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### 5 DAYS TO GO!

### 'No special powers for Boko'

- Govt won't centralise procurement under the Presidency- OP
- Open bidding continues anchoring public procurement



**Mophuting-Dikoloti**  
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**G**OVERNMENT doesn't have any intentions to amend the public procurement law to grant the President special procurement powers, the Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security Maipelo Mophuting- Dikoloti has

TO PAGE 4

# Boko pokes BCP

- Boko uses 500MW Solar Plant to score political points
- Solar Plant 'tactically' located in BCP stronghold
- Boko takes war to BCP, Saleshando's backyard

**BAKANG TIRO & BAKWADI LEKOPANE**  
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**A** FIERCE POLITICAL showdown is bubbling under in Ngamiland district and the Okavango Delta – regions that have for a long time been the stronghold of the main opposition Botswana Congress Party (BCP), where the ruling party has historically struggled to gain traction.

Over many decades the region has been known for producing fierce and militant politicians, who proved their mettle against tough and well-resourced ruling party foot soldiers and their machinery. Political heavy weights from years of yonder, the likes of Joseph Kavindama, Motsamai Mpho, Gilson Saleshando, Gaerolwe Kwerepe, Bahiti Temane come to mind. Even the latter-day successors in the mold of Botswana Congress Party (BCP) Members of Parliament - Dumelang Saleshando, Goretsetse



**President Boko**

Kekgonegile, Hainangura Hikuama, Kenny Kapinga are no push-overs.

Now, it would appear that the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) has unleashed a charm offensive to flip the coin, and turn around their fortunes in Ngamiland and Okavango districts. And therefore, on Thursday morning, during

the launch of the Mawana 500MW Solar Power Plant near Maun, President Duma Boko deliberately struck the hornet's nest, proclaiming to be cool with the area MP using the massive solar power plant to claim credit for delivering developments in the area.

Leading a high-powered delegation comprising top

officials from Oman, Boko descended on Maun and played a wounded tiger attitude as he took swipe at his detractors whom he described as naysayers or doomsayers when delivering a keynote address. He revealed that government deliberately took the decision to setup the solar power plant in Maun to prove detractors and naysayers

wrong.

"I know what I am doing. I breathe life into lifeless situations. This project will be delivered on time and later during political campaigns to 2029, the area Member of Parliament will claim the credit for it. He will not say the President has delivered. But that is ok. It is all good. We understand. The people will decide for themselves as we go to 2029 election," said Boko with a chuckle, a wry smile on the side of his lips.

The MP for the area happens to be Secretary General of the opposition Botswana Congress Party (BCP), Goretsetse Kekgonegile. On the ground, some people noted that the project is a welcome development but said it was unfortunate that Boko used it to score political points.

Taking the potshot on the chin, and rolling with the punches, Kekgonegile chose to let Boko's jab slide, when giving a vote of thanks to the gathering. Instead, he pleaded with government officials to ensure that local people are given priority during recruitment for the project. Himself the former President of the most militant and

TO PAGE 3

**BVI CEO dropped as...**

# FMD Crisis Deepens

- FMD outbreak ravages Southern Botswana
- BMC faces US\$500,000 ransom over FMD
- P2 billion revenue target fizzles out, BMC closes



**Dikoloti**

"(He will be) stepping down from his position as Chief Executive Officer on 16th April 2026. This follows a mutual separation agreement, as his contract comes to an end," reads part of the statement announcing his departure.

**A**S THE DEVASTATING effects of movement restrictions of cattle continues to be felt, as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) runs amok throughout the country, the Board of Directors of Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) announced on Friday that the organization has parted ways with the Chief Executive Officer - Andrew Madeswi after five years of consecutive service.

TO PAGE 5

# BOX CLEVER WRAPSTA EDITION

## 79<sup>90</sup> EACH



# 'Transport students to school' -Hikuama

■ Tables motion for safe/ student friendly buses for students

**BAKANG TIRO**  
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**B**OTSWANA CONGRESS Party (BCP) MP for Maun West Caterpillar Hikuama on Friday tabled a motion calling on government to transport students to public schools. Hikuama's motion reads: "That this Honourable House resolves that Government should introduce safe and student-friendly school buses by establishing a comprehensive, nationwide policy framework to ensure the safety, efficiency and accessibility of school transportation."

Presenting the motion, Hikuama said he expects Parliament to adopt the motion. The motion is currently going debate with a final vote expected next week. He said student-friendly bus is



Hikuama

more than a vehicle, it is a mobile extension of the school environment that promotes punctuality, safety, and social equity. Hikuama said by establishing a nationwide framework for safe and student-friendly school buses, reduce absenteeism, promote equitable

access to education, and foster a culture of accountability in public service delivery. "The resolution to introduce a safe and student-friendly school bus emphasises on inclusive infrastructure and child protection, while addressing the socio-economic disparities

exacerbated by inadequate transport," said Hikuama. He said while the challenges of initial capital investment and rural logistics are significant, the successful models provided by neighbours like Namibia and South Africa prove that with political will and strategic mapping, these hurdles are manageable. He added that implementing this policy will ensure that every student, whether in the bustling streets of Gaborone or the remote reaches of Boteti, has a secure and reliable road to success. Hikuama said Parliament must resolve, today, that the journey to school will no longer be a gauntlet of risk, but a pathway to potential. Students from far deep rural areas are coerced to travel long distances to schools walking. As a result, poor academic performance in such regions have been attributed to barriers such as this.

# PPRA systems out of order

**T**HE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT Regulatory Authority's (PPRA) Integrated Procurement Management System (IPMS) has been out of order since 26 March 2026. "Please be informed further that other systems such as the website are also affected. Our ICT team is actively investigating the matter and is working round the clock to restore the systems. Procuring Entities (PEs) should in the meantime contact PPRA Contractor Registration Unit (CRU) when preparing Invitation to Tenders (ITT) to confirm relevant codes for inclusion in the ITTs. PEs are further advised to continue evaluation of tenders and stop at recommendation for award stage. Confirmation of registration can then be done after the restoration of the systems. The five (5) day window for submission of compliance documents should be duly observed in situations where any of the compliance documents are missing including PPRA

registration," said the company in a statement. Charles Keikothlae, Public Relations and Education Manager, said: where PEs are compelled to undertake emergency procurement, they are advised to engage the CRU for guidance and advice. "Contractors requiring services through the system are regrettably advised to await restoration of the system. However, where tenders are floated and contractors have requisite code/s, they should go ahead with preparation and submission of their bids, given that confirmation of registration will be undertaken by PEs after system restoration. PPRA would like to assure all stakeholders that restoring the system functionality remains top priority, and every effort is being made to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. Any inconvenience is highly regretted and your indulgence and understanding during this period is appreciated," he said.

# Eden University expands to Botswana

**E**DEN UNIVERSITY has announced its expansion into Botswana, citing the country's stable economy and strong commitment to education and skills development as key factors behind the move. Speaking on the development, Chief Executive Officer Kelvin Kaunda said the university aims to support Botswana's vision of building a skilled workforce by providing affordable, industry-relevant higher education. The Botswana campus will offer programmes in Business and Management, Education, Law, Health Sciences, and Information Technology fields critical to economic growth and job creation. The university integrates practical learning, research, and



Kaunda

industry engagement to ensure graduates are job-ready. Eden University is working closely with the Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) and other regulators to ensure all programmes meet national accreditation standards and are fully recognised. The institution adopts a holistic approach to education, combining academic excellence, practical skills, and ethical leadership to develop competent professionals and responsible leaders. Through partnerships with industry and a focus on skills development, Eden University aims to strengthen Botswana's workforce and contribute to long-term economic growth. Its long-term vision is to become a regional centre of academic excellence and innovation.

# Nyatso replaces Rari at BOSETU



Nyatso

**O**REEDITSE NYATSO HAS been appointed the Secretary General of Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU) following the departure of Tobokani Rari, who has joined the Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC) as deputy Secretary. Before the

appointment, Nyatso served two terms as BOSETU Publicity Secretary where he was overseeing the communications strategy of the trade union, shaping its public image and communicating its positions on key issues affecting educators. His appointment signals continuity as the union positions itself to navigate evolving challenges within the education sector and the broader public service landscape. As Secretary General, he assumes a central role in steering the union's strategic direction, representing members' interests, and strengthening BOSETU influence in national labour discourse.

# Botswana in Top 12 African destinations for China market

**T**HE BOTSWANA TOURISM Organisation (BTO), together with local tourism operators continued to strengthen global presence at World Travel Market (WTM) Africa 2026 through impactful engagement platforms. BTO continued to assert its strategic voice in shaping Africa's tourism trajectory at the WTM Africa 2026, which took place at the magnificent Cape Town International Convention Centre from 12-15 April, South Africa. Business-to-business (B2B) engagements remain a key focus, with the Botswana delegation actively promoting the country's diverse tourism

offerings, investment potential, and commitment to sustainable destination development. BTO's Executive Manager-Marketing, Goabaone Taylor, participated in a high-level industry dialogue, having joined other global destinations in a panel discussion during the China Ready Index Session. This engagement reflects Botswana's deliberate positioning within emerging global source markets, as the country strengthens its value proposition to meet evolving international travel demands. Taylor joined a panel of industry leaders and policymakers, including Tongan Mafidi Mngangwa,



China President, Xi Jinping

Zimbabwe's Deputy Minister of Tourism, Ephraim Balozi Mafuru, Director General, Tanzania Tourist Board, Enver Duminy, CEO of Cape Town Tourism, Ashish Sharma, CEO of Serena Hotels. Through these engagements, Botswana continues to position itself as a premier destination for tourism and investment, offering authentic experiences, unique landscapes, and meaningful opportunities for growth. Botswana's performance remains notable, ranking 12th among African destinations in readiness for the Chinese market, highlighting its growing appeal and competitiveness.

# CAT man gets 15 years in jail

**STAFF WRITER**  
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**A**ZIMBABWEAN MAN, Daniel Kurumeri who was arrested and found in possession of dagga and methcathinone - a drug popularly known by a street name CAT, has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for possession of illicit substances. He was convicted after pleading guilty to the charge, on the two counts of unlawful possession of dagga and possession of methcathinone - a dangerous drug with catastrophic social consequences. He was caught with 600 grams of dagga and over 30 grams of methcathinone. Methcathinone carries mandatory minimum sentences due to its devastating impact

on communities, including the breakdown of families and the burden placed on public resources. Kurumeri was fined P30,000 for the dagga offence or face one year imprisonment in default. For the methcathinone charge, he was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and an additional fine of P20,000. The sentences demonstrate continued commitment to impose stringent penalties on drug-related offences as part of a broader effort to curb substance abuse and protect society. Chief Magistrate Nthabiseng Merafe-Olaotse of Broadhurst Magistrate Court emphasized that the growing scourge of drug abuse demands decisive action, balancing the seriousness of the offence, the accused's personal circumstances and the interests of society.

## Vacancy Advert



**Botswana Development Corporation is looking for a dynamic, zealous, and qualified individual to submit an application for the following position.**

## Legal Services Manager

Reporting to the Head Legal & Company Secretary, your role will be to plan, organise and manage the activities of the legal function and provide commercial legal advice to BDC and its subsidiaries and ensure compliance with applicable local and international laws and regulations. You will also provide company secretarial support to the Head Legal and Company Secretary and oversight of outsourced legal counsel support. You will contribute to the development and implementation of the Legal department's strategy, plans and budgets as well as develop, implement and maintain legal and governance policies, processes, systems and procedures. Furthermore, you will be responsible for assisting the Head with Board secretarial duties including but not limited to Board pack preparations, follow-up of actions, minute taking as well as managing and quality assuring all outsourced legal counsel support to ensure all work is completed according to terms of reference. You will also provide legal opinion, advice and assistance on the formulation, review, enforcement and interpretation of corporate legal documents and coordinate, manage, and participate in the various investment lifecycle stages including the review of draft legal documents and ensuring adherence to policies and

Procedures and engaging outsourced legal counsel where required. Some of the role responsibilities include briefing external legal counsel on areas of litigation and provide the necessary information and documents and ensure BDC and its subsidiaries comply with all legal statutes, relevant legislations, and regulations. Additionally, you will ensure the safety, confidentiality, completeness of all corporate legal documentation in accordance with the records management policy and ensure the preparation and submission of key legal reports.

To succeed in this role, you will have a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and be admitted to practice in Botswana. You will also have a minimum of three (3) years in a legal advisory role at senior or supervisory level of a law firm or a medium to large institution, preferably in the financial services sector as well as experience in corporate/commercial law, mergers and acquisitions, governance, company secretarial services and debt collection. You will further have experience in reviewing and preparing commercial contracts and agreements and tender adjudication.

Candidates who meet the above criteria should submit their applications to recruitment@bdc.bw. **Deadline for applications is 30 April 2026.** BDC offers a commensurate package with attractive benefits.

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# Bomaid engages Ftown customers

■ Focus on digital health, customer access, and sector collaboration

**B**OMAIID NATIONWIDE customer and provider engagement was held in Francistown, with a strong focus on digital health solutions, access to care and stakeholder collaboration. Central to the engagements was the rollout of the Thrive with Bomaid App, a digital wellness platform designed to support proactive health management. The App enables customers to track key health indicators, receive personalised insights and access wellness guidance. It

is available for download on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store, making it easily accessible to customers across devices. Access to care The engagements, led by Tarisai Nikki Chigodora, Regional Manager North were supported by the regional team and Bomaid executives, including the Chief Executive Officer, Moraki Mokgosana; the Chief Customer Experience Officer, Sego Macheng; and the Chief Clinical Services Officer,



Bomaid Chief Executive Officer, Moraki Mokgosana

Dr Malebogo Kebabonye. The newly appointed Medical Advisor, Dr Masego Gilbert,

also joined the team, further strengthening the Fund's focus on equitable access to care.

The morning session brought together customers from various corporates, represented by human resource professionals. Discussions centred on equipping customers with practical tools and clear information to better understand and use their benefits. In addition to Thrive with Bomaid, the team demonstrated the telehealth platform, which enables remote consultations, as well as self-service platforms that support claims submission, benefit access, and real-time account management.

A robust question and answer session provided clarity on health plans, benefits, claims processes, and provider access, while also giving the Fund an opportunity to respond directly to customer concerns and feedback. The evening session recorded strong attendance from healthcare providers across the spectrum, including general practitioners, specialists, radiologists, pharmacists, pathologists, dentists, and hospital management.

Discussions centred on strengthening collaboration, aligning on service delivery expectations, and addressing operational realities within the healthcare ecosystem.

"Through these engagements, we are listening to our customers and providers and collaborating with them to shape a healthcare experience that is accessible and responsive to real needs," said Tshepo Maphanyane, Corporate Communications Manager.

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Month-April 2026

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026

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Current	0.00-0.00%	0.00-0.00%	3000
Call	0.00-1.00%	0.00-1.01%	1000
Savings	0.00-2.00%	0.00-2.02%	100
91-Days Fixed Deposit	1.25-1.25%	1.25-1.26%	500
6 months	1.50-1.50%	1.50-1.51%	500
12 months	3.25-4.00%	3.25-4.31%	500
24 months	4.00-4.75%	4.00-4.82%	500
Over 24 months	4.25-5.00%	4.25-5.08%	500
<b>USD</b>	<b>(Lowest-Highest)</b>	<b>(Lowest-Highest)</b>	<b>(USD)</b>
3 months Fixed Deposit	0.00-0.25%	0.00-0.26%	No Minimum Balance
6 months	0.00-0.50%	0.00-0.52%	5000
Over 12 months	0.00-0.75%	0.00-0.76%	5000
<b>ZAR</b>	<b>(Lowest-Highest)</b>	<b>(Lowest-Highest)</b>	<b>(ZAR)</b>
6 months	1.75-1.75%	1.75-1.76%	1 million
Over 12 months	2.75-2.75%	2.75-2.78%	1 million
Baroda Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) 7.51% p.a. i.e. 23.06.2025			
<b>Lending Rates</b>	<b>Nominal Interest Rates (%)</b>	<b>Average Effective Interest Rates (%)</b>	
MoPR	3.50%	3.50%	
Baroda Prime Lending Rate	7.51%	7.51%	
Mortgage Facility	7.51-18.26%	11.44%	
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	7.51-18.51%	10.61%	
Credit Card	NA	NA	
Lease Loans	NA	NA	
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# TVET dominates career fair

Govt push elevates technical skills as viable career paths

**GORATAONE KGOSIMRE**  
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TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL Education and Training (TVET) is gaining renewed momentum in Botswana, as government intensifies efforts to position technical skills as viable and competitive career pathways. This was underscored at the Botswana Human Resource Development Skills Fair and Career Clinics (BHRDS) 2026, where Minister of Higher Education, Prince Maele reaffirmed government's commitment to strengthening and modernising the TVET. He emphasised the need to align education and training with industry requirements, describing TVET as a critical driver of employment creation and economic growth. He called for a shift in mindset among Batswana, urging greater acceptance of TVET as a credible and rewarding career path. "TVET is the way to go. Botswana must emulate leading economies where technical and vocational

training, when integrated into national development strategies, becomes a transformative tool for economic diversification and social progress," said Maele.

Chief Technical Education Officer-TVET Curriculum at Ministry of Higher Education, Neo Mmadintsi echoed similar sentiments, noting that demand for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has surged, reflecting a shift in how students perceive skills-based careers. "For example, Tlokwen College usually receives around 700 applications, but the number rose to about 7,000. This shows that students are increasingly recognising that TVET is the way to go," she said.

She attributes the spike to government efforts to modernise programmes and align them with industry needs. All programmes have been reviewed and updated to keep pace with emerging technologies, guided by the modernised National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCQF). She further noted that the increase in TVET student allowances to P2,200 has helped improve uptake, addressing previous disparities between TVET and university students.

"There was a gap in allowances, and that has now been corrected. We are also seeing university graduates seeking short courses to strengthen



Minister of Higher Education, Prince Maele

their practical skills," she said.

### Fair & Career clinics

The annual fair, organised by the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), brought together students, training institutions,

universities, industry players and professional bodies from both governmental and private institutions, serving as a platform to expose young people to diverse programmes, emerging skills demands, and evolving opportunities

within the labour market.

Students, expressed growing interest in skills-based education, saying the fair exposed them to alternative career paths beyond traditional academic routes. Some said the interactive nature of the

exhibitions helped them better understand what different careers involve and the qualifications required. Exhibitors described the event as a valuable platform for engagement, with several indicating that they were able to draw prospective learners and raise awareness about their programmes.

Giving an overview of the BHRDS Fair and Career Clinics Ogomoditse Odirile, HRDC Human Resource Planning Manager, explained that the fair follows a structured approach where learners are first taken through career guidance clinics before engaging directly with education and training providers. At the clinics, learners interact with career guidance teachers who assist them with relevant information on available programmes and possible career pathways.

"Students are first taken through career guidance clinics where they interact with career guidance teachers who assist them with the information they need before they proceed to meet education and training providers," she said adding that learners then proceed to a central exhibition hall where various institutions are grouped in one space but represented at different stalls, allowing learners to explore and compare different programmes on offer.

The event has recorded strong participation and continues to attract a significant number of prospective learners, indicating growing interest in skills-based and academic programmes.

It features 45 exhibitors, including education and training providers, regulators, and key stakeholders within the education sector. Among them are institutions such as the Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA), which oversees qualification standards, and the Department of Tertiary Education Financing (DTEF), which provides guidance on government sponsorship processes and application requirements.

Odirile added that the collaboration with these stakeholders ensures learners receive comprehensive information not only on programme offerings but also on funding opportunities and regulatory requirements. She further revealed that the initiative will extend beyond the main event through planned roadshows in strategic locations, aimed at reaching more learners and expanding access to career guidance services. The BHRDS Career Fair and Career Clinics 2026 began in Gaborone on April 14 and runs until April 17. It will proceed to Francistown from April 21 to 23, before concluding in Maun from April 28 to 29.

# Boko pokes BCP

FROM PAGE 1

rebellious trade unions in Botswana - BLLAHWU, Kekgonengile cautioned that contractors from Oman must respect Botswana's labour laws, complaining that government officials often turn a blind eye to cases of exploitation.

"Mr. President, we expect jobs from this project and we expect better conditions of service for the workers. The semi and unskilled jobs should remain here. Our region has been neglected for a very long time when it comes to developments. We appreciate this development," said Kekgonengile to a cheering crowd.

He also pleaded with contractors to embark on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects, saying he does not anticipate handouts of food hampers but sustainable projects such as supporting farmers to fence their farms and maintain cordon fences etc.

### Politically charged

Observers say Ngamiland is a politically charged ground where the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) fancy chances to make inroads, after welcoming powerful political giants from Botswana Democratic Party in Reaboka Mbulawa last year. Backed by incumbency, the UDC now believe they can snatch the constituencies in Ngamiland and Okavango from the BCP come 2029 general election.

Political analyst, Kitso Morekisi observed that the former government had issues against Batawana over the 22 000 hectares of prime land in the delta. BCP MPs have been pushing to have government relinquish the piece of land to the community to no avail. He said the land was an issue during the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) rule and it cost the party an election, adding that expectations are



Kekgonengile

that UDC will charm communities in the area by giving them the land back. At one point, Maun West MP- Dumelang Saleshando tabled a motion calling on government to return the land to Tawana Landboard but the motion failed. The land has been earmarked by government for the construction of a Presidential lodge. Minister of State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Mohwasa said the motion was not necessary because government would not partake in construction of the lodge but will leave that to private investors.

"Political dynamics are interesting in Ngamiland. Boko is testing waters there. We saw him last year welcoming Reaboka Mbulawa in an attempt to position Botswana National Front (BNF) in the region. It is a BCP stronghold and UDC will have to do a lot to topple them," noted Morekisi.

# Hope for consumers

As Oil prices plunge 10% after Iran opens Strait of Hormuz for commercial vessels

THE PRICE OF OIL PLUNGED sharply and U.S. stock indexes opened at new all-time highs after the Iranian foreign minister said that the Strait of Hormuz was open for commercial vessels. "In line with the ceasefire in Lebanon, the passage for all commercial vessels through Strait of Hormuz is declared completely open for the remaining period of ceasefire, on the coordinated route as already announced by Ports and Maritime Organisation of the Islamic Rep. of Iran," Seyed Abbas Araghchi wrote in a post on X.

U.S. crude oil plunged 10% to nearly \$85 per barrel, while international Brent crude also slid more than 8% to around \$90 per barrel.

Heating oil futures, which are a proxy for jet fuel, plummeted 13%. Wholesale RBOB gas futures also fell 7%. It was not immediately clear if the reference to a "coordinated

route," meant that ships would need to pay a toll to Iran, as some have reportedly done in recent weeks. It was also not immediately clear if ships in the region, which have been threatened and attacked, would trust this announcement.

Shortly after the Iranian minister's post, President Donald Trump celebrated the news with his own post on Truth Social, which read: "IRAN HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT THE STRAIT OF IRAN IS FULLY OPEN AND READY FOR FULL PASSAGE. THANK YOU!"

However, Trump, in a second post, said that "the Naval blockade will remain in full force and effect as it pertains to Iran, only, until such time as our transaction with Iran is 100% complete." GasBuddy analyst Patrick De Haan wrote on X that the shift in oil prices could quickly translate to lower gas prices.

"This could accelerate sending fuel prices lower starting this weekend

with the national average likely falling below \$4/gal to perhaps \$3.65-\$3.85," De Haan wrote.

As of Friday morning, the average price per gallon was \$4.09, according to AAA, and has been declining a few cents each day this week.

At the opening bell, the S&P 500 rose 0.6% and the Nasdaq Composite jumped 1%. Both set new all-time highs in early trading as a result.

The Dow immediately jumped more than 500 points and the Russell 2000 index rose 1.4%

U.S. Treasury yields also moved sharply lower. The yield on the 10-year U.S. government bond fell to 4.23%, its lowest level since March 18. Stocks across Europe also rallied higher on the Iranian minister's announcement, with the Stoxx 600 index rising 1.2%, and flagship indexes in France and Germany jumping more than 2%. Stocks in the U.K. and Italy rose around 1%. [NBCNEWS.COM]

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# Who Owns School Safety in Practice?



MASEGO LEKGWE\*

**F**ROM POLICY TO Accountability  
In the previous article, the discussion highlighted a critical reality within Botswana's education system: the challenge facing school safety is not the absence of policy, but the consistency of its implementation. While existing frameworks provide a solid

foundation, their effectiveness ultimately depends on how clearly responsibilities are defined and how consistently they are carried out in practice. At the centre of this challenge lies a fundamental governance question: who is accountable for school safety, and how is that accountability exercised across the system?

School safety is often described as a shared responsibility. Ministries develop policies, district structures provide oversight, and school leaders are expected to implement safety measures on the ground. While this multi-level approach is necessary, it can also create ambiguity if roles are not clearly defined and supported by structured accountability mechanisms.

When responsibility is shared without clear ownership, there is a risk that critical safety functions fall between institutional levels. Ministries may assume that implementation is taking place at school level, while schools may operate without consistent



Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Nono Kgafela Mokoka

oversight or feedback from higher structures. In such environments, safety practices can become dependent on

individual initiative rather than system-wide standards.

This does not reflect a lack of commitment within the education sector. Rather, it reflects a common systems challenge in large organisations: without clearly defined accountability structures, even well-designed policies can struggle to translate into consistent practice.

In high-reliability sectors such as healthcare and aviation,

safety accountability is not left to interpretation. Roles are clearly defined, reporting lines are established, and responsibilities are supported by structured monitoring systems. Leaders at every level understand not only what is expected of them, but also how performance is measured and reviewed over time.

A similar level of clarity is essential within education systems. For school safety

to function as an effective governance priority, accountability must be both clearly assigned and actively managed across all levels of the system.

At the national level, this may involve strengthening oversight mechanisms to ensure that safety policies are not only disseminated, but also monitored through structured reporting and evaluation processes. At district or regional

levels, there is an opportunity to play a more active role in supporting schools through supervision, guidance, and regular review of safety practices.

At the school level, leadership remains central. School leaders are responsible for translating policy into day-to-day practice, ensuring that safety procedures are implemented, reviewed, and continuously improved. However, this responsibility must be supported by clear expectations, appropriate training, and access to systems that enable effective risk management.

Importantly, accountability should not be viewed as a compliance exercise, but as a mechanism for continuous improvement.

When accountability systems are well designed, they provide visibility into emerging risks, support early intervention, and enable learning across the system. Without such structures, gaps in implementation may remain unnoticed until incidents occur.

Clarifying accountability also creates consistency. When roles and expectations are clearly defined, schools are better able to align their practices with national standards, reducing variation and strengthening overall system performance.

As Botswana continues to strengthen its education

system, there is an opportunity to build on existing policy foundations by reinforcing the governance structures that support implementation. This includes defining clear lines of accountability, establishing monitoring mechanisms, and ensuring that safety responsibilities are integrated into leadership and management processes at all levels.

Ultimately, effective school safety is not only about having the right policies in place. It is about ensuring that responsibility for those policies is clearly understood, consistently applied, and supported by systems that enable accountability in practice.

Strengthening accountability is therefore not an additional layer of administration, but a necessary step toward building a more reliable, consistent, and resilient education system one where safety is not dependent on individual effort, but is embedded within the way the system operates as a whole.

*\*Masego Lekgowe is a Dublin, Ireland based Botswana research specialist in public health and education safety systems, focusing on risk management, governance, and health innovation to support safer educational environments and a resilient workforce.*

## 'No special powers for Boko'

FROM PAGE 1

said. Answering a question in Parliament on Thursday, Mophuting- Dikoloti said it is not true that government -through the Office of the President (OP), is contemplating to give President Duma Boko special procurement powers. Member of Parliament for Kgatleng West, Dr Unity Dow had asked the minister to state if cabinet is planning to bring a bill to Parliament to amend the public procurement act and arm the President with special procurement powers. She also asked if government plans to abandon competitive or open bidding in the grant of government tenders and contracts and substituting the same with direct appointment.

Mophuting- Dikoloti said under the existing Act, functions and powers in procurement are clearly allocated to procuring entities, accounting officers and the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) as the oversight body of all procuring entities. She said PPRA's role includes setting standards, regulating and controlling the procurement system, monitoring compliance and enforcing the Act it does

not confer discretionary procurement powers on the President as an individual office holder to perform any function similar to or related of the Authority.

"The Act structure ensures that procurement decisions are made within legal, institutional and procedural bounds, subject to oversight and accountability.

On whether government consider abandoning competitive bidding, Mophuting-Dikoloti said the Public Procurement Act provides for alternative procurement methods such as direct procurement but only in strictly defined and exceptional circumstances as governed by the law and accompanying regulations etc. She said open bidding is the default method for the procurement of goods, works and services.

"There are exceptions such as direct procurement which are permitted under narrowly prescribed circumstances by the PP Act in instances such as urgency, single source availability or other prescribed circumstances detailed in the Act and Procurement Regulations," she said. Additionally, she said these exceptions are safeguards for

transparency, accountability, fairness and efficiency in exceptional cases, and not replacements for open bidding.

Boko has consistently stated that government will in some instances adopt a direct procurement approach to circumvent delays caused by the open bidding process, where bidders often engage in lengthy legal tussles over tender awards, thus delaying delivery of developments. His appetite for direct procurement divided public opinion with some noting that it would disadvantage businesses because procurement could be centralized to several companies sparking fear of state capture in award of government tenders.

Launching the 2024-28 strategy for PPRA last year, Finance Minister, Ndaba Gaolathe said government is committed to ensuring transparent and inclusive public procurement but the continuous direct appointment of tenders according to some in UDC believe that defeats the purpose of his goals. He said at the core of PPRA strategy lies a powerful proposition: "Doing Things Right. "Not just doing things, but doing them right, the first time, every time".

## Can you face a defamation lawsuit for what your AI did?

**W**HAT'S NEW AT Develop AI?

We are building an AI course for commercial and civil lawyers so they can use AI responsibly and ethically. And we have created a second course on the law and AI for everyone else, so you can navigate using AI in your business and avoid getting sued. If this stuff is starting to keep you up at night then get in touch (email me directly on paul@developai.co.za).

Can you face a defamation lawsuit for what your AI did? I often reminisce about the early days of Facebook (like the old GenX/Millennial I am) when you could come to the end of your Newsfeed. You would turn on your computer at work and check out your feed (which was mostly single lines of text where your "friends" explained their mood in what they believed to be a pithy way) until it told you that you were caught up.

Then you would close Facebook with a smile on your face and probably go talk to someone in the real world.

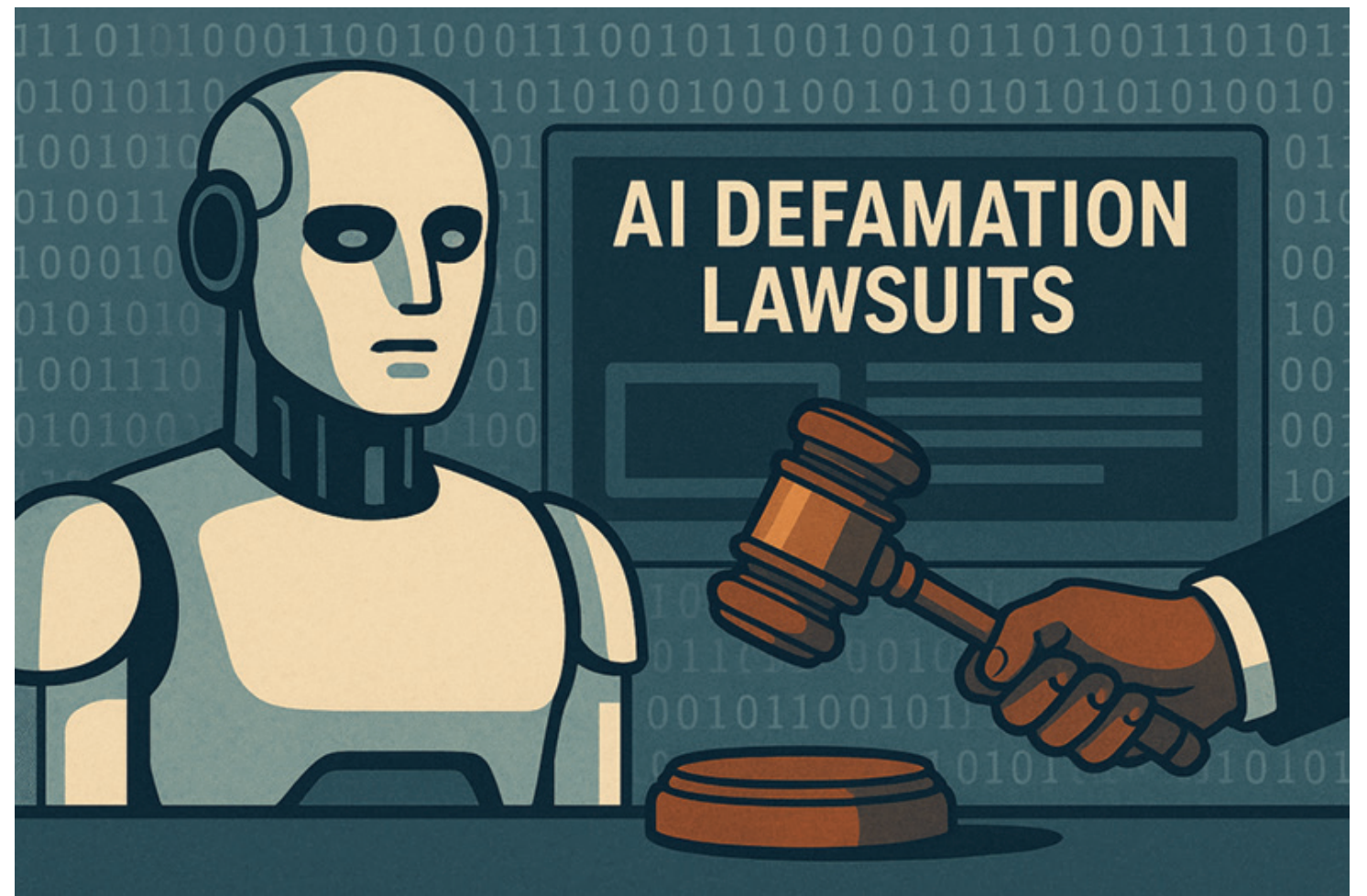
In 2026 feeds never end and there is no scarcity of text to read.

In a world where you can create content instantly with AI, the value of communication feels like it is being shattered. And there is greater pressure to produce more content faster. And yet behind this desperation there is still a murky legal framework that is catching up.

Sometimes I completely forget that the law exists on the Internet. It has always been flimsy, but we now work on AI machines that are built on illegal practice every day. So, let's see what are the chances of you taking on a tech company if a chatbot defames you (and what if you produce something with AI that defames someone else)?

What happens when a chatbot defames you?

We need to test the law, but few have the financial means to do this. Brian Hood previously worked for Note Printing Australia (a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of Australia) in the early 2000s, when he alerted authorities to officers at his company paying bribes to overseas agencies to win contracts to print banknotes. He was a whistleblower. Unfortunately ChatGPT (in



the early days of the app in March 2023) falsely named him as a guilty party in the scandal, claiming he had served prison time for bribery. He told Euronews he was "really shocked". He said the mix of accurate and false information in the same output made it particularly dangerous. We are now, three years later, used to AI being like this. But even though Hood's legal team sent a letter of concern to OpenAI, he eventually dropped the case because he didn't have the cash to fight it.

OpenAI tweaked the updated version of ChatGPT to correct Hood's role and changed the older version to return an error message when asked about him. And without big cash flush individuals who can challenge this stuff it will keep happening without consequences.

Robby Starbuck, an American activist and filmmaker, sued Meta after its chatbot falsely linked him to the US January 6 Capitol riot in 2021 (and it said he was a Holocaust denier and a host of other things).

His lawyers sent letters to get it rectified. It didn't help so on April the 29th 2025 they filed in Delaware Superior Court, seeking \$5 million. One day after filing, Meta's chief global affairs officer publicly apologised on X and four

months later the case settled... with none of that 5 million paid, but instead, Starbuck became a Meta consultant working on reducing political bias and hallucinations in their AI models. That is like when Kramer tried to sue a coffee company for millions and settled for a lifetime of free lattes.

Even clear-cut instances of AI defamation can die for want of funding, with platforms quietly fixing errors rather than facing real accountability. There was a great article by Dario Milo and Lia Wheeler last month in South Africa's Business Day which went into the topic of defamation in the age of AI. They say that disclaimers have given tech companies significant legal cover in some courts, though that defence doesn't hold everywhere... and won't stop the cases coming forever.

What happens when I use AI to produce content that defames someone else?

The Dave Fanning case is actually the perfect real-world answer to this question. In October 2023, a Hong Kong-based news outlet called BNN Breaking used a chatbot to paraphrase a trending story about an unnamed Irish broadcaster on trial for sexual misconduct. Because the real

broadcaster was protected by a court injunction preventing naming, the AI filled the gap by attaching a photo of a "prominent Irish broadcaster" (which turned out to be Dave Fanning, the well-known DJ who helped kickstart U2). He had absolutely nothing to do with the case.

The story was then promoted by MSN, a web portal owned by Microsoft, and was visible for hours on the default homepage for anyone in Ireland using Microsoft Edge. Fanning sued both BNN and Microsoft. His lawyers said he claimed the article defamed him and as a result, he suffered grave damage to his reputation. BNN no longer exists. Microsoft terminated its licensing agreement with BNN but has not commented on the defamation case. The case is still active in the Irish High Court.

BNN is the clearest example yet of a publisher (not an AI company) being sued for using AI to produce defamatory content (and BNN is now defunct partly as a result), though its arguable that Fanning only made a move because Microsoft was also on the hook.

AI Legal Tracker Develop AI is tracking global AI regulation and legal cases globally.

The enforcement clock for Tanzanians just ran out... literally yesterday. In Tanzania the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) is not an AI-specific law, but because AI systems rely on massive amounts of data to learn and make decisions it currently serves as the primary legal framework governing AI development in Tanzania.

It means people need to get explicit consent before collecting or processing personal data, not share with third parties without consent and not take data out of the country without consent. This Act dictates the rules of the game for any AI model that uses personal information. A final warning was issued to public and private institutions to register for compliance, saying strict enforcement would begin today, the 9th of April.

This is a "good" law on paper, but the execution is wonky. The principles are solid: it gives citizens real legal recourse but Tanzania has a history of using digital laws against journalists and civil society and a vague data protection framework in the wrong hands can become a tool of surveillance rather than protection.

## we're hiring..

### OPERATIONS MANAGER – ARCEE PTY LTD

Arcee Pty Ltd, a leading organisation in Botswana's FMCG Manufacturing sector, is seeking a highly skilled & experienced Operations Manager to join our dynamic and fast-growing team. This role is ideal for an experienced professional committed to operational excellence, strong leadership, and continuous improvement.

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- Proficiency in ERB software Tally (essential).
- Strong leadership, communication, and problem-solving abilities.
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- Publishing an international journal in technical side will be considered an added advantage.

Location: Botswana

Employment Type: Full-time

#### How to Apply

Interested candidates are invited to submit their CV and a cover letter to info@arcee.co.bw with the subject line: Operations Manager Application – Arcee Pty Ltd, or send the application to:

Arcee (Pty) Ltd  
Private Bag 00278  
Gaborone

Closing Date: 4 May 2026

# Local Govt ministry host dialogue on Primary healthcare

**KETLHAFILE  
MOTSHEGWA\***

**P**OLYPHONIC DENOTE AND refers to music or sound featuring two or more independent, simultaneous melodic lines or voices that harmonise, rather than just one melody with accompaniment. Literally meaning “many sounds,” it often refers to complex contrapuntal music or electronic instruments capable of playing multiple notes at once. We are here to achieve that , play multiple notes at once on dialogue about primary health care.

I am elated to welcome you to this forum of discourse organised by the so important and impactful Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs , for its proximity to the people it is known as the People’s Ministry, where the people come first. In this forenoon, we have convened this Round Table as I have enunciated heretofore to Dialogue on Primary Health Care. I seek not to make a prolonged speech but a compendium on the matter.

Effective 12th November 2024, Government Notice No. 742 mandated the relocation of Primary Health Care (PHC) services from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs. This strategic reform excludes primary hospitals and focuses on clinic services, public health, and community-based programmes.

Primary health services were previously transferred to the Ministry of Health in

2010. Since then, health service delivery has not performed at the expected level, as reflected in key performance indicators.

While economic performance has posed challenges to health service delivery, both the current and previous governments have consistently agreed that Primary Health Care services should be returned to local councils.

Botswana fondly recall a time when primary health services performed exceptionally well characterized by strong community outreach, domiciliary visits by health workers, and quality postnatal home care even when the country had relatively few doctors.

It is a well-established fact that Primary Health Care is both more effective and more cost-efficient than hospital-focused systems, which often address advanced and complicated conditions at a higher cost. PHC emphasizes prevention, and as the saying goes, “Prevention is better than cure”.

Primary Health Care has evolved significantly since the Alma-Ata Declaration of 1978. Let us briefly reflect on its key principles.

**LESSONS FROM ALMA-ATA (1978)**

Primary Health Care is essential health care based on practical, scientifically sound, and socially acceptable methods, made universally accessible through full community participation at an affordable cost; Forms an integral part of the national health system and contributes



Motshegwa

to broader social and economic development; Represents the first level of contact between individuals, families, communities, and the national health system; Requires strong

referral systems to ensure continuity of care; Relies on a multidisciplinary team of health workers, including community-based and traditional practitioners where appropriate.

Originally aimed for “Health for All by the Year 2000,” now aligned with Universal Health Coverage.

Includes key elements such as health education, nutrition,

safe water, sanitation, maternal and child health, immunization, disease prevention, treatment of common illnesses, and access to essential medicines.

In 2018, the Declaration of Astana reaffirmed three key components of PHC:

- i) Integrated health services centered on primary care and public health functions;
- ii) Empowered people and communities;
- iii) Multisectoral policies and actions

The responsibility for Primary Health Care from 1st April 2026, with the transition having commenced on 1st April 2025. This dialogue is therefore timely, as we collectively shape the future of quality health care at the primary level for a healthier nation.

This platform seeks to engage you experts and practitioners in defining the future direction of Primary Health Care in Botswana. It is my hope that this dialogue will generate valuable insights and recommendations to refine the National Primary Health Care Strategy which should hinge on inter alia as Brink Ramoleele in Mmadinare WhatsApp group said preventive healthcare, regular physical activities and healthier eating habits.

As Government, we recognize that we cannot succeed alone. We are committed to strengthening partnerships, collaboration, and stakeholder participation drawing inspiration from the success of our national HIV response. We also aim to align Botswana’s PHC system with international best practices

while ensuring responsiveness to local community needs.

I urge all of you to participate freely and constructively so that we can derive meaningful and actionable recommendations.

This dialogue is structured around the WHO health system pillars, namely: Leadership and Governance, Service Delivery, Human Resources for Health, Health Financing, Health Information Systems and Technology

Commodities and Supplies, Partnerships and Community Ownership.

Based on the above key areas, we have identified technical experts to moderate and lead the discussions; however, participants are encouraged to contribute across multiple areas. Since the invitation was issued, we have received an overwhelming response. We sincerely thank you for your commitment to strengthening Primary Health Care in Botswana.

I also extend gratitude to our partners who have supported this event and encourage them to remain engaged as we move from strategy development to implementation. I am particularly encouraged by the diverse representation in this dialogue including community members, civil society organizations, multilateral partners, the private sector, the United Nations, Development Partners, Parliamentarians, Councillors, Academia, Religious leaders, and Dikgosi. We place prominence and potency on stakeholder liaison and partnership. Come with us down paradise road , if I

were to draw inspiration from the believe that the current decentralized model where primary health facilities are managed by local councils will enhance service delivery and improve customer satisfaction.

For us to succeed we need strong, effective , transformational leadership , emphasis on a culture of execution/implementation, continuous monitoring and evaluation. We need to act , action is critical for we will not be remembered for the things we said but rather the things we did, for it is said judge a man not by ye words but by yee deeds . True leadership lead by example, not self exaltation or credentials. Jesus said, “The greatest among you is servant of all.

As I have said let it be a dialogical venture on policy issue of Primary Health, in which we are to engage thoughts characterized by open, multi-voiced dialogue rather than a single monologue. The emphasis is the co-creation of meaning through interaction, where understanding emerges from an exchange of multiple perspectives rather than being imposed. I see light at the end of the tunnel, we will succeed , we will conquer , we will overcome , we will make impact , we are Local Government for the people. One day we will sit and say , there were challenges but we made it.

*“Remarks at the primary health roundtable dialogue by Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Kethlalefile FC Motshengwa on the 17th April 2026 in Gaborone.*

# SA develops 10yr FMD elimination strategy

**F**OR THE FIRST TIME, South Africa has a long-term Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) strategy to take it to FMD-free status, eventually without vaccination. Agriculture Minister John Steenhuisen on January 14 announced the Department of Agriculture’s (DoA’s) ten-year phased plan starting with stabilisation, progressing to consolidation and eventually removal of vaccination.

The plan starts with immediate mass vaccination in hotspot provinces, targeting the vaccination of 90% of South Africa’s commercial cattle, 80% of communal cattle and 100% of feedlots and dairy cattle within 12 months.

Vaccines from Argentina, Botswana and Türkiye

will be used, which will be supplemented by State-owned veterinary vaccine producer Onderstepoort Biological Products’ local production of 20 000 doses a week from March.

The local facility is expected to increase its vaccine production toward a 960 000-dose capacity target. Steenhuisen expects the country to receive five-million vaccine doses through imports by March. The department has submitted applications to the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority to authorise the importation and registration of the Biogenesis vaccine.

Steenhuisen confirms that more than two-million cattle have been vaccinated since the current FMD outbreak started

in 2022. It is estimated that the livestock industry has suffered R5.6-billion in export losses as a result of FMD since the start of 2025.

He adds that the department will soon submit, to Cabinet, a memorandum to declare FMD as a National State of Disaster, which will enable government to rapidly deploy national resources for supplies, equipment, vehicles and facilities to support the fight against FMD and enact directives and regulations in a more timely manner, as well as enhance government’s powers to regulate the movement of livestock.

The department has been strengthening the national laboratory network through the Agricultural Research Council

(ARC) to increase diagnostic capacity and ensure timely test results across State laboratories.

The department has also started implementing a digital livestock identification and traceability system in partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Red Meat Industry Services to track animal movements and support surveillance.

Steenhuisen stresses that vaccination is not a silver bullet and must be accompanied by good on-farm biosecurity and movement controls.

Becoming FMD-free will ultimately require coordinated and targeted efforts by the State, farmers, veterinarians and other organisations to report clinical signs of FMD and adhere to

biosecurity measures.

DoA biosecurity coordination chief director Dr Emily Mogajane says the FMD plan targets the epicentre of FMD outbreaks in Phase 1, including KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and North West, with Phase 2 aimed at establishing buffer zones around areas such as the Northern, Western and Eastern Cape provinces to prevent infection.

“The goal is to interrupt virus transmission and reduce disease incidences to low levels in two to three years.” She affirms that laboratory diagnostic capacity is being reinforced by coordination of provincial veterinary laboratories to speed up reference testing, while the ARC and vaccine manufacturers are being

supported to conduct vaccine-matching and target product profile assessments to ensure imported vaccines match circulating serotypes.

The DoA is working to build a robust database and surveillance system for FMD; however, Mogajane emphasises the importance of farmers, auctioneers, speculators and other partners adhering to movement controls and other disease spread measures.

The DoA proposes in its mass vaccination plan for FMD that 19.5-million cattle need to be vaccinated across 234 municipalities, of which 8.2-million are classified as a primary priority, 10-million are classified as a secondary priority and 1.2-million are classified as a tertiary priority.

Ultimately, Phase 1 (years one and two) of the FMD strategy will comprise intensive vaccination, strengthened surveillance, enhanced movement control and reinforced laboratory capacity; Phase 2 (years two to four) will comprise the establishment of buffer zones and compartments, improved communal trade systems and applications for freedom of vaccination for selected zones; and Phase 3 will involve evidence-based cessation of vaccination and fact-based proof of freedom.

The final Phase 4 (years seven to ten) will relate to national freedom and the World Organisation for Animal Health recognising South Africa’s FMD-free status. South Africa currently

has access to the Botswana Vaccine Institute vaccine, with an application for Türkiye’s Dollivet having been submitted. Government is still due to apply for Argentina’s Biogenesis Bago vaccine. Some of the DoA’s planned amendments to legislation include that of the Animal Diseases Act to create explicit animal health emergency powers and authorise emergency vaccination modalities, as well as the Animal Identification Act to enable phased mandatory electronic identification in priority sectors.

Source: <https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/steenhuisen-announces-countrys-first-ever-ten-year-fmd-elimination-strategy>

# FMD Crisis Deepens

**FROM PAGE 1**  
of Botswana, recently received an extortion email demanding US\$500,000 with threats to deliberately spread the FMD if the demand was not met.

The disclosure was made during a national FMD update on April 13 2026, as Botswana continues to grapple with a surge in confirmed cases. The outbreak was first detected at the Ramatlaba National Artificial Insemination Centre, where 65 bulls and 53 additional cattle within a 10-kilometre radius were affected.

Providing a timeline, Dr Dikoloti said two separate emails were received. The first, sent in February demanded payment in Bitcoin and warned that the disease would be deliberately introduced if ignored.

A second email, sent in March, questioned why the demand had not been met. He said security agencies were immediately alerted and investigations are ongoing

to establish the origin of the threats and whether they are linked to the outbreak.

Containment efforts A total of P97 million has been allocated for the response to the outbreak, with P30 million already utilised for surveillance, vaccines, and biosecurity interventions.

Dr. Dikoloti noted that government has intensified its response through expanded vaccination campaigns, stricter livestock movement controls, and enhanced surveillance. Cattle in Zones 16 and 3C have received vaccination as part of efforts to contain the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease.

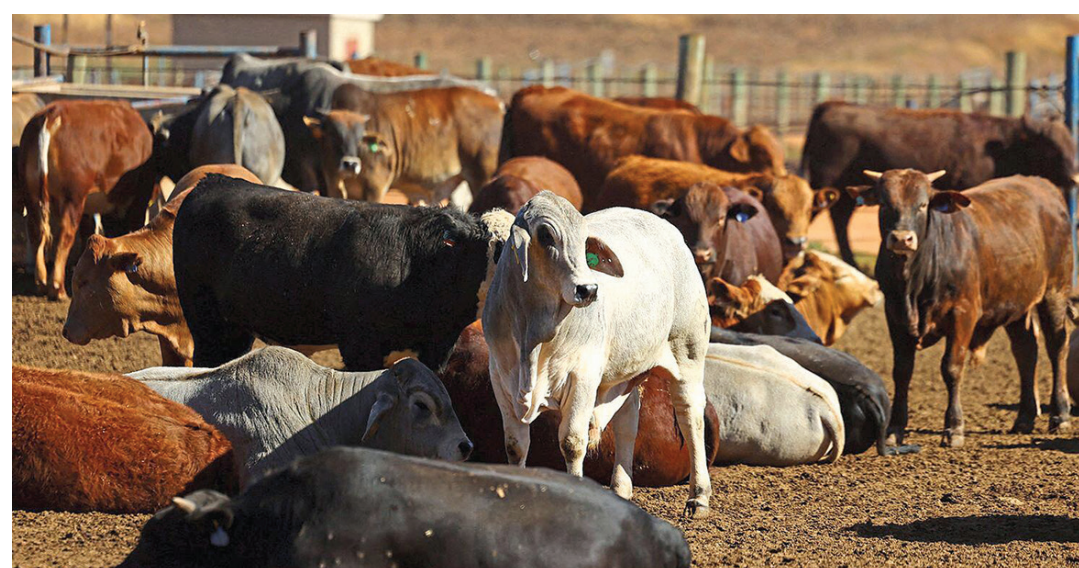
The Minister also announced that Botswana will donate 50,000 doses of FMD vaccine, valued at P20 million to Zimbabwe to immunise cattle along the border and limit cross-border transmission. “This will include at least two rounds of vaccination and will be conducted jointly by teams from Botswana and Zimbabwe,” he said. Despite these measures,

cases were confirmed in Zone 11 in the Good Hope District, signalling continued spread. Additional infections have been recorded in Matasalalo, Papatlo, Bethel, Phihetswane and Bruwer’s feedlot in Hildavale. New confirmed cases have also surfaced in the five villages in Borolong in the Southern part of Botswana.

The minister said investigations at one affected farm found no evidence of new cattle introductions, raising suspicions that the virus may have been transmitted through contaminated human movement.

**BMC disruptions**

Dr. Dikoloti explained that FMD outbreak has dealt a sharp operational and financial blow to the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) forcing its closure. Other plants have closed, halting slaughter at both Lobatse and the recently licensed Gaborone abattoir. He lamented that movement restrictions in Zone 11 have disrupted the entire beef



value chain, reversing gains the commission had begun to make.

Before the shutdown, BMC had slaughtered 12,291 cattle, with more than 95 percent destined for the European Union market, and paid farmers P156.6 million. However, export suspensions have forced a shift to lower-paying markets, resulting in revenue losses of up to 30 percent.

“BMC is holding meat stocks

with an original sales value of P223 million, including P123 million linked to advance payments from EU customers whose supplies were secured prior to the suspension of trade. This creates an immediate liquidity and reputational obligation to process refunds efficiently,” he said.

He added that efforts to stabilise operations are focused on fast-tracking the Francistown abattoir as an

alternative slaughter facility outside affected zones, while the Maun plant remains ready to process cattle from green zones once restrictions are lifted.

Dr Dikoloti urged farmers and the public to remain vigilant, adhere strictly to movement restrictions, and report suspected cases promptly, warning that collective compliance will be critical in containing the outbreak and protecting the

livestock sector.

**Farmers stranded**

Farmers across Botswana continue to grapple with the devastating effects of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak, which has severely disrupted their livelihoods and traditional farming operations. Botswana National Beef Producers Union Executive Secretary, Alfred Ramono Pilane said the outbreak has significantly altered the day-to-day lives of farmers, with restrictions on cattle movement affecting both income generation and normal way of living.

“FMD has disrupted the normal way of doing things. People are struggling, there is no beef at funerals and weddings, it has disrupted normal way of doing things,” he said.

Pilane further noted that the closure of the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) has compounded the crisis, as many farmers relied on it as a stable and reliable market offering

competitive prices. “The BMC has always been a dependable market with rates that farmers could sustain their livelihoods on. Its closure has hit farmers very hard,” he explained.

He added that many farmers are now facing financial strain, with some accumulating debt due to their inability to sell cattle and meet financial obligations on time, leading to rising interest costs.

Despite the challenges, Pilane commended government efforts to contain the outbreak, highlighting ongoing collaboration between authorities and farmers. As a union, they continue to encourage farmers to comply with all regulations and guidelines issued by the Ministry to curb the spread of the disease

He emphasised that unity and collective responsibility remain key in overcoming the outbreak. “We can only win this fight against FMD if we work together and adhere to the set measures,” he added.

# Africa's quiet economic reset – and Botswana's place within it

**A**CROSS MUCH OF THE WORLD, economic headlines still lean toward uncertainty, with inflation concerns, geopolitical tensions and uneven growth patterns. Yet across Africa, a different, quieter shift is underway. It is less dramatic, less noisy, but arguably more significant: a gradual economic reset built on reform, regional trade and a growing confidence in Africa's own productive capacity.

Recent regional outlooks point to Sub-Saharan Africa strengthening modestly into 2026. Standard Bank Group's own Chief Economist and Head of Research, Goolam Ballim, for instance shared an Economy Outlook noting that, while global growth is expected to remain steady

rather than spectacular, Africa's trajectory is increasingly shaped by internal factors (trade within the continent, infrastructure investment and digital adoption) rather than purely external demand. This is a subtle but important evolution and one we need pay due mind to. Africa is no longer simply reacting to global cycles; it is beginning, in parts, to define its own. Indeed, continental growth is expected to exceed 4% in 2026, a level projected to hold into 2027, a steady rather than spectacular pace, but one that signals resilience and consistency.

Trade, moreover, is a central thread in this narrative. For a sustained period now, international trade has acted as a quiet engine of African growth. In an environment where global demand remains

relatively receptive, African exports continue to find markets, but perhaps more importantly, the current commodity price cycle has created a virtuous ripple effect across several economies. Elevated commodity prices not only boost export revenues, they often strengthen local currencies, which in turn tempers inflation and allows for more accommodative monetary policy (in simple terms, lower interest rates). This cycle was visible in the latter half of 2025 and is expected to remain a resonating theme into 2026.

Another emerging pattern is the slow but steady revival of investment. Across several African markets, fixed capital formation is beginning to regain traction after a decade of drift. Infrastructure, renewable energy and technology-driven industries

are attracting renewed interest, particularly where regulatory clarity and governance reforms are evident. Regional dynamics also show encouraging differentiation: East Africa continues to lead growth rates, with several economies expected to expand by more than 6%, while West Africa is increasingly catching up on the back of fiscal stabilisation and reform momentum. Consumers, too, are showing cautious confidence, with credit appetites and service-sector demand inching upward in a number of economies.

What does this mean for us here in Botswana? Within this continental context, Botswana's economic story feels at once familiar and distinct. Like many African nations, we have navigated the after-effects of commodity dependence and global



Standard Bank Economist, Goolam Ballim

slowdown. Yet Botswana's strength has long been institutional credibility. It is a reputation built upon fiscal discipline, rule of law and financial sector stability that continues to differentiate us in the region.

Encouragingly, national economic forecasts point to a rebound in growth in 2026 following a subdued period, provided diversification efforts continue to gather pace. Inflation has remained relatively contained compared to many peer markets, and the financial system is widely regarded as resilient. These fundamentals matter. They create the conditions in which private enterprise, innovation and cross-border trade can flourish rather than merely survive. This is even in somewhat turbulent economic times as we find ourselves in at present.

What makes Botswana's position particularly interesting is its ability to act as both participant and platform within the broader African reset. Our geographic location, stable banking environment and growing digital infrastructure allow us to serve as a bridge between regional markets. From renewable energy ambitions to tourism value chains and financial services modernisation, Botswana is increasingly aligning herself with sectors that reflect Africa's future rather than its past.

For the banking and financial services sector, this moment is less about short-term

cycles and more about ecosystem building. Supporting SMEs that trade beyond borders, enabling efficient digital payments, financing infrastructure that unlocks productivity; these are the quiet levers of long-term growth. Across Africa, and in Botswana specifically, the opportunity lies not in chasing rapid expansion, but in cultivating durable economic depth. This is the clarion call before us, and it is one that could not be more opportune. The question now is how we heed that call, and how we move from simply showing up to showing up to deliver meaningful growth and progress.

Africa's economic narrative in 2026 may not be defined by explosive growth figures. Instead, it may be characterised by something more powerful: steady reform, widening trade corridors and a growing belief that the continent's progress is increasingly shaped from within. Botswana, with its blend of prudence and ambition, is well placed to be both contributor and beneficiary of that shift.

How will we shape our role in this story? Only time will tell... but what there is no doubt of is that we all wish to be on the positive side of reflection 10, 15 and even 50 years from now.

GOOLAM BALLIM  
Chief Economist & Head of Research  
Standard Bank Group

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# The Patriot

on Sunday

## Alpha Outreach counsels' inmates

**NANCY MOLEFE**  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**T**HROUGH THE SIGNING OF A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Botswana Prison Service (BPS) and Alpha Outreach Botswana on Tuesday, inmates have been granted an opportunity to gain spiritual support. This comes after Alpha Outreach pledged to offer prisoners rehabilitation services in the form of spiritual upliftment.

As an organisation, Alpha Outreach Botswana is mandated with transforming and empowering inmates spiritually, helping create a space where prisoners can have life changing conversations about the Christian faith. In addition, Alpha Outreach also exists to transform society by playing a role in seeing ex-offenders become contributing members of their communities. As a result, the signed MoU outlines key areas of collaboration, including rehabilitation, spiritual empowerment, counselling support, moral development and personal transformation through faith based programmes. It also emphasizes reintegration through life skills training and vocational empowerment, aimed at supporting the successful return of ex-offenders into society.

Chairperson of Alpha Outreach Botswana Vijaya Prasad highlighted that the partnership reflects a shared responsibility to guide, restore and support individuals who had wronged society. He therefore said the MoU provides a structured, accountable framework to guide the partnership and ensure that its impact is both visible and sustainable. "We are committed to working alongside Botswana Prison Service with dedication and purpose. Our mission is not only to minister to inmates, but also to

support their families and communities in embracing reintegration. We will therefore actively mobilise churches and like minded partners to contribute towards this shared goal, ensuring that no individual is left behind in the journey towards restoration and meaningful reintegration."

As the corrections agency of Botswana, BPS oversees imprisonment and rehabilitation of pre trial and convicted prisoners detained. As such the Commissioner of Prisons, Commissioner Anthony Mokento emphasized the importance of collaboration, noting that BPS cannot achieve its goals in isolation. He noted that partnerships such as this provide critical support that must translate into meaningful change in the lives of offenders and the communities they return to. "Social harmony is achieved when people embrace peace, mutual respect and understanding, even in the face of life's inevitable challenges. Rehabilitation remains central to the Service's mandate, as it is a process of walking with offenders from correctional facilities back into their families, communities and society as responsible, law abiding and productive citizens," Commissioner said.

Mokento went on to also explain that inmates are taken through structured programmes, particularly psychosocial interventions, aimed at reshaping attitudes, behaviour and perspectives. Through these programmes, he said BPS found a natural partner in Alpha Outreach Botswana, as both institutions share a common purpose of transforming lives and contributing positively to society. He described the partnership as a perfect match, grounded in shared values such as respect, positive attitude and a commitment to peace education.

# Ad hoc Constitutional Court a viable option for Botswana

DR NDULAMO ANTHONY MORIMA

THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE Constitution of the Republic of Botswana for the establishment of the Constitutional Court has, no doubt, divided our nation. In this article, I discuss the Constitutional Court models used in other jurisdictions, and, in particular, discuss whether establishing an ad hoc Constitutional Court in Botswana can be a viable compromise.

An ad hoc Constitutional Court is a Constitutional Court that is convened temporarily or for a specific, single case, rather than being a permanent institution. I must hasten to mention that an ad hoc Constitutional Court has the same jurisdiction and/or powers as a permanent Constitutional Court.

According to Cosmos Emezien, in this article, 'From Judicial Transplants to Judicial Transplantations: Constitutional Courts in Southern Africa-A Comparative View', there are two main models for constitutional courts: the unification or centralised model and the bifurcation model.

Under the unification or centralised model, the High Court and the Court of Appeal or Supreme Court are courts of both general competence and jurisdictional competence in all constitutional matters. On the other hand, under the bifurcation model, the Constitutional Court is separate and has a life of its own.

Botswana, like the United States of America (USA), Nigeria, and Namibia uses the unification or centralised model in that both the High Court and the Court of Appeal or Supreme Court have general competence and jurisdictional competence. Countries that follow

the unification or centralised model use a fused system where there is no distinction between courts of ordinary jurisdiction and courts of constitutional jurisdiction. The Supreme Courts in these jurisdictions have the full plenitude of powers to hear and determine all forms of disputes, including constitutional matters.

It is for this reason that, in Botswana, such constitutional matters as Attorney General v. Unity Dow; Mmusi and Others v. Ramantele; Tapela and Others v. Attorney General; and Matsipane Mosethlhanyane & Others v. Attorney General of Botswana were decided first by the High Court and, in some instances, by the Court of Appeal, on appeal.

Under the bifurcation model, there is a creation of a separate, specialized court called a Constitutional Court. It has a life of its own. It is neither antagonistic nor dependent on the other court branches.

Examples are such jurisdictions as South Africa and Zambia where the Constitutional Court is distinct from the courts of general competence which deal with the day to day routines of adjudication of rights, privileges and interest of litigants.

Here, the Constitutional Court, as the apex court in the judiciary, is entrenched within the constitutional framework of the democratic state, with clear modalities prescribed and protected by the Constitution for the purposes of performing its critical duty of being the guardian over the Constitution.

While in such jurisdictions as South Africa and Zambia the Constitutional Court is a permanent fixture of the judicial system, in other jurisdictions the Constitutional Court operates on an ad hoc basis.

In Malawi, The Courts Act of 2004

requires the High Court to sit with an enhanced quorum when it is seized with cases that substantively relate to, or concern the interpretation and application of the Constitution.

According to Mwiza Jo Nkhata in his article 'The High Court of Malawi as a Constitutional Court: Constitutional Adjudication the Malawian Way', it is when the High Court sits with a reconfigured quorum that it is popularly referred to as the "constitutional court".

In Botswana, in terms of section 6 of the High Court Act, as read with Rules of the High Court (Amendment) Rules, 2024, in cases of exceptional public importance, which invariably include constitutional matters, the Chief Justice may determine whether a judge or judges should be nominated or empanelled to deal with the matter.

The question is: can Botswana adopt the model of an ad hoc Constitutional Court before it establishes a full time Constitutional Court? Before answering this question, a cursory discussion of the birth and evolution of Botswana's Court of Appeal is apposite.

Before 1955, appeals from the then Bechuanaland Protectorate were heard by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London.

The Court of Appeal was established in 1955 as the Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland Court of Appeal, which acted as a superior court of record for the three territories.

At independence, in 1966, the new Constitution formally established the Court of Appeal of Botswana. The Court of Appeal Act of 1972 solidified the structure, jurisdiction, and powers of the court, but the final appeal still lay with the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London.



In 1973, the right of appeal from the Botswana Court of Appeal to the Privy Council in London was abolished, making the Court of Appeal in Botswana the final and supreme court for Botswana.

Initially, the court sat in Swaziland because the kingdom had better facilities. Following independence, it began sitting in Botswana at Lobatse, in the very premises that the High Court sat.

The Court of Appeal was initially served by expatriate judges from the Commonwealth, but it has since undergone localization, with the first citizen Judge President, Justice Ian Kirby, appointed in October 2010, followed by further appointments of Botswana citizen judges.

It is needless to state that among the reasons why Botswana's Court of Appeal started as a non-resident court, which operated on an ad hoc basis, is that Botswana's economy and judicial system were still at infancy. Today, due to the global decline

in diamond sales, the advent of synthetic diamonds and an ailing economy that was plundered through corruption and mismanagement, Botswana faces an existential threat to its people's livelihood and sovereignty because of an ailing economy characterised by dilapidated infrastructure, including roads, schools and courts, including the very court which used to house the Court of Appeal.

According to Reuters News Agency, Botswana is experiencing a depressed global diamond market and expects a 3.1% economic growth rate. Botswana's headline inflation has fallen to 4.0% in February 2026 from 4.1% in January 2026. The Bank of Botswana projects inflation to average 4.5% in 2026, with risks from potential electricity tariff hikes, transport cost increases, and food price hikes.

The economy is so bad that for the first time in many years government borrows money, including from

local commercial banks and the public employees' pension fund to finance its recurrent budget, and not the development budget as was traditionally the case.

Perhaps because of its small population size, and general respect for the rule of law, separation of powers and independence of the judiciary, Botswana has very few purely constitutional matters that require the attention of a full time Constitutional Court.

Anecdotal evidence shows that it has had an average of four (4) purely constitutional cases per annum.

In view of the dire state of our economy, the few purely constitutional matters we have and the fact that the High Court and the Court of Appeal have the jurisdiction to deal with constitutional matters, it is clear that establishing a Constitutional Court, in whatever format, is not a priority.

However, because democracy is about compromise, and because many Botswana are not opposed to the establishment of a Constitutional Court per se, but question its urgency especially in view of the economic challenges we face, I submit that establishing a customized ad hoc Constitutional Court may be a viable compromise.

Different from the Malawi model, any many countries' models, Botswana's ad hoc Constitutional Court could sit at the Court of Appeal premises during Court of Appeal vacations if there are constitutional matters to be heard. In that case, it would use the office equipment, furniture and support staff of the Court of Appeal, at nominal additional expenses.

Further, the Constitution could be amended such that the Chief Justice and High Court and Court of Appeal Judges are judges of the

Constitutional Court in the same manner that the Chief Justice and judges of the High Court are judges of the Court of Appeal in terms of section 99(2)(c) of the Constitution.

In that case, judges from the High Court and justices of the Court of Appeal would be appointed on acting basis to sit as an ad hoc Constitutional Court to hear constitutional matters, if any. The sitting would be presided over by the Chief Justice.

I am aware that the counter argument to this proposal, to which I agree, is that our law, as is, already provides for dealing with constitutional matters, both in terms of the ordinary jurisdiction of the High Court and Court of Appeal and the empanelment provisions permitted by section 6 of the High Court Act as read with Rules of the High Court (Amendment) Rules, 2024.

The ad hoc Constitutional Court in the manner I propose would be a compromise, for it is clear that government is not willing to abandon the idea of establishing a permanent Constitutional Court.

While not ideal, the ad hoc Constitutional Court in the manner I propose, would save the country the millions of Pula which would be spent on building or leasing offices, procuring office furniture and equipment; recruiting, training and deploying support staff and recruiting a full compliment of justices of the Constitutional Court, who are usually seven, nine or eleven in number.

As our economy stabilizes, and the case load for purely constitutional matters increases, Botswana can upgrade the Constitutional Court to a full time permanent court, with a full staff compliment and a dedicated court facility.

# Chancellor Boko's Bold Bet

Education as Botswana's Engine of Economic Transformation

CROSS KGOSIDILE

The Crossword

WHEN PRESIDENT Advocate Duma Gideon Boko was inaugurated as Chancellor of the Botswana

International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) in late March, the moment carried more than ceremonial weight. It signalled a deliberate fusion of Political Leadership and academic purpose at a university purpose-built to

break Botswana's dependence on diamonds. In an economy long anchored by a single resource, Boko's move to the Chancellorship underscores a truth the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) now places at its

core: without a skilled, innovative workforce, diversification will remain an aspiration rather than a reality.

Launched by President Boko in July 2025, the BETP is the most ambitious economic reset since independence. It emerged from thousands of Citizen and expert submissions, distilled

into 186 high-impact projects, 60 percent private-sector driven, that span agriculture, energy, tourism, digital services, and advanced manufacturing. The goal is unambiguous: propel Botswana toward high-income status within a decade by replacing diamond rents with sustainable, knowledge-intensive growth. Yet the programme's success hinges on a single, often overlooked ingredient, human capital.

Botswana's diamond revenues have funded stability and infrastructure for generations, but finite reserves

and volatile global markets have made the risks of mono-dependence painfully clear. The BETP therefore demands rapid upskilling in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and entrepreneurial disciplines. BIUST, with its explicit mandate to serve as "the University of Industries," sits at the sharp end of this shift. Its graduates are being groomed not merely to fill jobs but to create them, designing precision agriculture systems for the Kalahari, building fintech solutions that position Botswana as a regional financial hub, and commercialising



President Boko

research that turns lab discoveries into exportable products.

Boko's own record of academic commitment lends credibility to the message. By stepping into the Chancellorship while leading the nation, he has elevated education from a social good to a strategic imperative. The move reinforces BIUST's partnerships with global innovation Leaders and its drive to embed entrepreneurship across every faculty. In practical terms, this means curricula that mirror the BETP's priority sectors, incubation hubs that accelerate start-ups, and research agendas aligned with national challenges such as water security, renewable energy, and digital inclusion.

The stakes are high. Botswana's working-age population is young and growing. Without targeted upskilling, demographic dividends could turn into demographic burdens. With it, the country can attract the foreign direct investment the BETP needs, retain talent that once emigrated, and build resilient supply chains less vulnerable to commodity cycles. Education, in this context, is not a parallel track to economic policy, it is the policy.

As Chancellor Boko assumes his new academic mantle, the signal to students, lecturers, and industry partners is unmistakable: Botswana's transformation will be powered by minds trained at home, for home, and for the world. The BETP's labs, projects, and financing mechanisms are ready. What they await is the steady stream of skilled, solution-oriented Botswana that institutions like BIUST must now produce at scale. In that convergence of Leadership, learning, and ambition lies the clearest path to a diversified, prosperous Botswana.

H/W MADABANE.

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF KGATLENG HELD AT MOCHUDI

In the matter between: VIRGINIA MAMPANE And KEEN ACCELERATED GROWTH OUTCOME (PTY) LTD KAGO MOSWEU

CASE NO: CCMCM-000018-22  
PLAINTIFF  
1<sup>ST</sup> DEFENDANT  
2<sup>ND</sup> DEFENDANT

**NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION**

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Allocatur of this Honourable Court dated the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 and stamped on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2026, the following movable property of the above-mentioned 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Defendants will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff L. Mosupi in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
TIME OF SALE: 10:30 Hours  
PLACE OF SALE: Opposite Ghanzi Police Station  
TERMS OF SALE: Cash or Electronic Bank Transfer

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: 1 X RESTONIC QUEEN BED, 1 X HISENSE FRIDGE, 1 X BLACK, TOYOTA VITZ OF REGISTRATION NO. B 482 BRO.  
The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriff's Offices at the addresses below.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2026.

Deputy Sheriff L. Mosupi  
72131096/76964073  
C/o Gobhoza Legal Practice  
Plaintiff's Attorneys  
Plot 115, Unit 19, Kgale  
Gaborone International Finance Park  
P O Box 26168 Game City  
Gaborone

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

(Before LEKORWE J)

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

TRENZ N STYLE t/a TILE AFRICA GABORONE Plaintiff

and TECHNOBILE ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD Defendant

**NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION**

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

DATE OF SALE: 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2026  
TIME OF SALE: 10:30 hours  
PLACE OF SALE: Gaborone Magistrate Court

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: 1 x 1 B 655 BiB, white Hilux, 1 x 1 B 514 BJM White in colour, 1 x 1 Tables office (2) 1 x 1 TRCP Generator x (2), Flip table micro solo, 1 x 1 vacuum cleaners x 3, 1 x 1 Air compressor x 3, 1 x 1 Parlet-jack trolley, 1 x 1 trend mill machine, 1 x 1 garden chairs (7), 1 x 1 office chairs (10) 1 x 1 Botsand Aircons (4), 1 x 1 Table Office (2).

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2026.

MESHACK MOSHABI c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS  
Plaintiff's Attorneys  
Plot 4853, Independence  
Avenue, Extension 11,  
P.O. Box 70567  
GABORONE (UB)  
(SM/mm/16632)  
71619553 / 72702538

**RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS**  
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

**Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd.**

**Quarterly Disclosure on Actual Interest Rates for January 2026 to March 2026**

Type of Deposit Account	January 2026 Interest Rates (%)	February 2026 Interest Rates (%)	March 2026 Interest Rates (%)	Range Interest Rates (%) during the quarter
<b>BWP</b>	<b>(Lowest-Highest)</b>	<b>(Lowest-Highest)</b>	<b>(Lowest-Highest)</b>	<b>(Lowest-Highest)</b>
Current	0.00-0.00 %	0.00-0.00 %	0.00-0.00 %	0.00-0.00 %
Call	0.00-1.01%	0.00-1.01%	0.00-1.01%	0.00-1.01%
Savings	0.00-2.02%	0.00-2.02%	0.00-2.02%	0.00-2.02%
91-Days Fixed Deposit	1.25-1.26%	1.25-1.26%	1.25-1.26%	1.25-1.26%
6 months	1.50-1.51%	1.50-1.51%	1.50-1.51%	1.50-1.51%
12 months	3.25-4.31%	3.25-4.31%	3.25-4.31%	3.25-4.31%
24 months	4.00-4.82%	4.00-4.82%	4.00-4.82%	4.00-4.82%
Over 24 months	4.25-5.08%	4.25-5.08%	4.25-5.08%	4.25-5.08%
<b>USD</b>	<b>(Lowest-Highest)</b>	<b>(Lowest-Highest)</b>	<b>(Lowest-Highest)</b>	<b>(Lowest-Highest)</b>
3 months Fixed Deposit	0.00-0.26%	0.00-0.26%	0.00-0.26%	0.00-0.26%
6 months	0.00-0.52%	0.00-0.52%	0.00-0.52%	0.00-0.52%
Over 12 months	0.00-0.76%	0.00-0.76%	0.00-0.76%	0.00-0.76%
6 months	1.75-1.76%	1.75-1.76%	1.75-1.76%	1.75-1.76%
Over 12 months	2.75-2.78%	2.75-2.78%	2.75-2.78%	2.75-2.78%
<b>Lending Rates</b>	<b>January 2026 Interest Rates (%)</b>	<b>February 2026 Interest Rates (%)</b>	<b>March 2026 Interest Rates (%)</b>	<b>Range Interest Rates (%) during the quarter</b>
MoPR	1.90 %	3.50 %	3.50 %	3.50 %
Baroda Prime Lending Rate	7.51%	7.51%	7.51%	7.51%
Mortgage Facility	7.51-13.00%	7.51-15.51%	7.51-15.51%	7.51-15.51%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	7.51-12.75%	7.51-15.01%	7.51-15.01%	7.51-15.01%
Credit Card	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lease Loans	NA	NA	NA	NA
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgages, and credit cards)	9.50-15.75%	9.51-17.26%	9.51-17.26%	9.51-17.26%
Other Long-Term Loans	7.51-12.75%	7.51-13.01%	7.51-13.01%	7.51-13.01%

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

**CONTACTS:**

Head office: Old Nokia, G-west, Gaborone, Ph: 3992700, Email: ho.botswana@bankofbaroda.com.  
Gaborone Branch: Main Mall, Gaborone, Ph: 3188878, Email: gaborone@bankofbaroda.com.  
G-West Branch: Kamoshungo Road, Gaborone, Ph: 3992705, Email: gwesbo@bankofbaroda.com.  
Francistown Branch: Haskins Building, Francistown, Ph: 2413440, Email: francistown@bankofbaroda.com.  
Palapye Branch: Madiba Complex, Palapye, Ph: 4920041, Email: palapye@bankofbaroda.com.

# Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



**ADAM PHETLHE**  
ON SUNDAY!

## Boko will be a one-term President



President Duma Boko

**F**ORMER PRESIDENT MOKGWEETSI Masisi holds the unenviable record of being the first in the history of Botswana electoral politics to serve only one term. It is under his presidency that the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) lost political power after being at the helm for close to six uninterrupted decades. In came his successor President Advocate Duma Boko on the strength of a mouth-watering election manifesto grounded in my view, on over ambitious promises. Notwithstanding the pressure on the economy occasioned by the significant drop in our main economic earner being diamonds, the President nevertheless went ahead with his over ambitious promises. It is increasingly becoming difficult if not impossible to achieve the promises. And Batswana feel the pain on the lack of service delivery whatever it is.

In recent years, history has recorded few cases in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and elsewhere that securing second terms is becoming harder than ever before. Botswana as already mentioned (Masisi 2019-2024) Malawi (Bakili Muluzi 1994-2004), (Bingu wa Mutharika 2004-2012) and (Peter Mutharika 2014-2020) are the few examples of those who failed to secure second terms in the region. Elsewhere, John Dramani

Mahama of Ghana served one term from 2012-2016. It is reasonable to suggest failure to secure second terms is consequent to the dissatisfaction of the electorate for various reasons. Primarily I will argue, is the dissatisfaction about the socio-economic circumstances the electorate finds itself in so far as their daily lives and livelihoods are concerned. Reasons to justify the failure, however justifiable they could be to

improve the socio-economic circumstances of the electorate are never good enough to persuade it offer a second term. In all the quoted examples of those who failed to obtain second terms, they would have gone at great length to explain why the livelihoods of the electorate had not changed for the better. The electorate would have had none of it but to vote them out.

When discarding the BDP, it was the

expectation of the electorate that its socio-economic circumstances will fundamentally change for the better as promised by the President through his political party's 2024 election manifesto. Very little in this regard has emerged so far principally because government says it is too broke to deliver on its flagship promises. Compounding the dire situation for the President is the fact that he has put a restrictive timeframe to deliver

his promises. He has declared and decreed that Botswana will be spectacularly changed in the first three years of his presidency. Without doubt, the electorate is perfectly entitled to take him head-on in the event its socio-economic circumstances are not spectacularly changed for the better by the end of next year.

Another factor that could possibly render the President a one-term President is the upcoming referendum on the establishment of the Constitutional Court (Con Court). Whereas the Con Court Bill passed with flying colours in the National Assembly, the mood on the ground suggests there is stiff opposition from some members of the public, trade union federations and the combined voices from the leading opposition political party in the National Assembly—the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) and the minority party the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). While opposition political parties are not opposed to the establishment of the Con Court, they argue the timing is not favourable given the economic hardships the country is currently facing. Whether or not this argument will carry the day will be determined by the results of the referendum. That said, it goes without saying that the referendum will be the mid-term test for the President in that it will prove or disprove his support from Batswana. In the event he loses the referendum, it will be a political catalyst with possible political ramifications for the 2029 general election.

The recent protests by young people (tertiary students & interns) over the promised P 2500 allowances and the P 4000 minimum wage should be a cause for concern for the President. While he has

consistently encouraged such protests and justifiably so in my view, the downside of it is that the young people are facing the brunt of economic hardships they endure on a daily basis. By virtue of these protests, young people are putting the President on notice that their vote is not guaranteed in his favour in 2029. The youth unemployment rate is astronomically high and judging by the sluggish nature of the economy wheel is turning, it suggests few and far between job opportunities will be created for them. Youth hardships across the board suggest more protests are in the offing.

Social contract issue has found itself in the public discourse where the President caused controversy early this year that UDC does not have a social contract with Batswana to deliver the 2024 election manifesto promises. Yet, he had said during one of his State of the Nation Addresses that such contract existed thereby suggesting he was duty-bound to deliver on the promises. Voters are likely to be persuaded by opposition political parties not vote for the UDC because its President does not embrace the principle of social contract arising out of voter/political parties' electoral partnership.

If I am correct on my arguments that such will potentially render President Boko a one-term President, it stands to reason barring any meaningful interventions to the contrary, that he stands to follow on the footprints of his predecessor and some former Presidents elsewhere. Batswana seem to have somewhat adopted a position: you deliver, we give second term and you don't deliver, we vote out. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always.

[adamphetlhe08@gmail.com](mailto:adamphetlhe08@gmail.com)



**GNATHOUS NJOBVU**  
HEART OF THE MATTER

## Evolution of Botswana's Education

### From Basic Instruction to a Holistic Child Welfare

Education signifies a departure from traditional rote learning towards a more integrated human-centric approach. This renaming is not merely a branding exercise, it is a bold declaration that the state recognizes the child as a multi-dimensional being whose academic success is inseparable from their physical, emotional and social well-being. The inclusion of Child Welfare into the Ministry's title means that we are now governed by both the Education act and the Children's act. It also fundamentally shifts the mandate towards a rights-based framework. By aligning education with welfare, Botswana is moving closer to the ideals of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This change implies that the Ministry is now legally and morally responsible for all who are described as children by the Convention. It acknowledges that a hungry, bullied, or unsupported child cannot learn effectively. Consequently the Ministry's scope now extends beyond the classroom walls to include child protection services, nutritional support and psychological, ensuring that the right to education is protected by a safety net of social care.

One of the most significant implications of this shift is the renewed focus on the inclusive education. Under the new mandate, the welfare component acts as a catalyst for better supporting students with special educational needs (SEN). Historically special education was often treated as a peripheral concern. Now it is central to the Ministry's mission. The integration of welfare means that students with disabilities are no longer just learners but citizens with specific rights to accessibility and specialized care. This involves the deployment of more

educational psychologists, speech therapists and specialized social workers within the school system. Botswana is taking inspiration from the global models such as the United Kingdom's Department for Education which manages both school standards and children's care (Implementing Inclusive Education - Gov.UK. 26 February 2019). The dual focus ensures that children in the 'looked after' system or those with complex learning disabilities receive a seamless transition between social support and academic instruction. I must say that Botswana is making positive strides in this area with the enacting of the Maun Special Education Unit as a clear example.

Quality Education through Digital Literacy

As the Ministry expands its social mandate, it is simultaneously modernizing its academic standards. The definition of 'quality education' in the 21st century is now synonymous with digital literacy. In an era defined by the fourth industrial revolution (4IR), a child's welfare is tied to their future employability. Therefore the Ministry is prioritizing the integration of digital skills across all levels of schooling. This is no longer an optional 'computer lab' activity but a core competency integrated into the daily learning experience, ensuring that every Botswana child can navigate a tech-driven global economy. The adoption of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) pedagogy marks a turning point in the national curriculum. STEAM encourages critical thinking and problem-solving, moving away from memorization. To deliver this effectively, the Ministry has to embrace a Blended learning teaching methodology as it presents both face-to-face and the online

tools utilization in the learning process. By combining traditional face-to-face instruction with digital media and online interaction, blended learning allows for a more personalized and flexible educational experience. This approach is particularly vital for the STEAM curriculum as it allows students to engage with virtual simulations and global collaboration projects that a standard textbook cannot provide.

The urgency of this digital and welfare focused shift is underscored by the covid-19 pandemic. The crises exposed the vulnerabilities of a purely physical school system. The lesson learnt were clear: school is more than just a place for lessons. It is a sanctuary for child welfare. When schools closed, many children lost access to subsidized meals and safe environments. The pandemic also proved that digital infrastructure is not a luxury but a necessary establishment.

The Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education has used these insights to build a more resilient system. What seems to be posing a challenge for now is the limited internet connectivity to enable access to the thousands at the same time. The other factor is the unwillingness and insufficient self-drive by some educators and education administrators to shift mindset to digital literacy. But of course such reforms take quite some time to be embraced by the majority. Thus far, we are doing great. The emphasis on blended learning and digital literacy ensures that, should another disruption occur, the welfare of the student – their right to continue learning and receiving support would remain uninterrupted.

*\*Special Education & Performance Improvement Coordinator*

## BAOTA rejects approach to developing national arts strategy



NACB CEO, Gaokgakala Daniel Lemmenyane

**T**HE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE Botswana Association of Theatre Activists wishes to formally clarify its position regarding the recently announced National Arts Strategy and the ongoing discourse between the Creative Sector and the National Arts Council of Botswana.

While BAOTA remains one of the leading associations working with the NACB, we have taken a principled decision to maintain a distinct and independent diplomatic path regarding the current national strategy discourse with the NACB Secretariat that has now reached public domain. We fully support the decision to have the strategy developed by recognised affiliates of NACB, it is the method through which these calls are made that we do not accept, but also cannot impose our position on anyone.

Our Position is Guided by Three Core Principles:

**1. The prioritization of dialogue and the exhaustion of remedies:** BAOTA believes that there is potential for constructive table-talk with the NACB Secretariat or Board, and has not been exhausted. We view the creative sector and the NACB as partners in a well-oiled machine designed to drive the creative economy. We remain guided by the long-standing principle of the exhaustion of internal remedies before escalating to public discord. We were also awaiting the feedback the NACB had promised post the 1 April 2026 meeting.

**Institutional integrity and member mandate:** As the umbrella body for theatre, our primary responsibility is to ensure that any strategy—national or otherwise—serves the interests of our industry and our members first. Our members have unambiguously instructed the Executive Committee, post the November 2025 SGM to prioritize meaningful engagement by all means with key stakeholders, resort to other progressive remedies when such has not been exhausted.

**Prevention of factionalism:** BAOTA has made it known to our sister organizations that we will not be a party to any communication that may inadvertently foster factionalism, divisions, or instability within the NACB or the wider industry.

Furthermore, BAOTA wishes to clarify that it is an independent national structure on its own and is not an affiliate of any other organization. We hope all can note that the Botswana Arts Associations is a collective reference for a group of independent entities.

Conclusively, we remain neutral spectators to the current public exchange, not out of indifference, but out of a principled position to protect the integrity of our association and respect the desires of our members.

While we wish our sister organizations the best of luck in their chosen path, we wish to state categorically that BAOTA is not a party to the recent joint press release. This position has been clearly communicated to all relevant stakeholders.



Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Nono Kgafela Mokoka



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Please write to us:

Plot 28562, Unit F3, Fairgrounds Mall,  
Tel: +267 318 7951 / 40. Fax: +267 318 7952  
Postal: P.O. Box 404583, Gaborone, Botswana or  
email to [dibeela@thepatriot.co.bw](mailto:dibeela@thepatriot.co.bw) /  
[ditiro@thepatriot.co.bw](mailto:ditiro@thepatriot.co.bw)

# Business

## Air Botswana fights back

Dr Bao Mosinyi took the reins as Air Botswana General Manager two months ago, stepping into a lion's den that many before him left in a huff. He brings a colourful curriculum vitae built over many years in the aviation industry, but looks can be deceiving. He tells Staff Writer **DITIRO MOTLHABANE** that from February 2026, they have reduced delays drastically, had fewer cancellations, and saw improvement in customer experience onboard

**DM: Two months in office, what is the situation on the ground at Air Botswana?**

**MOSINYI:** From the outside, people only see flight delays and an unreliable airline which is why Air Botswana has lost a good percentage of the market to competitors. I can appreciate the situation with much more detail from the inside.

Over the years, the governance structure at Air Botswana has been problematic, with too many unoccupied executive posts. I am glad that a new Board of Directors is now in place, and I have been here for two months now. Senior management has been appointed, and are now hands-on, handling staff grievances, attending to client queries and monitoring any emerging challenges.

**DM: Why has Air Botswana been relying on handouts from government for survival over many years?**

**MOSINYI:** We are really at rock bottom, currently. We cannot afford to slip any further down. Below where we are now is just collapsing and closing shop. Even as we are staring such a calamity in the eye, we are hopeful to turn the situation around. We are focused on fixing major challenges before thinking about profitability. I am happy to report that there is light at the end of the tunnel. From February 2026, we have reduced delays drastically, we have had fewer cancellations, and are intentional about improving customer experience on our flights.

**DM: Last year President Duma Boko named Air Botswana as one of the strategic state-owned**



Patriot on Sunday Editor, Ditiro Motlhabane interviewing Air Botswana General Manager, Dr Bao Mosinyi

**enterprises that he declared and decreed will be profitable by the end of 2025. In your assessment, where is Air Botswana in that journey to profitability?**

**MOSINYI:** When the President announces a timeline, we have to deliver. We do not have the luxury of choice. Expectations among Botswana are still high. We are working on improving operational efficiency. No drastic changes, but a lot of little things that need to be fixed. This is our short-term strategy and focus.

Unfortunately, we have

accumulated a lot of debt. To make money, we must ensure that every pilot eligible to fly can fly, every aircraft that can fly is in the airspace serving us one way or the other. As recent as a month ago we had two active aircrafts, running a two aircraft schedule. Optimally, we need about four aircrafts to operate a profitable airline.

At Air Botswana, we currently have six (6) aircrafts. Contrary to allegations, we are not planning to sell any of our aircraft. Two of our aircrafts are currently leased to Namibia. We are working around the clock to cancel that deal, which was

poorly crafted, and repatriate the two aircrafts back home from Namibia to bring them under our control. We will register them with CAAB and have Air Botswana pilots trained to fly the aircrafts. We hope to conclude that transaction by the end of the month.

We are looking to lease out one of the jets to make some money. Since around mid-2025, we have one aircraft grounded here at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport. We need about P50 million to service and repair it, to bring it back into operation. If it were not for a plethora of challenges, a lot of things would

have fallen into place by the middle of the year (2026). In the time I have been here, we have seen a lot of improvement in our operations. We are changing a lot of things and hope to be a decently efficient airline by the end of the year (2026).

**DM: Your reaction to the issue of ticket prices, where many complain that they are too steep and unaffordable.**

**MOSINYI:** That is just a misconception about the ticketing system. For example, let's look at the busiest route, the Gaborone - Johannesburg route which has three (3) carriers/ operators, including AB, Airlink and SAA. We have the cheapest ticket you can get on that most popular route, even after one airline came into the space and offered cheaper rates.

With rising aviation fuel due to geopolitics, we have not increased ticket prices yet, while our competitors have made huge adjustments. The Load factor plays a major role as ticket prices fluctuate according to the numbers. The Gaborone - Maun and back, has been performing extremely well, alongside the Maun-Johannesburg. Lately, the Lusaka -Harare route has also been doing very well. If we get more people on the Gaborone-Francistown route, ticket prices will go down.

**DM: There are calls for the regulator, CAAB to revise their fees, which are considered too high and make the bulk of the ticket cost. Your response to that.**

**MOSINYI:** Regulator fees in Botswana are lower than any other country around the world. We are working with IATA to fix the

categorization in the ticketing system to accurately reflect the costing. Even at CAAB when fees are increased, we conduct a survey in the global market.

**DM: In 2024 Air Botswana took a giant leap, acquiring some aircrafts as an expansion strategy. However, reports indicate that Air Botswana, has suspended three recently introduced regional routes after incurring huge losses. What happened?**

**MOSINYI:** Trying to expand before cleaning up was a blunder by Air Botswana management. It shows impatience. The regional routes were rushed, without careful analysis. There was no adequate planning on the routes. Consequently, the short-cut backfired terribly!

The Air Botswana fleet currently consists of a 70-seater ATR 72; 88-seater Embraer 145 currently in Namibia; 70-seater Embraer parked at SSKIA.

We have two aircrafts registered in Namibia under a wet lease, an ACMI (aircraft, crew, maintenance and insurance) deal. We have to repatriate them back home. We will be making the last payment at the end of April 2026. Our Engineering and Flight operations division are working on the logistics to repatriate the aircrafts.

**DM: Ongoing conflicts have caused disruption to supply chains globally, and threaten to cause escalation in jet fuel prices. How is this likely to affect you?**

**MOSINYI:** Airlines are already putting fuel surcharges. We await an update from Puma Energy - our suppliers of aviation fuel. We have not increased any prices for now until

advised further.

**DM: Technology has taken centre stage in different industries, including the aviation industry. What changes are you bringing to Air Botswana and in which areas, technology-wise?**

**MOSINYI:** After struggling for so long, you start with the bare minimum. A lot needs to be done. As you can see (pointing to a pile of papers on a huge desk) we are still doing a lot of manual paperwork. I found a similar situation at CAAB but the situation had improved significantly when I left, as we had automated some processes.

Just as an example, the regulator -CAAB has installed self-check in systems at the airport but we cannot incorporate it into our systems and process as we are still lagging behind. For now, we are doing the bare minimum to get to basic standard. Then we can upgrade from there. We need to invest in digital technology to give customers a better experience.

**DM: Do you have the money for all those upgrades?**

**MOSINYI:** We should give government credit for coming to our aid. This airline would not be here if it was not for the intervention of Botswana government. When we become efficient, we will get our fair share of passengers back. That will affect the passengers' confidence locally, and prices will go down.

We are going into the good season for flying. We hope to place two aircrafts on an ACMI lease to generate some money, a significant revenue source. From that deal, we will not be awash with money but we will have enough to do the basics.

## 500MW Solar PV Plant launched

- Project to ensure security of power-supply
- BPC to become net exporter of electricity in SADC
- President Boko excited about the project

**BAKANG TIRO**  
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

**T**HE MAUN 500 MEGA WATT Solar Power Plant launched on Thursday morning by President Duma Boko, is expected to boost the country's economic wealth and position Botswana as a net exporter of power to the SADC region.

President Duma Boko on Thursday launched the project in Mawana settlement in Maun East constituency. Delivering a keynote address, Boko said the power plant is a strategic investment undertaken in government-to-government partnership between Botswana and Oman.

Boko buttressed that Botswana is positioning herself for economic dominance in the region. He said the dialogue regarding the project commenced last year between government of Botswana and Oman. "This is a high magnitude project. Its immense value cannot be underestimated. I am very proud of the team from Office of the President and Ministry of Minerals and Energy for ensuring that this project comes alive," said Boko elatedly.

In addition, Boko said his anticipation is that the project could be delivered within 12 months against the set timeline of 30 months.

He said Botswana has the right partners in Oman in terms of technology and expertise, adding that Botswana will gain a lot in

terms of skills transfer. He said more projects of this magnitude will be undertaken during this financial year as government fast tracks its development plan agenda.

For his part, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Botswana Power Corporation (BPC), David Kgoboko said the project will be developed through Independent Power Producer (IPP) model. He said the power plant will be owned and operated by Okavango Solar, a company wholly owned by Naqaa, a Sustainable Energy of Oman represented by O- Green under a 30-year Power Purchase Agreement with BPC as the off-taker.

Kgoboko said the project will significantly enhance security of supply, reduce Botswana carbon footprint, optimise BPC's generation through displacement of extensive power generation imports and position Botswana as a net exporter of electricity. He added that the project is expected to be commissioned in the first quarter of 2029.

"The project scope also includes construction and commissioning of 2 km of a 400 kV powerline to connect the Plant to the BPC grid at the existing Mawana Substation," said Kgoboko, adding that Botswana is accelerating transition towards renewable energy, setting a strong foundation for a sustainable future.

For his part, CEO of O- Green Mustafa Al- Hinai said they are not here to test an idea, but to deliver. He



Maun 500 Mega Watt Solar Power Plant

said this is not just a project, but a platform to provide competitive and valuable energy.

He said in the modern world, energy is about positioning and the future. He said Botswana has the potential to become an energy powerhouse, able to integrate, store

and trade power, making this a truly strategic platform.

"As O-Green, we are not merely contractors, but long-term partners, committed from groundbreaking through to commissioning," he added.

## Gaetsaloe is PS for Minerals & Energy

**D**ON GAETSALOE HAS BEEN appointed Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Minerals and Energy, marking a significant addition to Botswana's leadership in the energy and resources sector. His appointment comes at a pivotal time as the country navigates transition to renewable energy sources, marked by the launch of a 500MW solar power plant in Maun on Thursday.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, President Duma Boko commended Gaetsaloe for exceptional work ethic and intellectual depth, despite being in office for less than a week.

Boko revealed that Gaetsaloe had meticulously worked through thousands of pages of technical and policy documentation related to the Maun solar power project, quickly mastering its complexities in time for the rollout. "He ploughed through volumes of material and immediately grasped the project," Boko said.

Gaetsaloe's appointment is expected to bolster capacity at government enclave as Botswana positions herself to expand the

mineral sector while simultaneously investing in clean energy solutions. He will play a central role in aligning mineral development with the country's broader economic transformation and energy security goals. With the government pushing toward a 50/50 energy mix by 2030, his leadership arrives at a moment where technical competence and decisive execution will be critical.

Background  
Gaetsaloe is regarded as a highly disciplined and results-driven public servant, with a strong reputation for analytical rigor and policy comprehension. His career has been defined by his ability to navigate complex government projects, particularly in sectors requiring technical insight and long-term planning.

Through his asset management company- Confianza Capital, Gaetsaloe has provided Asset Management Services to many institutional and corporate clients, among them Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU) and Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF), gaining valuable



Ministry of Minerals and Energy incoming PS, Don Gaetsaloe

experience in financial management, institutional governance, and long-term investment strategy.

He has built a profile as a capable administrator who bridges the gap between policy formulation and execution. His strengths lie in strategic planning, governance, and managing large-scale national projects.

Before managing his own company, he served as the Chief Executive Officer at African Alliance Botswana, having had a stint as Finance Director at Sefalana Holdings.

## Dr Sigwele is BOTC Board Chairman

**T**HE GOVERNMENT HAS appointed Dr Howard Sigwele as the chairperson of the Botswana Trade Commission's (BOTC) Board of Directors.

The reconstituted board has Keolebogile L Diswai as vice chairperson and other members as Philiso Valashia, Boitshoko Keabofe-Medupe, Johanah L Segotlong, Ofentse Khumotse, Mmantlha Sankoloba and Shirley Moncho as



Dr Sigwele

the Chief Executive.

The newly appointed Board brings a wealth of experience, diverse expertise, and a shared commitment to advancing Botswana's economic transformation agenda. Their leadership will play a pivotal role in strengthening the delivery of BOTC's mandate on implementation of trade and industrial development policies to drive industry development, value addition and export competitiveness.

# PPRA engages stakeholders on SBPS

**T**HE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT Regulatory Authority (PPRA) is currently conducting a series of stakeholder engagements to review and develop a set of standardized bidding packages (SBPs) that are aligned with the Public Procurement Act, 2021 and Public Procurement Regulations, 2023.

The engagements started on Monday 13 April and will end on Friday, 17 April 2026 as part of the Africa Development Bank funded project to review and develop SBPs

for Botswana. Further, the engagements are to reflect the international best practice, and train users on the use of SBPs to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of public procurement processes in Botswana.

The stakeholder engagements are carried out through the following activities: In-person workshop with representatives from a sample of procuring entities focusing on those with high value and / or specialised procurement; A semi-structured interview specifically targeting

oversight bodies; A general survey across all procuring entities; A business community survey and engagement meeting.

Under Section 56 of the Public Procurement Act 2021 the Authority is required to develop and issue, and amend where necessary, a standardised bidding package and contract, which shall be used on a mandatory basis by any procuring entity as may be prescribed.

Under this African Development Bank Funded Project, PPRA aims to issue for each category



PPRA CEO, Tumelo Motsumi

of procurement (goods, works, consultancy and non-consultancy services) standardized bidding packages that provide standard rules that meet the following requirements:

- Aligned to the Public Procurement Act and Regulations,
- Promote consistency and fairness
- Increase effectiveness and efficiency in public procurement
- Reflect international best procurement practices and standards
- Simplified and easily adaptable for ease of use by all Procuring Entities and the bidding community

SBPs that are automation ready SBPs with an easy selection guide and easily compiled.

The PPRA signed an agreement on the Public Procurement Technical Assistance Grant of US\$200,000 with the African Development Bank On 30 January 2025, to review and develop the SBPs.

**For further information on the matter, kindly contact Mr. Joshua Machao at (+267) 71746334 or the Public Relations and Education Office at 3602017/14/22 or email at PROffice@ppra.co.bw.**

## Know Your Corporate Leader



**Full Name:** Stillwell Jacob  
**Position:** Engineering Manager  
**Date Started:** 5 February 2024  
**Institution:** Cavista Technologies  
**Nature of business:** Technology

## Turnstar's profit down 22%

**T**HE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF Turnstar advises shareholders that the Group's profit before taxation for the year ended 31 January 2026 is expected to be P146.6 million (2025: P188.6 million), representing a decrease of approximately 22% compared to the prior year. The decrease is primarily attributable to a significant reduction in fair value adjustments on investment property, with fair value gains declining by approximately P38.7 million. This was mainly driven by higher discount and capitalisation rates applied to the Botswana property portfolio in response to prevailing market conditions. The Group's underlying operational performance remains stable, with operating profit declining marginally by approximately 0.78% compared to the prior year. The Group's audited financial results for the year ended 31 January 2026 are expected to be published on or before 30 April 2026. Accordingly, shareholders



Turnstar Holdings MD, Comfort Rankgomo

and investors are advised to exercise caution when dealing in the Company's securities until a full announcement of the results is made. [bse.co.bw]

## VIVO Energy sells Engen Botswana shares

**V**IVO ENERGY AND FUSION Spark Proprietary Limited, a consortium comprising Mount Meru Group and Ramachandran Ottapathu, today announced that they have signed a share purchase agreement for the acquisition of Vivo Energy's 70% shareholding in Engen Botswana Limited.

The transaction marks an important milestone for Engen Botswana and follows a competitive sales process to identify a buyer with the right combination of financial strength, local market knowledge and downstream operating experience. The new purchasing consortium is well placed to support the business's continued growth and to build on its strong service offering to customers across Botswana.



CEO of Vivo Energy, Stan Mittelman

Vivo Energy acquired Engen Botswana as part of its May 2024 purchase of Engen Limited from PETRONAS. As part of the subsequent regulatory process in Botswana, the Competition and Consumer Authority (CCA) determined that the combination of Vivo Energy and Engen in Botswana raised competition concerns. Vivo Energy therefore committed to divest its interest in Engen Botswana.

Following a thorough evaluation of potential buyers, Fusion Spark Proprietary Limited was selected as the preferred purchaser. The consortium brings a compelling combination of local ownership, strong commercial capability and

extensive experience in downstream operations.

Atul Mittal, Director, Mount Meru Group, said: "We are proud to be entering Botswana, a country with a stable, well-governed economy and a people we deeply respect. This acquisition is a long-term commitment, and we are grateful to Vivo Energy for entrusting us with this responsibility and the confidence they have placed in our consortium. Together with our partner Ramachandran Ottapathu, a proud Botswana businessman with deep roots in this country, we bring a powerful combination of local knowledge and regional expertise. Mount Meru Group has a strong track record of safe, reliable and customer-focused fuel operations

across multiple African markets, We will offer our customers a seamless, single-stop fuel solution that connects Botswana across borders. Botswana's remarkable geographic position at the heart of southern Africa is a tremendous advantage, and we are thrilled to be part of this exciting story. We are committed to delivering lasting value for Botswana's customers, its businesses, and its economy."

Ramachandran Ottapathu, Director, Fusion Spark Proprietary Limited, added: "I am delighted to be partnering with Mount Meru Group on this acquisition. Botswana is a market we know well, and I have long believed in the strength and potential of Engen Botswana's business. By combining Mount Meru Group's

deep expertise in the fuel sector with my understanding of Botswana's macroeconomic landscape, I am confident that we will create meaningful and sustainable value for Engen Botswana's customers, employees, and partners for many years to come."

Stan Mittelman, CEO of Vivo Energy, said: "We are pleased to have signed this agreement with the acquiring consortium, which will support the continued competitive operation of Engen's assets in Botswana. Engen Botswana is a strong business and one we would have been proud to retain. However, we respect the CCA's determination and are pleased to have found buyers of the consortium's calibre. This transaction not only fulfils the regulatory requirements to maintain the competitive landscape of fuel operators in Botswana but also provides certainty and opportunity for Engen Botswana's employees, customers and partners. We have worked well together with the consortium throughout this process and look forward to continuing that close cooperation to ensure a smooth transition and ongoing success."

The acquisition remains subject to pending regulatory approvals. Until completion, Engen Botswana will continue to operate as normal, maintaining its focus on the safe, reliable and high-quality service it provides to its customers across the country.

## Mokgathe joins Access Bank board

**T**HE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF Access Bank Botswana Limited is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Reetsang Willie Mokgathe as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Bank, with effect from April 15, 2026. Mr Mokgathe is a well-seasoned and strategic leader with a global career spanning over 35 years. He is a holder of a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Finance) Degree from the University of Botswana and Master of Science in Transport Economics from Cranfield Institute of Technology in the United Kingdom, complemented by specialized short courses. Mr Mokgathe has held senior positions in various organizations and locations including Botswana,

Namibia, South Africa and the Netherlands. He has extensive management experience across the aviation and petroleum industries, demonstrating strategic leadership and operational excellence in diverse international environments. Mr Mokgathe was the founding Managing Director of Botswana Oil Ltd, an organisation tasked with security of supply and facilitation of citizen owned companies in the petroleum sector. He previously served as the Chief Executive Officer of Shell Namibia Ltd and Shell Oil Botswana and was the Government Relations Advisor for Africa at the Shell Group based in The Netherlands. In addition, Mr Mokgathe was the Chief Executive Officer for Air Botswana, achieving profitability in a complex industry.



Mokgathe

Having served as Chairman and Director in multiple companies, including listed FAR Property Company, National Development Bank, Botswana Tourism Organisation and Botswana Development Corporation, and current Chairman of Cresta Marakanelo Limited, together with his expertise in corporate governance, business development, finance and stakeholder engagement, Mr Mokgathe will bring a wealth of experience to the Board. He currently serves as the Managing Director of Prax Botswana (Pty) Ltd, where he oversees the organisation's strategy, governance, overall management and transition of the company. On behalf of the Board, we would like to welcome Mr Reetsang Willie Mokgathe. [bse.co.bw]

## NBFIRA clarifies money laundering, terrorism financing risk assessment

**T**HE NON-BANK FINANCIAL Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) acknowledges the recently published articles by local media houses relating to the Botswana Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing National Risk Assessment (NRA).

While the reporting is generally factual and fair, the Authority wishes to clarify that the Botswana Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Risk Assessment (NRA) is a national, multi-sectoral assessment. The NRA covers multiple sectors, including

the Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NBFIs) regulated by NBFIRA. It is developed collaboratively by designated stakeholders as prescribed under the Financial Intelligence Act. These stakeholders include supervisory and competent authorities, law enforcement agencies, and private sector entities. Accordingly, the NRA was not developed or produced by NBFIRA. It is a national document coordinated by the AML/CFT/CPF National Coordination Office housed at the Ministry of Finance.

The NRA serves as a critical tool for strengthening institutional risk management by enabling entities to identify, assess, and mitigate risks related to money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing. In line with standard practice following the issuance of national assessments, NBFIRA disseminated the report to its regulated entities within the NBF sector. This dissemination will be followed by sector-specific workshops to ensure a common understanding of the key ML/TF

risks, threats, and vulnerabilities. The Authority anticipates that NBFIs will subsequently align their internal AML/CFT frameworks and programmes to mitigate the identified risks and further safeguard the integrity of Botswana's financial system.

To this end, the Authority urges local print media to accurately state in future reporting that the NRA is a national report issued by the Government of Botswana, and not an NBFIRA publication.

### Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd.

**Applications are invited for the post of:**

**❖ BRANCH HEAD- No. of post-1**

The Person will be responsible for independently handling business growth and all-round development of the branch, supervising, monitoring, and exercising control over the functioning of the Branch, to comply with regulatory and administrative guidelines relating to the branch operations. The Person should be conversant with credit, operations, Treasury, Forex, and staff management-related functions.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- Qualification:** Post Graduate/ Graduate Degree from a recognized University.
- Professional qualification:-** Certificate from any recognised Banking Institute.
- Work Experience:** Minimum 15 years of experience working with a reputed Bank with international standards with at least 5 years as Branch Head.
- Minimum Age 35 years and maximum Age 50 years as of 31.03.2026.

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

**Managing Director**  
**Bank of Baroda (Botswana) Ltd**  
**Po Box No. 216 ADD, Postnet, Kagale View**  
**Gaborone Botswana, Contact- 3992700**

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

**Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be responded**

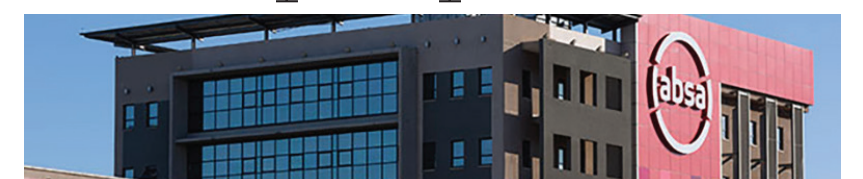
**CONTACTS:**

**Head office:** Old Nokia, G-west, Gaborone, Ph: 3992700, Email: ho.botswana@bankofbaroda.com.  
 Gaborone Branch: Main Mall, Gaborone, Ph: 3188878, email: gaborone@bankofbaroda.com.  
 G-West Branch : Kamoshungo Road, Gaborone, Ph: 3992705, Email: gwesbo@bankofbaroda.com.  
 Francistown Branch: Haskins Building, Francistown, Ph: 2413440, Email: francistown@bankofbaroda.com.  
 Palapye Branch: Madiba Complex, Palapye, Ph: 4920041, Email: palapye@bankofbaroda.com.

## PrimeTime to sell four properties

**P**RIMETIME IS CURRENTLY engaged in negotiations regarding the proposed disposal of a portfolio of four Botswana based investment properties. The proposed transaction, if successfully concluded, will be a related party transaction, and will be subject to approval by

unitholders, in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements. The aggregate consideration for the Proposed Transaction is expected to be material to the Company, and should the Proposed Transaction be successfully concluded, it may have a material effect on the price of the Company's securities. Accordingly, unitholders are advised to exercise



caution when dealing in the Company's securities until a further announcement is made. PrimeTime will keep the market informed of any

material developments in accordance with the Listings Requirements of the Botswana Stock Exchange.

**Botswana Minerals PLC**

# Steering Botswana to prosperity

Botswana Minerals PLC is unlocking Botswana potential through copper exploration and the company's Managing Director James Campbell says Botswana remains one of the best places in Africa, and indeed in the world, to explore for minerals. Campbell said Botswana has geological quality, institutional strength and a serious mining tradition and what excites them most is combining that strong foundation with newer tools and a broader vision. Campbell chats to **STAFF**

**WRITER BAKANG TIRO**



James Campbell

**Who is James Campbell?**

**JC:** I am a geologist and mining executive who has spent more than four decades in the mining industry, much of that in diamonds, as well as in broader mining strategy, business development, and project leadership. My career has included senior roles at De Beers, African Diamonds, Lucara and Rockwell Diamonds, and I now serve as Managing Director of Botswana Minerals plc. Academically, I trained in Mining and Exploration Geology at the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, and completed an MBA with distinction at Durham University.

**Take us through your responsibilities as the Managing Director of Botswana Minerals**

**JC:** My role is to implement the board's strategy and manage the company's day-to-day operations. In practice, that means helping set exploration priorities, overseeing capital allocation, engaging with investors and partners, working with our technical teams, and ensuring that our projects move forward in a disciplined and responsible way. It also involves maintaining contact with stakeholders in Botswana and elsewhere, as in a junior exploration company, one has to combine technical judgement, commercial realism, and constant communication.

**Before coming to Botswana Minerals, kindly reflect on your journey in the world of mining.**

**JC:** It has been a long and varied journey. I began in the field as a geologist and then spent more than twenty years with De Beers, where I worked across exploration, evaluation, project delivery, strategy and leadership. I was also blessed to be Nicky Oppenheimer's (then Executive Chairman) first Personal Assistant. After that, I moved into the junior mining space, where I was involved in African Diamonds and the AK6 project, now Karowe, later worked with Lucara, and then led Rockwell Diamonds. Probably one of my career highlights is the 25x plus returns the original shareholders made in African Diamonds. What that journey has taught me is that successful mining is never only about geology. It also depends on capital discipline, persistence, partnerships, timing and the ability to make sound decisions under uncertainty.

**What mining activities is Botswana Minerals pursuing in Botswana at the moment?**

**JC:** At present, Botswana Minerals is pursuing a broader exploration strategy in Botswana built around both diamonds and copper, supported by artificial intelligence and one of the country's largest private geological databases. On the diamond side, the company continues to maintain key legacy assets such as KX36 and Maibwe while advancing new AI-defined kimberlite targets. On the copper and polymetallic side, the company has expanded materially: after applying AI to its 95,000-square-kilometre dataset, it identified strong copper prospectivity, and by February 2026, it had secured eight granted copper licences in Botswana.

**The company is focusing on copper exploration in Botswana. Tell us about this development. What are the opportunities that lie in copper mining locally?**

**JC:** The move into copper was driven by evidence, not fashion. We began by applying AI to our Botswana database, initially for diamond exploration, and the results showed that the same data-led approach could also identify highly prospective copper and other polymetallic targets. That is what led to the expansion into copper and to the granting of eight licences. The next step is not simply to hold ground, but to refine those regional targets into drill-ready prospects through geophysics, geochemistry and focused fieldwork.

For Botswana, the opportunity is potentially quite important. Copper has a strong long-term demand outlook because it is central to electrification, grid expansion and the broader energy transition. The International Energy Agency projects total copper demand rising from 26,717 kt in 2024 to 31,348 kt in 2030 in its stated policies scenario, with cleantech copper demand rising from 7,737 kt to 10,910 kt over the same period. More broadly, the World Bank notes

states that locally appointed representatives engage with government officials, community groups and local suppliers, and that stakeholder concerns are reported back to the board. So, the emphasis is on doing the fundamentals properly: respectful engagement, responsible land access, sound environmental practice, and maintaining good relations with communities and authorities. I would rather under-promise than overstate the position by claiming a major CSI footprint that is not yet appropriate for a company of our present size.

**What are some of the new projects that can be expected from Botswana Minerals this year?**

**JC:** The most immediate developments should

come from the copper side of the business. Shareholders and readers should expect to see further technical ranking of the copper portfolio, definition of geophysical priorities, focused field programmes and, in time, the emergence of drill-ready targets.

On the diamond side, there is also meaningful work to be done on the AI-defined licence areas, particularly where follow-up geophysics, indicator-mineral work, and drilling can sharpen the target pipeline. So, the year ahead is really about turning a broad AI-generated opportunity set into a smaller number of technically robust, commercially relevant projects.

**What more can you tell us?**

**JC:** I would say this: Botswana remains one of the best places in Africa, and indeed in the world, to explore for minerals.

It has geological quality, institutional strength and a serious mining tradition. What excites us is combining that strong foundation with newer tools and a broader vision. We respect the company's diamond heritage, but we also believe Botswana's future mineral story can be wider than diamonds alone. Our task is to pursue that opportunity carefully, scientifically and with humility.

**Personal profile**

**Full name:** James AH Campbell.

**Education:** B.Sc. (Hons) in Mining and

Exploration Geology from the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College London; MBA with distinction from Durham University; Diploma in Data metrics from UNISA; currently registered for a doctorate in business leadership at the Da Vinci Institute, with a dissertation focusing on mining entrepreneurship.

**Family:** Married to Ann and blessed to have four daughters: Natasha (a lecturer), Emma (a dance teacher), Nosky (a lawyer) and Lydia (an accounting intern).

**Hobby:** Travelling, particularly overlanding in Africa.

**Book currently reading:** Many books related to my doctorate!

**PUBLIC NOTICE**



## ONGOING PHISHING SCAM TARGETING EMAIL USERS

The Botswana National Computer Security Incident Response Team (bwCSIRT) alerts the public of an ongoing phishing scam currently affecting email users across Botswana and the region.

This deceptive scheme involves fraudulent emails disguised as legitimate document-sharing requests, such as **"Download Document"** or **"Access Request."** The messages typically contain links to documents that appear blurred or censored and appear to originate from trusted contacts or reputable organisations. Users are prompted to click links with messages reading as **"CLICK HERE TO VIEW SECURE DOCUMENT."**

Clicking such links may redirect users to malicious websites designed to steal email credentials, including passwords and One-Time Passcodes (OTPs). In some cases, compromised email accounts are subsequently used to send similar phishing messages to other contacts, further spreading the attack.

Members of the public are strongly advised to take the following precautions:

- Do not click on suspicious or unexpected links or download documents from unknown sources;
- Do not enter your email password, OTP, or verification codes on unfamiliar websites;
- Exercise caution even if the email appears to come from a known or trusted sender;
- If you suspect your account has been compromised, change your password immediately;
- Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) on your email and other important accounts; and
- Report any suspicious emails to your email provider or relevant authorities.

The Botswana National CSIRT is actively monitoring this fraudulent activity and working with relevant stakeholders to assess its impact and contain its spread. Updates, including additional guidance and technical details, will be shared as more information becomes available.

Your vigilance and cooperation are essential in protecting yourself and the wider community from cyber threats.

For more information please contact;

**Masego M. Jeremiah**

**Head of Broadcasting & Corporate Communications**

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# Halfway Toyota Ngami: Driving Trust, Service Growth in Botswana



CEO, HALFWAY TOYOTA, SOUTH AFRICA, Shane Grant remarks on the Halfway Group vision and milestone



CEO HALFWAY GROUP BOTSWANA, Mr Riaan Grobler



Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Pius Mokgware



kgosi Gadibintshe Saudu welcome remarks



The Minister of State President, Defense and Security, Moeti Mohwasa and the Chairman & Shareholder of Halfway Toyota, George Baikie cutting the plague at the grand opening of Halfway Toyota Ngami



LOO, Dumelang Saleshando giving closing remarks



Director of Ceremony, BigFish Comfort Ramatebele.



Minister of State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Mohwasa and Chairman and Shareholder of Halfway Toyota cutting the plague at the grand opening



Minister Mohwasa receives token of appreciation.



Prophet TP, Elias with a closing prayer



Nico Hamman, Regional Manager at Toyota South Africa, presented an appreciation award to David Matlape, Dealer Principal at Halfway Toyota Ngami, in recognition of the team's outstanding service delivery in Maun



Halfway Toyota Ngami choir mesmerises the audience at the grand opening



From Left to Right: LOO Dumelang Saleshando, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Pius Mokgware, Minister of State President, Moeti Mohwasa, George Baikie, and Riaan Grobler

The Chief Executive Officer of Halfway Group Botswana, Riaan Grobler has hailed the opening of their newly rebuilt showroom in Maun, marking the culmination of a journey defined by vision, resilience, and unwavering commitment.

Grobler said Halfway Toyota Ngami has long been part of the Maun business community, and that the unveiling of the modernised premises represents a significant milestone in their growth and continued investment in the region. He said the development reflects not only business expansion, but also the company's enduring dedication to the people of Botswana, particularly the growing Ngamiland region.

"Our vision has always been clear and purposeful: to create a dealership that is not only a place of business, but a pillar of service, trust, and long-term partnership," said Grobler, adding that the company remains focused on bringing world-class automotive solutions closer to customers, solutions that are accessible, reliable, and tailored to local needs.

Construction of the upgraded facility began in June 2024, but the project encountered challenges, including extreme drought conditions that affected operations, timelines, and the surrounding community. "Resources were strained, timelines were challenged, and every step forward required careful planning and adaptability," he explained.

Despite this, he said the company stayed true to its vision. "Today, we stand with immense pride because this dealership is not just built on steel

and concrete, but on perseverance, teamwork, faith, and belief," he said.

Halfway Group Vice President for Sales and Dealer Network, Kerry Roodt described the upgraded facility as a beacon of hope that will drive job creation, skills development, and service excellence. She noted that Toyota operates 203 dealerships across South Africa and its BLNE markets which are Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Eswatini with seven located in Botswana. "We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has invested their time, effort, and resources to make this possible," she said.

Roodt highlighted that Halfway Toyota contributes 9.7 percent to Toyota's new vehicle sales and remains the largest dealer group, with 11 dealerships. "The group continues to set the standard, having earned prestigious awards across multiple categories at the highest levels," she

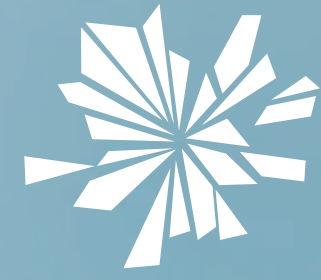
added.

Halfway Toyota Ngami, classified as a medium dealership, continues to distinguish itself through exceptional service and strong alignment with the Toyota brand.

Minister of State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Mohwasa welcomed the investment, emphasizing the importance of partnerships in national development. "The future we seek cannot be delivered by government alone. It requires collaboration, commitment, and a shared sense of purpose," he said, adding that government is working to improve the ease of doing business by strengthening institutions and ensuring policies support growth. "We understand that investors need certainty, efficiency, and trust, and we are determined to provide exactly that," he said.

Meanwhile, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Pius Mokgware applauded the company for complying with labour standards, including paying a minimum wage of P4,000 and employing persons with disabilities. He said such practices align with government policy aimed at promoting staff welfare alongside productivity. He also commended the introduction of an eight-hour shift system, noting that it aligns with efforts to promote a 24-hour economy. "This model supports both employees and customers, allowing services to be accessed even after traditional working hours," he said





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**GM's CYCLING  
CHALLENGE** **2026**



# Lifestyle

## 'I thought of you, my beloved farmer'

**HENNY MARUAPULA**  
Own Correspondent

**I** THOUGHT OF YOU, MY BELOVED farmer is a 146-page new book that is compelling and deeply reflective exploration of African agriculture at a critical crossroads. With warmth, honesty, and professional insight, the book, published by In-step Publications (Pty) Ltd, confronts the dominance of traditional farming systems, escalating food import bills, and the persistent reality of hunger across the continent.

Authored by Entrepreneur and Animal Health Practitioner Kentse Oupa Batsima, against a rapidly changing global landscape, the book interrogates a striking contradiction: agriculture is consistently prioritized for economic growth and employment creation, yet productivity remains low and farmers continue to struggle. Drawing lessons from the COVID 19 pandemic when fragile food systems were laid bare the author calls on farmers, policymakers, and agribusiness stakeholders to rethink agriculture not merely as a way of life, but as a science driven and market oriented business.

"This book is both a reflection and a call to action. It urges a shift towards efficiency, productivity, and value creation, while restoring dignity, purpose, and pride to the farming profession" said Batsima in an interview with this publication. At its heart, the books speaks directly

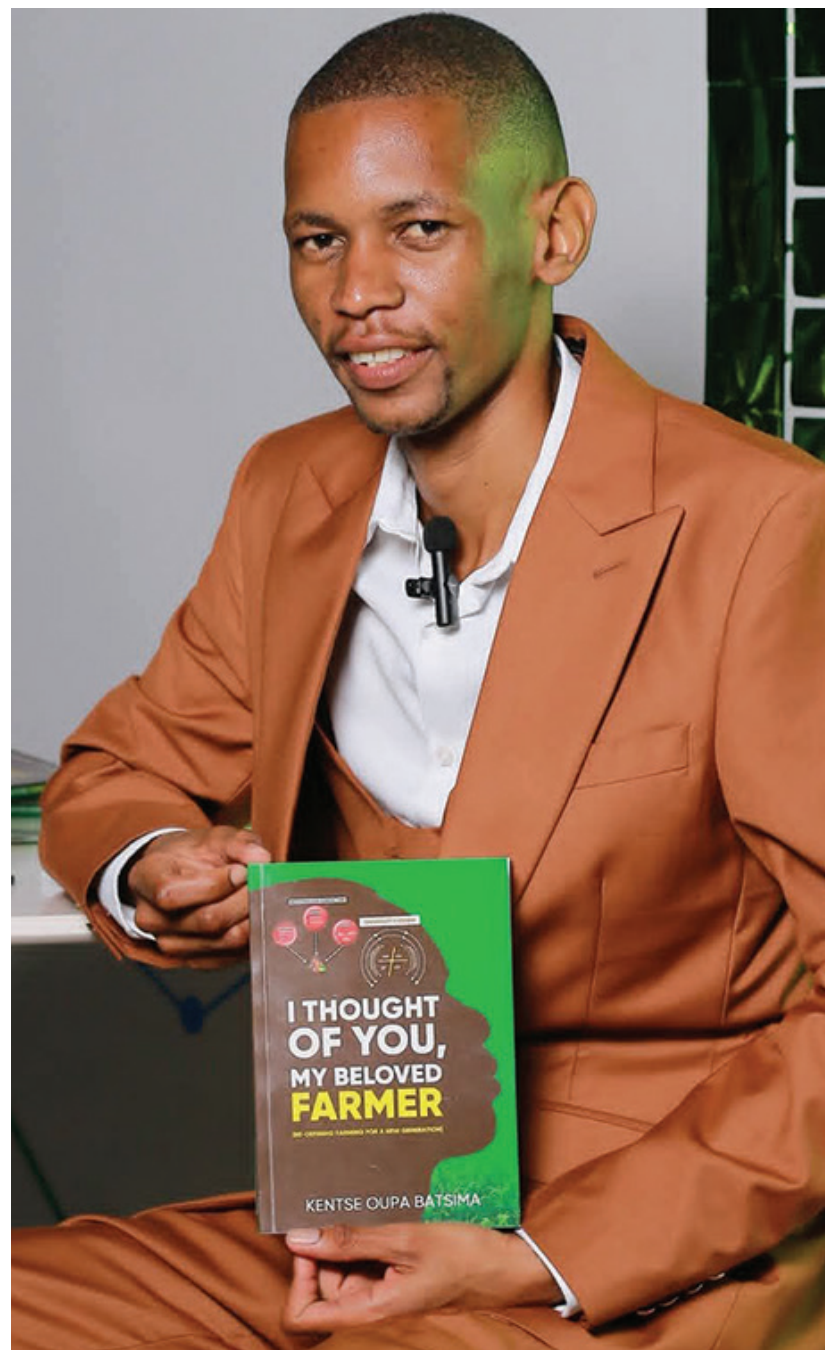
to the farmer acknowledging their sacrifices and reminding them that their work remains central to feeding nations and shaping futures.

Although agriculture is widely recognized as a priority sector and a major source of employment, many farmers remain trapped in unproductive systems that limit growth and profitability. This book was written to challenge complacency, to question long standing assumptions, and to inspire a shift in mindset—one that views farming as a disciplined, data driven, and economically viable enterprise.

"I thought of you, my beloved farmer was born out of lived experience and deep concern for the future of African agriculture. The continued reliance on traditional farming practices, growing dependence on food imports, and alarming levels of hunger demanded an honest conversation. The COVID19 pandemic further exposed the vulnerability of food systems and the cost of low agricultural productivity" alluded Batsima.

Modern agriculture is both a business and a science, requiring strategy, data, and informed decision making. Agriculture extends beyond primary production into secondary and tertiary sectors, which are essential for value addition and market access. Food production is not optional; it is fundamental to human survival, social stability, and national security.

"Nearly 10% of the global



population experiences hunger, while Botswana's hunger levels are estimated at approximately 24%, underscoring the urgency

for change. Farmers must move beyond passion for livestock or crops and focus on producing premium, consumer driven food products. Understanding value propositions, customer segmentation, and operating within a perfect market (price taker environment) is critical for sustainability and profitability" said Batsima in closing.

Kentse Oupa Batsima is a beneficiary of the Youth Development Fund (YDF), he is actively involved in goat farming for chevon production. He began his farming journey in 2017 with a single goat purchased using his book allowance while still a student.

He continued farming part time throughout his studies, driven by a strong interest in addressing real world challenges faced by farmers. This passion led him to work closely with farmers as a consultant and veterinary sales professional.

Kentse is a writer for Farmers Magazine Botswana and has authored over 200 articles across LinkedIn and agricultural publications. During the process of writing this book, he identified a significant gap in farm record keeping and subsequently developed a digital farm record keeping application to provide

farmers with a portable, practical, and data driven solution.

## Organic & Natural Products Expo Africa

**T**HE CAPE TOWN ORGANIC & Natural Products Expo Africa conference programme is among the most ambitious to date, with confirmed speakers drawn from retail, agribusiness, wellness, finance, and government. The sessions are designed to give attendees practical tools and fresh perspectives they can apply directly to their businesses.

With Standard Bank onboard as headline sponsor this year, the Organic & Natural Products Expo Africa returns to the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) from 17 to 19 April 2026 as the foremost gathering for exhibitors, buyers and thought leaders in this sector across three days of trade, discovery, and knowledge-sharing.

"We are delighted to be a partner again this year, on a greater scale, as we believe in this sector's potential to drive sustainable economic development that benefits communities across our continent. Our vision is to see Africa become a global leader in the organic and natural products space, not just as a supplier of raw materials, but as a hub for innovation, processing, and brand development," says Deenash Pillay, Head of Small Business Segments for Business and Commercial Banking at Standard Bank.

Business, Retail and the Road to Export

Friday 17 April opened with "Keep Growing" - a financial health session for small businesses. Our expert panel from Standard Bank features Siduduzo Ntshangase, Nokhanyo Ntshingila, Qanita Dollie and Glen Pratt. It was followed by "AI for Small Business - Work smarter, not harder" by Theunis de Klerk, co-founder of Serova AI. Warren Wilkensky from Our Cosmetics will then present on "Conscious Consumerism".

The afternoon brings retail intelligence to the fore. Andrea Slabber, Insights Lead at Trade Intelligence, will unpack retailer trends in health and wellness. Joan van Wyngaard, founder of Vitant, will speak on hair loss and premature greying.

Saturday 18 April includes presentations on positioning the South African mushroom industry in a rapidly evolving international market, the positive effects of Cylocibin on psychological wellbeing, and a look at "New mushroom tech". Included in the speaker line-up is Dr Adriaan Smit, representing the South African Gourmet Mushroom Academy. His presentation is titled "From Local Potential to Global Context: Positioning the South African Mushroom Industry in a Rapidly Evolving International Market". Tony Budden, CEO at Psylabs, will share

his thoughts on the positive effects of Cylocibin on psychological wellbeing.

These sessions will be followed by a high-value panel on funding and export readiness. The panel comprises Thiru Naidoo - Senior Trade Promotion Manager - Middle East and Asia at Wesgro, as well as Joseph Senona - Chief Director, Export Marketing at the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) and Alex T Quanta - Acting Head of Department, Business Development Support Division: Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDA), sharing practical guidance for businesses looking to grow beyond South Africa's borders. Masibonge Silevu, Director of Agri-processing for the Eastern Cape's Department of Economic Affairs and Tourism, will provide an in-depth look at the region's agri-processing sector. Agnes Hove - Agribusiness Strategist at Kijani Blue AgriBusiness, will present on BotaniTrace AI, a tool mapping Africa's botanical value chains for transparency, sustainability and global market access. This will be followed by the "Sensory Feast Experience - A Sensory Celebration of Local Bounty" by Nicholas McLean - Somatic Food Facilitator and founder of FeedMcGreen.

Wellness, Innovation, and Sensory Experience

Sunday 19 April shifts toward consumer wellness and sustainability. Melanie Erasmus of HealthStack will present "From Overwhelmed to Empowered" in which she shares her personal journey through biohacking her health. Juliet Bowley-Urquhart, founder of ESQ Skincare, will then present "The Barrier Blueprint: Simple Tweaks for Resilient Skin." Sandra Wentzke and Bernhard Lembeck of ProNature will close the afternoon with "Green is not just a colour - A closer look into natural building materials." Each of the final two days concludes with the Sensory Feast Experience.

Warren Hickinbotham, co-founder of the event, says the 2026 programme reflects the growing sophistication of the sector. "Conversations on the show floor are shaping the future of how Africa grows, processes, and sells natural products. We have built a programme that meets our audience where they are and takes them further."

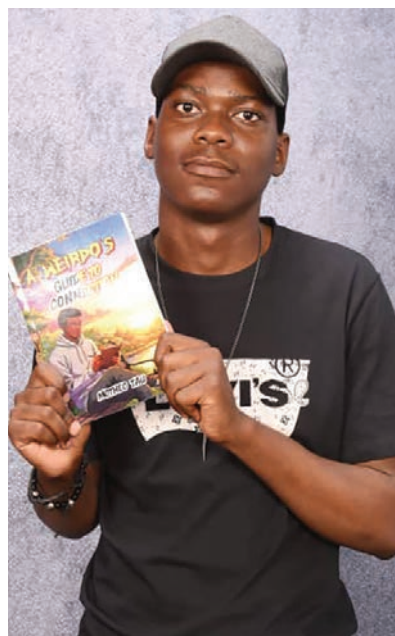
He adds that the breadth of this year's speakers relates to the expo's expanding reach. "From government trade bodies to AI innovators to wellness practitioners, the range of expertise on our stage this year is extraordinary. This is what happens when an industry matures and starts asking deeper questions."

## A Weirdo's Guide to Connection

**HENNY MARUAPULA**  
Own Correspondent

**A** WEIRDO'S GUIDE TO Connection is a new 186-page book authored by quite an interesting chap called Motheo Tau. It is a coming-of-age memoir based on his past experiences and growing up into the adult he is today. The theme of this book is centered around the isolation Tau had experienced. Growing up bullied, no (real) friends, seamlessly endless humiliations, but also how he found his footing in the world despite what the world told him.

Publishers locally by AfroShapers, this book takes us on a journey travelled by Tau and gives us a first



life experience into his complex and interesting life he has lived. A self-proclaimed 'weirdo' trying to make sense out of life, he writes from the in-between; where awkward meets honest and ordinary feels extraordinary.

"My motivation came from multiple places and some are mentioned in the book, but what drove me to get this book out there is universal relatability. A lot of people in this world tend to go through the same, if not worse, experiences and I know the dread and despair that comes with that," said Tau.

A Weirdo's Guide to Connection is a messy, heartfelt, and surprisingly relatable journey through love, heartfelt, and the pursuit of

belonging.

"I want to show my readers that nobody's born a winner or loser, a hero or a villain. We all do our best with the hands we're dealt and strive to be people we and our future generation can be proud of" said Tau in an interview with The Patriot on Sunday lifestyle.

This book isn't a story of instant success or flawless decisions- it is about fumbling, failing, and getting back up again.

From awkward first loves to complicated friendships, from family ties to professional struggles, it's a memoir that captures the universal quest to be seen, understood, and connected.

"I want to laugh, to cringe at my

moments, to have that epiphany from my experiences. My book isn't a self-help book but more of a cautionary tale but with a weird twist" Tau emphasised.

Motheo Tau is currently working to be an author full time until he can enroll in college later this year. His hobbies include watching anime, reading books and manga, playing video games and going to the gym.

Interestingly, the author has no social media presence, which aligns with the book's deeper message about genuine connection. In a world dominated by digital interaction, his absence suggests a rejection of superficial engagement in favor of more meaningful, real-life relationships.

## BYD raises the bar

launch the All-New ATTO 8 in South Africa

**J**OHANNESBURG, SOUTH Africa, April 16, 2026: In a move that signals its growing ambition in the local market, BYD, the world's leading manufacturer of new energy vehicles, has unveiled the all-new ATTO 8 in South Africa. The introduction of this large seven-seat plug-in hybrid SUV reflects the brand's continued investment in vehicles that respond to shifting consumer expectations around space, efficiency and intelligent performance.

Purposefully designed for both urban life and long-distance travel, the ATTO 8 arrives in two distinct editions: The Premium (DM-i) and the Performance (DM-p). Each variant reflects a careful balance between efficiency and power, giving consumers the flexibility to choose a driving experience that suits their lifestyle. It is measuring over five

metres in length with a generous 2,950mm wheelbase. The vehicle offers a spacious, thoughtfully designed interior that prioritises both comfort and versatility for families on the move.

At the heart of the ATTO 8 is BYD's fifth-generation DM Super Hybrid Technology, a system that seamlessly blends electric efficiency with fuel-powered reliability. The Premium edition delivers an impressive-combined range of up to 728km, offering peace of mind on longer journeys, while the Performance edition introduces a more spirited drive, with a powerful 359kW output and advanced body control that adapts effortlessly to varying road conditions. This dual offering positions the ATTO 8 as both a practical everyday vehicle and a high-performance SUV.

Building on this foundation, the

ATTO 8 introduces a more advanced layer of engineering across both plug-in hybrid and fully electric configurations. The DM-p plug-in hybrid pairs a 1.5L turbocharged engine with dual electric motors to deliver up to 400kW (536hp), accelerating from 0-100 km/h in just 4.3 seconds. In its fully electric form, the dual-motor system pushes performance even further, reaching outputs of up to 810kW (1086hp) and achieving 0-100 km/h in 3.9 seconds. Complementing this performance is a robust battery offering, including a 35.6 kWh LFP battery delivering over 150km of pure electric range and more than 1,000km combined, while the BEV variant features an approximately 100 kWh battery capable of exceeding 600km on a single charge.

The ATTO 8 also reflects BYD's forward-thinking approach to charging and intelligent mobility. Built on an advanced 1,000-volt



"Super E" platform, the vehicle enables ultra-fast charging capabilities, adding over 400km

of range in as little as five minutes in BEV configuration. Inside, the seven-seat layout is complemented

by a 15.6-inch infotainment display, a 21-speaker high-fidelity audio system and Level 2+ DiPilot 300 driver-assistance technology, supported by laser-based sensing. Premium finishes such as leather upholstery, bamboo-wood trim, 21-inch wheels and a full 360-degree camera system further elevate both comfort and confidence behind the wheel.

Steve Chang, Managing Director of BYD Auto South Africa, said, "The launch of the ATTO 8 represents our commitment to delivering vehicles that truly meet the needs of South African drivers. It combines innovation, space and performance in a way that feels both premium and accessible, whether you are navigating the city or travelling with family over long distances."

Above performance, the ATTO 8 has been crafted to enhance every moment inside the vehicle. Its expansive cabin transforms easily to accommodate passengers, cargo or even leisure, with foldable seating that opens up significant space for lifestyle flexibility. Premium finishes,

intelligent features and a carefully considered in-car experience create an environment that feels less like a vehicle and more like a mobile living space.

Technology also plays a central role in defining the ATTO 8 experience. From its immersive sound system to its intelligent interface and connectivity features, the vehicle is designed to anticipate and respond to the needs of its occupants. The result is a drive that feels intuitive, seamless and quietly sophisticated.

Chang added, "As a seven-seater plug-in hybrid SUV, the ATTO 8 sets a new benchmark in its category. It delivers a driving experience that is not only powerful and efficient, but also comfortable, intelligent and reassuring in every scenario."

The BYD ATTO 8 is now available in South Africa at a starting price of R1,059,900 for the Premium edition, while the Performance edition is priced at R1,259,900, offering consumers a compelling new option in the growing new energy vehicle market.

Inspire Tomorrow, Today



# 2026/27 APPLICATIONS *Open*

 <p><b>CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certificate in Digital Entrepreneurship (DE).</li> <li>Certificate in Distance Education (CDE)</li> <li>Certificate in Community Based Work with Children and Youth (CBWCY)</li> <li>Certificate in Vocational Education and Training (CVET)</li> <li>Certificate in English for Professional Purposes (EPP)</li> </ul>	 <p><b>DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diploma in Human Resources Management (DHUM)</li> <li>Diploma in Business Management (DBUSM)</li> <li>Diploma in Marketing Management (DMM)</li> <li>Diploma in Early Childhood Education (DECE)</li> </ul>	 <p><b>BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMMES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bachelor of Social Science in Youth Development Work (BSCYWD)</li> <li>Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education (BEDECE)</li> <li>Bachelor of Education (Primary (BPRIM)</li> <li>Bachelor of Education (Special and Inclusive Education) (BSIED)</li> <li>Bachelor of Commerce (Human Resources Management and Industrial Relations (BCOMHR)</li> <li>Bachelor of Business Administration (Leadership and Change Management (BBA)</li> <li>Bachelor of Technology in Information Systems (BTECHI)</li> <li>Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BScPH)</li> </ul>	 <p><b>POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Master of Education - Educational Leadership (MEDEL)</li> <li>Master of Education (Early Childhood Development) (MEDECD)</li> <li>Master of Science in Climate Change and Sustainable Development (MSCCCD)</li> <li>Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA)</li> <li>Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA)</li> <li>Postgraduate Certificate in Quality Assurance in Education (PDCQAE)</li> <li>Postgraduate Diploma in Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning (PGDTET)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Apply by: June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026</b></p>
 <p><b>Scan for Programmes</b></p>	 <p><b>Scan for Fees</b></p>		

**Application Requirements and Procedures**

1. Applications should be done on-line through the University website at [www.bou.ac.bw](http://www.bou.ac.bw) under **Online Services**.
2. **BEFORE** completing applications, applicants should carefully read the **Guidelines for Applications and Payment on the University website**.
3. Applicants may use the computer rooms at the University Regional Campuses **OR** Internet Cafes to process their applications
4. Certified copies of certificates, identification document and either results slips or transcripts should accompany the application following the online application guidelines Please make sure that you have scanned soft copies of these documents before you start the process of applying. Please note that online attachment of these documents is core as these are used to assess your eligibility for admission.
5. Applicants are required to pay a non-refundable application fee of **P160.00** online. Application fees paid after closing date or without authorization by the University shall be forfeited.
6. The fees structure for the programmes is available on the QR Code above and the BOU website



# Sport

## P1m boost for Golden Grand Prix

**O**RANGE BOTSWANA HAS committed P1 million in sponsorship towards the upcoming FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix, reinforcing its position as a key driver of sports development in the country.

The World Athletics Continental Tour (Bronze Status) event is set for 26 April 2026 at the National Stadium and is expected to attract thousands of spectators, with global television coverage reaching more than 150 countries. The sponsorship comes at a critical time for the meet, which continues to grow in stature on the international athletics calendar, drawing elite athletes and placing Botswana firmly on the global sporting map.

Orange Botswana's Public Relations and Communication Manager, Tebogo Nadisah said the company's investment is rooted in a long-term vision to elevate sport in Botswana and prepare local athletes for international competition. "Initiatives such as the FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix contribute meaningfully

to the development of sport in our country. These platforms not only put Botswana on the map but also serve as critical preparation for our athletes as they compete on bigger stages such as the Olympics," she said.

Nadisah added that the sponsorship aligns with the company's broader philosophy of championing high performance and national pride. "We believe in excellence. That belief drives our continued passion for the development of sport in Botswana. Supporting events of this magnitude is part of our commitment to nurturing talent and creating opportunities for Botswana athletes to compete and succeed at the highest level," she said.

The FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix will feature top-tier international and local athletes. With athletics gaining momentum in Botswana, the sponsorship is set to enhance the event's delivery while strengthening Orange Botswana's positioning as a brand invested in national progress through sport.



Tebogo Nadisah, Communications & PR Manager at Orange Botswana

## DMSS Gators gala talent development



DMSS Gators Gala brought together Botswana's leading swimmers, emerging talent and regional competitors

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA Aquatic Centre came alive from 9-12 April 2026 as the 6th DMSS Gators Gala brought together Botswana's leading swimmers, emerging talent, and regional competitors in a four-day showcase that extended well beyond competition.

Now firmly established on the national sporting calendar, the DMSS Gators Gala has evolved into a strategic platform for athlete development, contributing to Botswana's broader priorities around youth empowerment, health and wellness, and high-performance sport. While the event delivered strong performances in the pool, its

deeper significance lies in the systems it continues to strengthen around the sport.

At a time when national focus is increasingly placed on youth development and creating pathways for excellence, the DMSS Gators Gala provides a structured environment where young athletes are able to progress from

grassroots to competitive levels. It is through the integration of developmental swimmers alongside elite competitors, that the event ensures exposure, mentorship, and progression; key elements in building a sustainable talent pipeline.

This approach has already yielded results. Botswana's presence on the international swimming stage, represented by athletes such as Maxine Egner, James Freeman, Naomi Ruele and David Van Der Colffe, reflects the long-term value of consistent investment in platforms that identify and nurture talent early.

The DMSS Gators Gala continues to play a role in shaping the next generation of athletes capable of competing at that level.

Beyond performance, the gala reinforces swimming as an essential life skill, aligning with broader goals of promoting health, wellness, and active lifestyles. Its emphasis on discipline and personal development speaks to sport's wider role in building resilient, well-rounded individuals. This year's inclusion of participants from Zambia and Zimbabwe further strengthened regional ties, positioning Botswana as an emerging hub for swimming development while advancing collaboration across Southern Africa.

As the DMSS Gators Gala continues to grow, its value lies not only in competition, but in its contribution to national development, connecting sport with youth empowerment, community wellbeing, and a more structured pathway to excellence.

## Botswana World Relays 2026 Teams

**B**OTSWANA ATHLETICS Association has released the final team list for the Debswana World Athletics Relays Gaborone 2026. The team is comprised of the following:

### 4x400m Ladies

Obakeng Kamberuka, Batisani Kennekae, Naledi Monthe, Galefele Moroko, Karabo Mantswinyane, Lebiso Mokorofu, Golekanye Chikani and Gaolape Senyama

### 4x400m Men

Lee Eppie, Collen Kebinatshipi, Bayapo Ndori, Justice Oratile, Kabo Rankgwe, Leungo Scotch, Boitumelo Masilo and Seleka Lefatshe.

### 4x100m Ladies

Boitshepiso Kelapile, Loungo Matlhaku, Nancy Budzani, Same Mhutsiwa, Kesego Kgari, Katlego Kaisara, Tshhegofatso Bojosi and Lame Kewamodimo



Team Botswana training at Lucara stadium

### 4x100m Men

Prince Phaezel Selepe, Kevin Lobatlamang, Letsile Tebogo, Jayson

Mandoze, Thuto Masasa, Thapelo Monaiwa, Calvin Bogosi Omphile and Xholani Talane

## FNB powers Golden Grand Prix 2026



Sponsorship unveiling

**T**HE CEO OF FNBB, STEVEN Bogatsu announced sponsorship of P6 million

to the Botswana Golden Grand Prix as the title sponsor for the April 26 event, which will be held at the National Stadium.

## Billie Jean King Cup in July

**E**LEVEN COUNTRIES ARE expected to descend on Botswana for the 2026 Billie Jean Cup Group III King Cup. The event will be held in Gaborone at the National Tennis Centre from July 13 to 17.



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