.

She was beautifully complemented by our very own Dato Seiko, whose velvety vocals added a local heartbeat to the experience, reminding attendees that homegrown talent carries its own undeniable magic. Behind the decks, DJ Taitha, Nanie, and Nendiyo curated a sonic journey that flowed effortlessly



from laid-back grooves to uplifting anthems, keeping the energy alive from start to finish.

Beyond the music, The Pink Table delivered a fully immersive experience that invited guests to not just attend, but to indulge.

From delicate bracelet styling

stations where personal expression took form, to glass painting corners that turned creativity into keepsakes, every detail was thoughtfully crafted. Guests were treated to a glam station that enhanced their beauty, while massage pampering areas offered moments of calm and restoration.

Each touchpoint was intentionally designed to celebrate femininity in its many forms: bold, soft, creative, and unapologetically expressive.

For the last three years, Brutal Fruit has positioned itself as more than just a beverage, it is a facilitator of belonging. A curator of moments.

A brand that understands that true luxury lies in how people feel when they come together.

And this event marks another chapter in the brand's commitment to creating spaces where women feel seen, celebrated, and free to express themselves.

On the couch with: Dr Bao Mosinyi

WHAT TO THE MAN WHO was recently appointed to lead the tumultuous Air Botswana to find out the character in charge of resuscitating the ailing national airliner.

What do you do in your spare time?

I used to play a lot of golf when I had a lot of time. I often play with my kids, who also love playing golf. Otherwise, I spend time at the farm, especially on weekends.

What book(s) are you currently reading?

A: "Tyranny of the Bottom Line: Why Corporations Make Good People do Bad Things" by Ralph Estees.

I've owned the book for a long time but never read it. I'm currently reading it now when we desperately need to make money for the economy. Sometimes we are so focused on making money that we forget that the assets we manage were created for public good.

Kindly tell us more about Dr Bao Mosinyi

I am from Kalamare in the Central district, but I was born in Molepolole where my mother originates. I attended primary school in Kalamare before proceeding to boarding school at Molefi Secondary in Mochudi for five (form 1-5) years.

Thereafter, I went for National Service (Tirelo Sechaba), and later did a Pre-Entry Science Course in 93 and BSc part 1 at the University of Botswana. Then I transferred to universities in the US for my Degree in Aerospace Engineering at Embree-Riddle Aeronautical University, in Florida.

With three (3) subjects left in my course, I took a year off school to work at ATA Airlines in Indianapolis.

I graduated in December 1999, and in January 2000 started a Master's Degree in Aerospace Engineering,



which I completed in December 2001. I worked as a Teaching Assistant while pursuing my Masters, and won the Federal Aviation Administration Fellowship (FAA) for a PHD and moved to Atlantic City, New Jersey. I did academics at Drexel University in Philadelphia, while conducting research in Pennsylvania on fatigue and damage tolerance of aircraft structures. It is my area of specialty.

As I was close to completing

the PHD, I attended an International Fatigue Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in 2006 where I met executives from Airbus, who recruited me. I joined Airbus in 2007. In 2014, I believed I had done enough for engineering and felt like I was growing grey hair.

I enrolled for an 18-month program in Duke University, pursuing an MBA. I left Airbus in January 2018 and moved to Hartford Connecticut where I worked for

Prett & Whitney- manufacturers of aircraft engines.

In June 2021, I received an invitation from the then Minister of Technology, Thulagano Segokgo- to head the Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB). The then President Mokgweetsi Masisi also personally intervened to get me here. Eventually, I agreed to come home in July, losing out on immense benefits in the US.

My wife and two kids (born 2012,

2014) remained in the US for a while while I settled in Botswana.

Later I was recruited by the current Minister of Transport, Noah Salakae to come and turnaround Air Botswana. President Duma Boko also intervened to convince me to come here.

Their job was made easier by the fact that Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe and I go a long way back. In fact, he was the Best Man during my wedding in 2010.

Khawa Dune Challenge cancelled



THE ORGANISERS OF THE Khawa Dune Challenge & Cultural Festival have announced the postponement of the 2026 edition, originally scheduled for 15-17 May, to 2027 following extensive consultations with key stakeholders, including

the Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO), the Ministry of Tourism, and other partners. The decision, confirmed by Incepta Communications, reflects a coordinated agreement with local authorities and community leadership in Khawa Village.

Samolao bounces back

The Parliament Fountain swimmer pens *The Success of Failure*

DAVID SAMOLOAO, THE Kachikau born man who shocked many by swimming in the water fountain in front of Parliament buildings ten years ago, has launched a new book, titled *The Success of Failure*.

After struggling with drug addiction and being admitted three times at Sbrana Psychiatric Hospital, he has turned the corner, and lived to tell the about the battles against depression that many cannot imagine.

After David lost his mother while in primary school, the Kachikau-born youth was taken in by the Chobe District Council. They took care of him until he passed his exams and went overseas to pursue a career as a doctor, where he never completed his studies but returned empty handed.

In the book, Samolao opens his heart about the nights he carried a rope in his pocket, ready to give up. He talks about the day he overdosed on pills. Yet, in the middle of that despair, he found two things that saved him: a government that

refused to write him off—giving him another chance with a pharmacy course sponsorship—and a woman who saw the man beneath the illness.

He met his wife while she was a student nurse intern at Sbrana Psychiatric Hospital in Lobatse. Some months after being discharged, he searched for her number and managed to find it. Through the turbulent years she stuck with him. After Samolao graduated with a Pharmacy degree and finding employment as a pharmacist, he married her last year.

"I wrote this to bring people to the light, to share my journey, and to inspire those who may be going through dark times," Samolao shares. "I want to show that there is power in God, that it is possible for one to fight and win over their personal demons, and that support from loved ones is of paramount importance."

His story is no longer a tragedy; it is a roadmap for the broken. *The Success of Failure* is available for P290. The author is based in Gaborone and can be reached at +267 76 388 925.

Dine& Paint Exhibition



ON SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2026, renowned artist, visual entrepreneur, and art connoisseur Thato Khomela will host a Dine & Paint exhibition. The intimate and artistic experience will be held from 3pm at Guild Vine. "We will provide attendees with canvas, materials, and this will also be a meet and greet session which will include food" said Khomela in a brief interview.

Khomela who has in the past held art exhibitions, and hosted artistic interactive sessions in line with his creative side, said that he hopes this event will not be a once off. He hopes to make it a quarterly event so as to create a culture of painting, while enjoying fine dining and networking with art patrons and friends.

To reserve a seat to the Dine & Paint event, kindly contact +267 77 131 060 / +267 78 927 844 to register.

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Sport

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▪ Township Rollers unveil new head coach, strikers' coach ▪ Mapalastina's new chapter marked by 5 wins, 5 clean sheets

STAFF WRITER

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

TOWNSHIP ROLLERS Chairman Thapelo Pabalinga on Thursday unveiled Head coach Tor Thodesen and Strikers coach Mthusi Tlhowe. This is not just a change it is a declaration of direction. A rebuild fueled by ambition, sharpened by experience, and anchored in the legacy of 16-time champions. New leadership. New standards. One identity.

The appointment of Thodesen and Tlhowe represents more than leadership. It is a statement of intent. A commitment to excellence. A vision for sustained success. A foundation built on experience and ambition. Touted as an elite football strategist, Thodesen holds a UEFA Pro License and is counted among globally respected football leaders tasked with driving a new era of excellence, identity, and competitive dominance.

Born on 3 March 1966, the Norwegian tactician brings over three decades of elite coaching experience across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. His journey reflects a career built on high-performance environments, player development, and the ability to transform teams into disciplined, results-driven units.

From his early years in Norwegian football to the international stage, Thodesen has consistently demonstrated leadership, adaptability, and a deep understanding of the modern game.

His coaching path has taken him through top environments in Norway, Estonia, the UAE, Finland, and Africa, shaping a well-rounded, globally experienced football mind capable of managing both elite performance and long-term development structures.

Career highlights

Guided Sandefjord to promotion into the Norwegian top division; Led the club to a Norwegian



NEW CHAPTER: Township Rollers team, [INSERT] New Head Coach, Tor Thodesen

Cup Final appearance; Named Norwegian Coach of the Year (2006); Successfully managed and rebuilt competitive teams across multiple leagues; Extensive international coaching experience across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa A coach shaped by diverse football cultures, Thodesen brings a global football perspective into the Township Rollers technical setup, blending structure, intelligence, and adaptability to meet the demands of modern football.

His recent involvement in academy and development projects reflects a forward-thinking approach aligned with long-term player growth and sustainable success.

A strategic leader known for building organized, disciplined, and tactically intelligent teams. Thodesen emphasizes structure without limiting creativity, demanding high standards while empowering players to perform with confidence and purpose. His approach is defined by clarity,

cohesion, and a relentless pursuit of improvement, qualities that elevate both individuals and the collective.

Strikers coach

Meanwhile, the club has announced the appointment of Mthusi Chippa Tlhowe as a strikers coach, a Tactical Specialist and a Player Development Mentor. He joins the Mapalastina technical team as part of a bold new football direction built on identity, discipline, and

attacking evolution.

Born on 22 February 1983 in Gaborone, Tlhowe arrives with years of experience in Botswana football, built through both leadership and development roles across competitive club environments.

Coaching experience

He was head coach at Tlokweg Redsparks FC (2022 – 2024); Head Coach Tlokweg United FC (2018 – 2021) where he guided the club to

First Division promotion via playoff victory (2018/19 season); Assistant Coach Tlokweg United FC (2014 – 2018); Played a key role in tactical preparation, training structure, and player development systems;

Tlhowe holds a Preliminary Coaching Course, BFA B Coaching License, and a CAF C Coaching License. He is a modern attacking specialist with a sharp focus on striker movement, finishing efficiency, and final-third decision

making. He is known for structure, discipline, and detail, transforming attacking units into clinical, intelligent, and high-performance systems.

Club Chairman, Thapelo Pabalinga said: "This appointment strengthens our attacking department and reinforces our commitment to building a fearless, competitive, and identity-driven football team.

A new structure. A new standard. A new Rollers way".

Diamonds for WAR 2026 winners

STAFF WRITER

editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE MEDALS THAT THE world's best relay runners will compete for at the Debswana World Athletics Relays Gaborone 26 have been unveiled, with a few days to go to the global event on 2-3 May.

In honour of Botswana's 60 years of independence, the medals feature natural diamonds sourced from Botswana, symbolising the nation's enduring journey, resilience and excellence.

Crafted to tell Botswana's story through form, texture and space, the medals were designed by Thabang

Maphanyane of The Dialogue Group as a fusion of national symbolism and forward-looking values.

Centrally placed, the diamond serves as both a literal and symbolic cornerstone.

As a key pillar of Botswana's economy, it reflects the nation's resilience and prosperity, while

its brilliance captures the idea of excellence, aspiration and a shining future; qualities embodied by world-class athletes.

An unveiling ceremony for the medals was held at the National Museum and Art Gallery, attended by His Excellency President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, who delivered

a keynote address and presided over the official reveal.

The occasion celebrated Botswana's global leadership in diamonds, its rich cultural heritage, and its growing stature as a host of world-class sporting events.



WAR 2026 Diamond medals officially unveiled by President Duma Boko



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