



## BNF MAY SUE IEC FOR WITHHOLDING SOFTCOPIES OF VOTERS' ROLL

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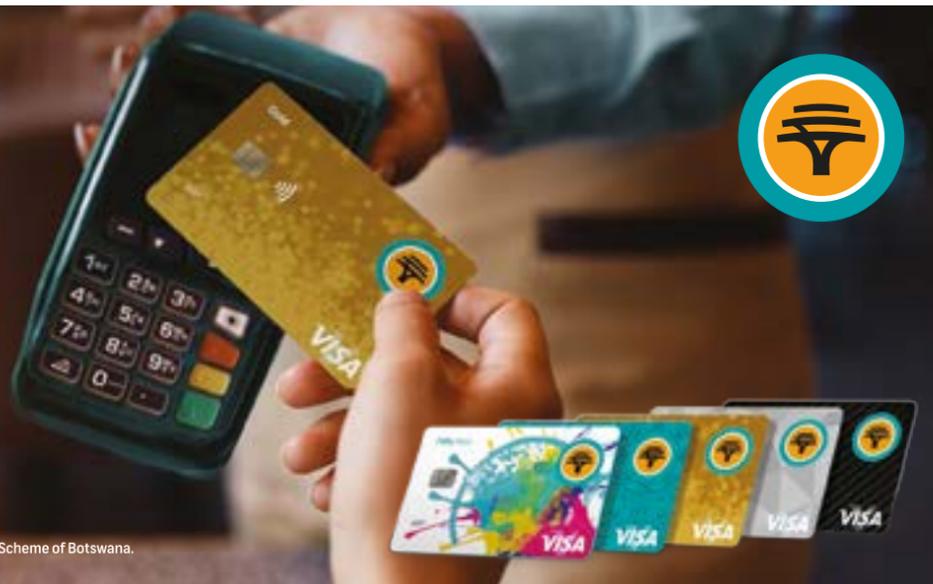
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# BNF May Sue IEC For Withholding Softcopies Of Voters' Roll

- IEC says availing softcopies of voters' roll is against the law
- UB don finds IEC behaviour out of step with digital age

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana National Front may mount legal action to force the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to release the digital version of the voters roll to political parties.

This follows a recent letter from the IEC stating its refusal to agree with the BNF request for softcopies of the roll.

In the letter, the Executive Secretary of the IEC, Jefferson Siamisang, said while the BNF had previously been provided with a

digital version of the voters' roll, it was an illegality that can no longer continue.

Hard copies available for a fee "The Commission's understanding of the law is that it can only provide a hard copy, not a soft copy, of the roll to anyone, including our stakeholder, the Botswana National Front," he wrote.

"The hard copy is available at a fee of P1.75 per page of the roll. This is in accordance with Section 16(3) of the Electoral Act, and providing the BNF with a soft copy of the roll as requested

would be inconsistent with the said provision."

Despite acknowledging that the BNF had attached a letter indicating the party had previously received a soft copy of the voters' roll, the IEC maintained that this earlier action was contrary to the law.

"The Commission is not aware of the reasons why a soft copy was provided in the past, but it does not wish to engage in a similar illegal act," Siamisang emphasised.

Disbelief

Upon being contacted, the



(Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

Secretary General of the BNF, Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, said the party is considering legal action against the IEC. "We are in the process of litigating against the decision but cannot say much now," he said.

Reacting to the position of the IEC recently, Professor Zibani Maundeni of the political science department at the University of

Botswana expressed disbelief.

"I do not see any prejudice (that is) likely to be suffered by releasing a digital document whose hard copy is already public," he said. "This decision defies common sense, especially in today's digital age and by a government that promotes and encourages digitisation."

## BOCONGO: DISS Interfered in Our Fight Against Constitutional Amendment Bill

- BOCONGO executive says DISS stormed her offices at some point
- Civil society vows to fight on should the Bill resurface in the future

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO) encountered significant obstacles by state agents in its efforts to oppose the controversial Constitutional Amendment Bill that was

recently rejected in Parliament, the umbrella civil society organisation has said.

According to the Executive Secretary of BOCONGO, Kagiso Molatlhwa, at one point the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Service (DISS) stormed the organisation's offices to de-

mand answers.

"It was a challenging time but we persevered," she told journalists in a recent presser. "There was an instance when DISS agents came to my office on a visit related to our efforts against the Bill.

Harassed and beaten

"This harassment and intimidation eventually became visible in Parliament where our people were seen being harassed and beaten by law enforcement agencies."

Molatlhwa praised civil society's unwavering commitment to the cause in the face of these challenges. She also praised those who faced physical confrontations outside Parliament where she could be present after being blocked by law enforcement officers.

"I tried to access Parliament as a member of the public to observe the proceedings but was denied entry," she said. "It is always a blow to democracy when public access to Parliament is restricted."

Major setback

Molatlhwa said that there are claims that the Bill could be re-introduced if the ruling party secures enough votes to pass it. "We remain committed to fighting against this regressive Bill if it resurfaces," she asserted. "But our hope and prayer is that it will not come back."

**When the Bill was put to the vote, opposition MPs walked out of the House, leaving the ruling party to deal with the matter by itself.**

The push by the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) to pass the Constitutional Amendment Bill encountered a major setback when MPs of the BDP failed to secure the required two-thirds majority.

The Bill - which proposed significant amendments such as in-

creasing the number of Specially-Elected Members of Parliament and of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, and barring retired presidents from holding further political office - did not pass due to insufficient votes.

Walked out

When the Bill was put to the vote, opposition MPs walked out of the House, leaving the ruling party to deal with the matter by itself. Of the 40 BDP members present, 37 voted in favour of the Bill, one voted against it, and two abstained. The Bill ultimately fell short of the mandatory two-thirds majority needed to pass.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) had been vocal in their opposing to the Constitutional Amendment Bill, arguing that the review process was flawed and did not adequately represent the interests of the broader public.

Critics contended that the Bill sought to consolidate presidential powers at the expense of democratic processes, neglecting equally important items like the people's desire to elect their president directly.

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(Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

# Govt Begins To Identify Retired Soldiers' Pension Beneficiaries

- BDF retirees are estimated to number around 10 000
- Minister says due diligence will be meticulous to prevent fakes
- Parallel litigation to contest aspects of pensions and calculations
- Widows of retired soldiers are among the litigants

## GAZETTE REPORTER

The Ministry of Defence and Security has embarked on a countrywide initiative to identify survivors and beneficiaries of retired Botswana Defence Force (BDF) soldiers who are owed pension payments.

This follows the government's decision to settle the long-standing pension arrears for BDF retirees that

are estimated to be around 10 000.

The Minister of Defence and Security, Kagiso Mmusi, confirmed that the initiative is underway, stating that the ministry personnel are travelling across the country to engage directly with claimants and their families.

### Widows and other survivors

"The plan and intention are to gather and verify information before payments can be

made," he said in an interview. "It concerns widows and other survivors."

He emphasised that thorough due diligence is being conducted throughout the process to prevent false claims. "We are committed to ensuring that no one receives money that isn't rightfully theirs," Minister Kgafela said. "This will be a careful, meticulous process."

He noted that payments to living retired soldiers have

already begun, with many currently receiving their pension funds.

### P1.5 billion

Earlier this year, President Mokgweetsi Masisi announced that the government had allocated P1.5 billion to compensate retired soldiers, including the families of deceased soldiers affected by pension disputes.

The allocation is intended to address grievances of unpaid pension entitlements that stretch back years. However, while this effort is underway, some retired soldiers are pursuing litigation against the government,

They are disputing the amounts and the govern-

ment's pension calculations. The retirees who enlisted before 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2001 are contesting the government's decision to transfer their pension plans to the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF).

Earlier this year, President Mokgweetsi Masisi announced that the government had allocated P1.5 billion to compensate retired soldiers, including the families of deceased soldiers affected by pension disputes.

### Litigation

They argue that their pension entitlements should be calculated based on the original regulations outlined in the Botswana Defence Force Act.

This pension issue has been a point of contention since the lead-up to the 2019 general elections when President Masisi promised to improve the Net Replacement Ratio (NRR) for retired soldiers to 75 percent or higher during a speech at BDF garrisons.

They argue that the migration to BPOPF will significantly reduce their pensions and that they were unlawfully transferred. According to the court papers, some widows of retired soldiers are among the litigants.



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# Female Cabinet Representation Back At 16.6% After Makwinja's Appointment

- Female representation stood at 11.1% with only two women before Makwinja's appointment
- Percentage of women in Cabinet stood at 16.6% until Philda Kereng was redirected to a diplomatic role
- Five women have been appointed as SEMP's and eventually ministers over the last 10 years

BONGANI MALUNGA

The appointment of Nnaniki Makwinja as the new Minister of the Environment and Tourism has boosted female representation at Cabinet level by 5.5 percent with three positions out of a possible 18.

Prior to her appointment, the number of female representatives at Cabinet level had decreased to 11.1 percent with Annah Mokgethi (Minister of Labour and Home Affairs) and Peggy Serame (Minister of Finance) as the only two women holding ministerial positions.

#### Sworn in

Makwinja was sworn in on Monday to replace Dumezweni Mthimkhulu who passed away on 2 September after a long illness.

Having previously served as Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development, Makwinja was elevated to an interim capacity in place of Mthimkhulu before being confirmed this week.

The level of women in Cabinet positions had decreased to 11.1 percent following an early year Cabinet reshuffle that saw then Minister of the Environment and Tourism, Philda Kereng, redirected to a diplomatic role.

#### UN Women

The level of women in Cabinet positions had decreased to 11.1 percent following an early year Cabinet reshuffle that saw then Minister of the Environment and Tourism, Philda Kereng, redirected to a diplomatic role.

Kereng was succeeded by Mthimkhulu after she was named as Botswana's High Commissioner to Nigeria. This decreased female representation and placed Botswana 148<sup>th</sup> in the world in terms of entrusting women with executive positions, according to a report published by the UN Women.

The period when the level of women representation had gone down was between January and September this year.

In the last 10 years, five women have been appointed as Specially Elected Members of Parliament (SEMPs) and eventually appointed ministers in different portfolios.

The likes of Unity Dow (twice), Bogolo Kenewendo, Peggy Serame, Philda Kereng and Beauty Manake have been appointed and gone on to assume senior and deputy ministerial positions in the last two presidents' terms.



Gosego January

## DEBSWANA PENSION FUND ANNOUNCES DEPARTURE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MS GOSEGO JANUARY AFTER OVER A DECADE OF EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Debswana Pension Fund, announce that Ms Gosego January will step down as the Chief Executive Officer effective 31st December 2024, concluding a remarkable thirteen- year tenure at the helm of the largest private pension fund in Botswana. Gosego January was appointed CEO on 1st February 2011 and in the years that she has been with the fund, Debswana Pension Fund has experienced significant growth and transformation from Assets Under Management (AUM) position of BWP 3.3 Billion as at February 2011 to BWP 11.7 Billion AUM Fund that it is today. This remarkable growth can be attributed to the diligent and visionary leadership that she brought to the Fund.

Her dedication, strategic insight, and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in steering the company to new heights, driving innovation, and achieving remarkable milestones such as the establishment of a Fund Administration company Mmila Fund Administrators. In addition, during her tenure, Ms January spearheaded initiatives that strengthened and diversified the Fund's asset classes whilst delving into frontier markets and fostering a culture of excellence within organisation.

The Board of Trustees wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to Ms January and celebrate her remarkable achievements during her leadership at DPF and being instrumental in the development of the pension fund industry in Botswana. She has not only advanced DPF but has also set a high standard of leadership and corporate responsibility. The recruitment process for her replacement is ongoing and the Board shall ensure a seamless transition and continued success for the Fund.

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# No More Voter Registration Transfers – IEC

- IEC says to focus on accuracy of voters’ roll before October poll
- Has reached 80% of targeted goal of 1.3 million eligible voters
- Historic milestone breaching 1 million mark achieved



(Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has officially announced closure of voter registration transfers.

The decision comes in the wake of the dissolution of Parliament, which signifies a shift in electoral procedures as the country gears up for the upcoming elections slated for 30 October 2024.

According to IEC spokesman Osupile Maroba, the closure of voter registration transfers is a routine measure associated with the dissolution of Parliament.

**Officially closed**

The aim, he added, is to streamline the electoral process and ensure accuracy of voters’ roll ahead of the crucial elections. “With the dissolution of Parliament, the voter registration transfer process has now officially closed,” Maroba stated in an interview.

“This measure is in accordance with electoral regulations to ensure that all voter information will be finalised and accurate before the upcoming elections.”

As of now, people are no longer able to update their voter registration details or change their registered voting constituencies. Maroba has emphasised that the IEC is now focused on finalising the voters’ roll and preparations for the elections.

**Historic milestone**

Meanwhile, in a historic milestone, the IEC has announced that the number of registered voters for the upcoming general elections has exceeded 1 million for the first time in the nation’s history.

The second supplementary voter registration, which was conducted from 20 to 31 May, added 197,021 new voters, bringing the total number of registered voters in Botswana to precisely 1,005,909.

This achievement marks a significant 7 percent increase from the 2019 figures. The IEC says this means it has reached 80 percent of its targeted goal of 1.3 million eligible voters.

Notably, 241,370 youths, representing 32 percent of the total registered voters, have signed up for the general elections. Additionally, the number of Batswana in the diaspora who have registered to vote stands at 1,725, just short of the targeted 2,000.

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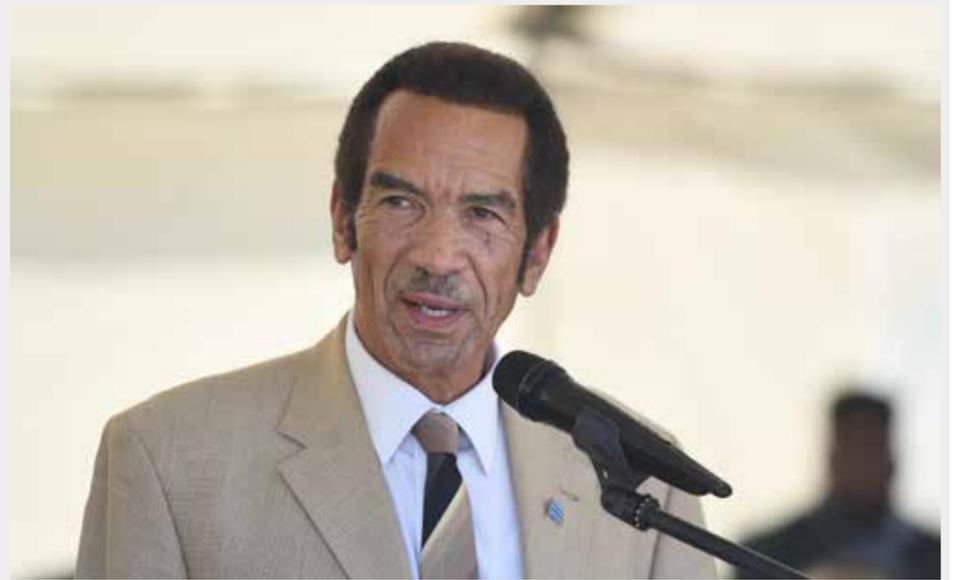
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# Khama Wants Masisi "Thrown" Out Of Office

- Former president shares his election wish to see current govt replaced
- Says new De Beers deal was led by inexperienced negotiators



Former Botswana president Ian Khama

BONGANI MALUNGA

Former Botswana president Ian Khama has stated his wish to see President Mokgweetsi Masisi "thrown" out of office in next month's general elections.

According to him, his wish is something that a majority of the nation is "working towards" as the country heads to the polls on 30 October.

Khama made the remarks in an appearance on the *Khumbza Afrika Amplified* podcast uploaded on YouTube last week, saying he still plays an active role in Botswana politics through virtual means.

#### Majority of citizens

"The outcome that I am wishing for, the outcome that the majority of the citizens are working for, is for the incumbent president to be thrown out of office," he said.

"They have failed the nation terribly since taking office in 2018. That is certainly an outcome that I hope for to try to get Botswana back to what it used to be and make us proud once again of a country that we used to live in."

"The reputation that we used to have in terms of good governance, democracy and abiding by the rule of law and human rights has been thrown out of the window under the current regime.

#### Inexperienced negotiators

"It is certainly my wish and hope to see this regime out of office. I will be happy with whoever the majority of the public vote for other than the incumbent."

Khama also took a swipe at the government's new deal with De Beers, saying it showed inexperience and a short-sighted approach by those negotiating on behalf of Botswana.

According to the former president, the deal experienced numerous hiccups due to the short-sighted approach of the government's negotiators.

#### For themselves

"There were some difficulties between the government and De Beers in negotiating a new arrangement," he said.

"That was because it was done by people who are inexperienced, who don't understand the importance of partnership led by the incumbent president.

"They were trying to get for themselves something the company (De Beers) was not ready to offer. We have been struggling with our revenue from diamonds. You have to plan for the future.

"You should not only plan to get as much out of it as you can now and not care about the consequences. In the past when we negotiated such deals, we were planning for the future and future generations."

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# Over 30 Motions Rejected By Last Parliament

- Opposition claims most rejected motion were from their side
- BDP accuses opposition of bringing what is in government plans

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament adopted 27 motions from across the aisle while 39 were rejected.

Among the rejected motions was one that wanted the counting of ballots done at polling stations, one calling for direct election of the president, one calling for introduction of a living wage that would be adjusted according to the cost of living and one for a commission of enquiry into Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

On the other hand, Parliament adopted motions on relocation of primary health-care to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and for introducing an unemployment benefit.

## The chief whips of both the ruling Botswana Democratic Party and the opposition have expressed divergent views.

### Bond issuance

The motion for a stipend for the unemployed was tabled by the MP for Selebi-Phikwe West and Leader of the Opposition, Dithapelo Keorapetse.

The House also passed a motion for increasing the bond issuance programme from the current P15 billion limit to P30 billion in order to increase the government's revenue streams.

Reflecting on matters that came before Parliament before it was dissolved for the general elections that are due in October, chief whips of both the ruling Botswana Democratic Party and the opposition expressed divergent views.

### A job well done

The chief whip of the BDP, Liakat Kablay, commended his fellow MPs for a job well done. However, he downplayed accusations that the BDP always rejected motions brought by opposition MPs.

"We rejected their motions because the opposition has a tendency of bringing what is already in government plans," Kablay said in an interview.

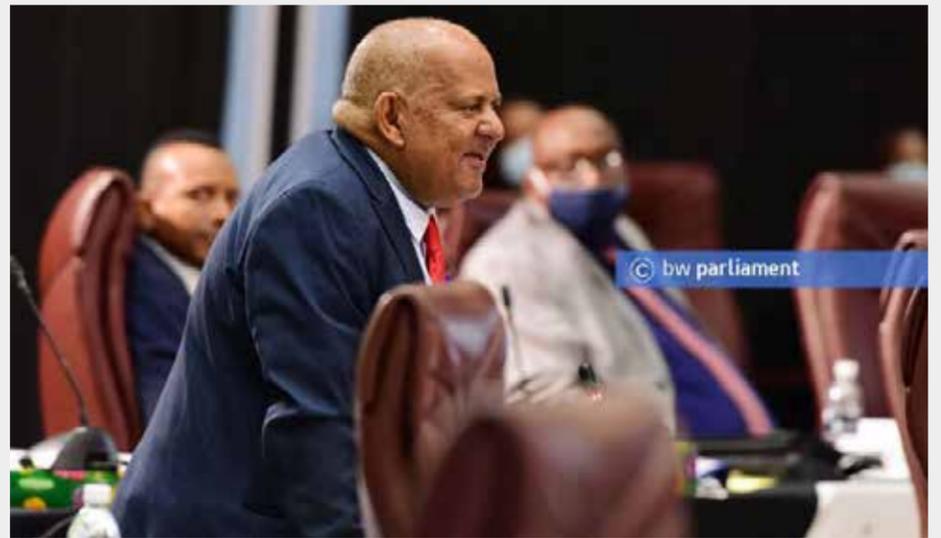
"In order to avoid disappointment, opposition MPs should learn to research thoroughly before bringing motions to Parliament. We cannot support something that is already in government plans."

### For their party

On the other hand, the chief whip of the opposition, Motsamai Motsamai, said most of the 39 motions that were rejected were from the opposition.

This, he argued, was an indication that MPs of the BDP were not in Parliament to serve the interests of the nation but for their party.

"The BDP should know that once we are in Parliament, we should forget about partisan politics and serve the interests of the people we represent," Motsamai said.



The chief whip of the BDP, Liakat Kablay, commended his fellow MPs for a job well done. However, he downplayed accusations that the BDP always rejected motions brought by opposition MPs.



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### The Person:

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- Bachelor's Degree in Security Management, plus a Postgraduate Diploma in Management.
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### The Job:

The incumbent will be responsible for, among others, the following:

- Collecting and analysing data to produce intelligence reports, enabling the strengthening of the diamond security environment.
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# DHMTS SHOW SWIFT REACTION TO DIARRHOEA OUTBREAK

- 9 of 17 deaths in Ngami were dead on arrival at hospital
- Ngami's only one district hospital is dealing with rising cases
- Diarrhoea without dehydration recently shot up to 170 in Ngami

BONGANI MALUNGA

District Health Management Teams (DHMTs) across Botswana have appealed to members of the public to guard against rising cases of diarrhoea.

They have intensified the fight against the outbreak by holding emergency meetings aimed at improving response to the outbreak that is affecting children under the age of 5.

A public notice that demands bringing children with diarrhoea and vomiting to the nearest health facility without delay has been issued.

## 100K people, 1 district hospital

The Ngami DHMT held an emergency meeting last week to discuss the situation and formulate ways to control the spread of

the outbreak.

The district has 22 villages and a population of over 100 000 people but only one district hospital, which is located in Maun, to deal with the rampant case.

The North East DHMT has also taken a proactive approach by holding a four-day training session for health workers, with emphasis on educating them in hygienic practices that help fight against the infection.

### Stool and water sampling

DHMTs began community mobilisation a few weeks ago and have called for stool and water sampling in the most affected areas of the country like Ngami, which is the hardest-hit.

Seventeen deaths associated with diarrhoea have been recorded in Ngami since last week. The deaths were confirmed by

the DHMT's Public Relations Officer, Batisani Mokgethi, who shared a detailed report on the outbreak with *The Botswana Gazette*.

According to the report, five deaths were recorded in July and 12 in August. Of the 17 deaths, nine were confirmed dead on arrival at the district hospital.

To gauge the severity and stages of the infection, the Ngami DHMT has classified diarrhoea cases into three categories, namely Diarrhoea Without Dehydration (DWOD), Diarrhoea With Dehydration (DWD) and Diarrhoea With Blood (DWB).

### Diarrhoea without dehydration up

Between 11 and 17 August this year, the Ngami region recorded 71 cases of DWOD, 19 cases of DWD, 3 cases of DWB and 24 hospital admissions of diarrhoea.

From 18 to 23 August, cases of DWOD rose to 114, cases of DWD increased to 40, while cases of DWB remained unchanged at 3. From 24 August to 1<sup>st</sup> September, cases of DWOD skyrocketed from 71 to 170.

In the same timeline, cases of DWD went down from 19 to 22 while cases of DWB trebled from 3 to 9 confirmed infections while hospital admissions reached an all-time high of 32 since the Ngami DHMT began to record the outbreak.



# Scores Of New Xade Voters Threaten To Boycott Elections

Say their transfer applications were rejected in spite of meeting all requirements

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Scores of New Xade voters are threatening to boycott the upcoming general elections in protest against the Independent Electoral Commission's (IEC) rejection of their requests to transfer to New Xade West.

Some of the people who talked to this publication said they were rejected in spite of all transfer requirements. "The IEC has denied me my right to vote by making unreasonable demands," said Kebele Buatlogela.

"I registered in Xhabakae because I knew I could always transfer to New Xade West Ward where I live permanently when the time came.

### Inconsistency

"However, my application to transfer failed because the IEC said I was falling short of their requirements even though I had produced everything they wanted.

"I produced my voter registration card, my Identity Card and a letter of proof of residence from the Kgosi, but still I was rejected. I ended up giving up because I did not know what they were looking for."

She accused the IEC of inconsistency because some people who produced the same things as hers were approved. "I am wondering why some voters who produced similar proof were approved and I was rejected," Buatlogela queried.

### Voter registration card lost

Another New Xade resident, Moatlhodi Gaoberekwe, said his application to transfer from Kaudwane to New Xade was rejected because he had lost his voter registration card.

"I am a resident of New Xade but I registered in Kaudwane because I was there visiting my aunt during registration," he said.

"I registered in Kaudwane because I knew that I would transfer when the transfer period opened. However, IEC has declined to help me because I have lost the

voter registration card.

### Voter registration card replacement

"What I know is that the IEC is responsible for replacement of lost cards but they refused to help me. This means that I will not participate in the elections."

Moeti Smith, who is running for elections in New Xade, has also accused the IEC of rejecting scores of voters who wanted to transfer to different polling stations.

**"I tried to ask why the voters were rejected when they had produced everything that was required but I never got a clear answer."**

"I have had an encounter with IEC authorities after I was asked for help by several voters who were rejected," he said. "I tried to ask why the voters were rejected when they had produced everything that was required but I never got a clear answer."

### Certain requirements

In a recent interview with this publication, IEC spokesman Osupile Maroba stated that for transfers to be approved, voters should satisfy certain requirements.

"The IEC Act stipulates that the receiver of the applications should satisfy themselves before approving the transfer application," he said.



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# TENDER NOTICE and INVITATION TO TENDER

## NAME AND ADDRESS DETAILS OF PROCURING DEPARTMENT AND ITS AGENT PREPARING THE DOCUMENTS

PROCURING ENTITY	AGENT	
<b>BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>MANAGER PROCUREMENT &amp; SUPPLY PRIVATE BAG 0027 GABORONE</b>	<b>TEL: 3650294 FAX: 3928753</b>

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	PPADB CODE (S)	FLOATATION START DATE	COMPULSORY SITE VISIT DATE	CLOSING DATE	EVALUATION METHOD	SUBMISSION METHOD	CLOSING DATE FOR QUERIES	TENDER FEE
TENDER BUAN 7/2024	SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, AND COMMISSIONING OF AIR CONDITIONERS AT BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (BUAN) – BLOCK 108B, MAIN CAMPUS, GABORONE	Code 08: Mechanical Engineering Works  Sub Code 01: Air Conditioning / Refrigeration Systems	11th September 2024	17th September 2024 at 1000hrs  Block 108C	24th September 2024	Least Cost Selection Method	Single Envelope	19/09/2024	BWP 200.00
TENDER BUAN 17/2024	SPECIALIST CONTRACTOR FOR: PART A: Supply, installation, and commissioning of Access Control and CCTV for Hostels, Laboratories, Lecture Halls and Ancillary Buildings for the BUAN Campus Expansion at Sebele and the New Library at MITI in Lobatse OR PART B: Supply, installation and commissioning of Audi Visual Equipment for Hostels, Laboratories, Lecture Halls and Ancillary Buildings for the BUAN Campus Expansion at Sebele and the New Library at MITI in Lobatse	Code 02: Electrical Engineering Works Sub Code 07: Security Systems – All Grades  OR Code 116: Broadcasting and Audio-Visual Services Sub Code 01: Installation and Maintenance of Broadcasting and Audio-Visual Equipment  OR Code 203: Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical, Fire and ICT Supplies Sub Code 01: Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Spares and Accessories  OR Code 211: General Supplies Sub Code 01: Musical Instruments, Audio Visual Equipment and Accessories	11th September 2024	25th September 2024 at  1000hrs at Lobatse (MITI Campus)  1430hrs at Sebele Campus Main at Block 108 C	09th October 2024	Least Cost Selection Method	Single Envelope	27th September 2024	BWP 500.00
TENDER BUAN 10/2024	Supply and delivery of Laptop Computers to Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN)	Code: 203 – Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical ICT Supplies Sub Code: 01 – Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Spares and Accessories (includes ICT, photographic equipment and others	11th September 2024	N/A	26/09/2024	Least Cost Selection Method	Single Envelope	20/09/2024	BWP 200.00
TENDER BUAN 11/2024	Supply and delivery of Cisco Switches to Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN)	Code: 203 – Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical ICT Supplies Sub Code: 01 – Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Spares and Accessories (includes ICT, photographic equipment and others	11th September 2024	N/A	27/09/2024	Least Cost Selection Method	Single Envelope	20/09/2024	BWP 200.00

- Tender offers are invited from 100% Citizen Owned Companies
- Method of Procurement: Open Domestic Bidding.
- Procuring entity is Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN)
- Tenderers who are domiciled in Botswana must, in order to be considered for the award of the contract, be registered with the Public Procurement and Regulatory Authority (PPRA) in the relevant codes.
- Tender Validity: 120 days
- The proof of payment must be sent to purchasing@buan.ac.bw with a request for soft copy only.

Documents may be collected during working hours between 08:30 and 12:30 and 13:45 and 15:30 hours on weekdays with effect from 11th September 2024 at a Non-Refundable Fee BWP200.00. and CCTV is BWP500.00

100% Youth owned companies will purchase the document at half price.

Payments may also be made to BUAN account (banking details below). The proof of payment must be presented upon collection of documents be sent to purchasing@buan.ac.bw with a request for soft copy only and NO PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS.

**BUAN Banking Details:**  
Beneficiary Name: Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN)  
Account No: 0100150424100  
Bank: Standard Chartered Bank  
Branch: Mall Branch  
Branch Code: 662167  
Swift Code: SCHBBWGXXX

Reference: TENDER NUMBER AND COMPANY NAME  
The tender is reserved for 100% Citizen Owned Companies.  
7. A compulsory site visit will be held on the dates and time mentioned above so that bidders may familiarise themselves with the site. A bidder who fails to attend the compulsory site visit shall be disqualified from further participation in the tender process.

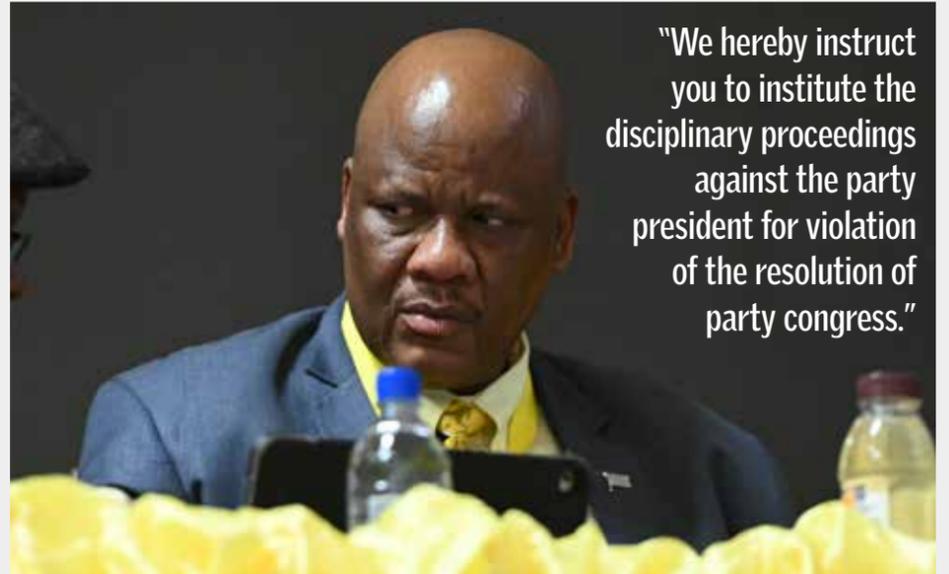
2. Queries relating to the issue of these documents may be addressed to Manager Procurement & Supply at Tel: 3650177/384/699 Fax: 3928753 E. Mail: purchasing@buan.ac.bw.

Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, the University is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer, nor incur expenses in the preparation thereof.



# BPF Concerned Members Demand Disciplinary Action Against Reatile

- Accuse him of violating party constitution by withdrawing from UDC
- Says disciplinary committee has neither acknowledged letter or acted



"We hereby instruct you to institute the disciplinary proceedings against the party president for violation of the resolution of party congress."

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**Training Dates: 2 – 3 October 2024 | P2750 per person (including meals)**

#### Registration Details

For more information and registration, please contact our office on 3952493 or email [mothibit@bibf.ac.bw](mailto:mothibit@bibf.ac.bw) / [mosokotsos@bibf.ac.bw](mailto:mosokotsos@bibf.ac.bw)



#### SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Concerned Members of the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) have given the Disciplinary Committee (DC) an ultimatum of seven days to take action against BPF president Mephato Reatile for withdrawing the party from the coalition Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC).

Led by Mmapula Amos, Ford Moiteela and Amogelang Mokwena, the Concerned Members have instructed Segadimo Legal Practice to have Reatile appear before the DC over his decision.

The trio says while the National Conference and extra-ordinary congress of the BPF last year resolved that appropriate disciplinary action should be taken against all forms of indiscipline, particularly those that defy the decision of the party to join UDC, the DC is yet to do so.

#### Student Patriotic Front

"On the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024, Reatile held a media briefing where he announced and claimed that together with the National Executive Committee they have taken a decision to withdraw from UDC," they wrote to the law firm.

"On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024, the Student Patriotic Front (SPF), an ancillary organ of the party, wrote a letter to the DC in terms of which it laid several complaints of misconduct against Reatile.

"They accused the party president of violating the constitution by withdrawing it from the coalition. To-date, the DC has neither acknowledged the letter nor taken any action to determine whether Reatile had violated the party constitution as alleged by the SPF.

#### National congress

"We hereby instruct you to institute the disciplinary proceedings against the party president for violation of the resolution of party congress.

"It is common cause that the national congress is the ultimate decision-making organ of the party and is expressly empowered by the Clause 13.4.1 of the constitution to amend or revoke any decision made by the any organ of the BPF."

The Concerned Members asked why the DC failed to take action against Reatile when action was taken against the former BPF president Biggie Butale for similar misconduct.

#### Within seven days

According to the Concerned Members the failure to take action against Reatile is a deliberate attempt to subvert the very BPF constitution that the DC is obligated to protect.

"In the event that you fail to comply with our demand within seven days, we will approach the courts of law," the trio asserted.

# P150m is Not Enough for Maintenance of Teachers' Quarters - Letsholathebe

- Minister admits budget for maintenance of teachers' houses was underestimated
- Admits situation can affect teachers' work and trickle down to performance of students



(Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

BONGANI MALUNGA

The P150 million that was set aside for maintenance of primary and secondary school teachers' quarters throughout the country in the 2024/2025 financial

year is not enough, the Minister of Education, Dr Douglas Letsholathebe, has said.

Minister Letsholathebe was responding to questions from the MP for Kgalagadi South, Sam Brooks.

"We are well aware of the

situation, especially in the case of secondary schools," Dr Letsholathebe said.

"We know that the living situation is not ideal and shortage of accommodation is high while available accommodation needs urgent maintenance.

## 10 schools

"We have a ready-made programme to tackle this issue. As you all know, we were given P150 million to handle the maintenance problem for teachers in their housing units.

"If you look closely at the changes needed, you will realise that P150 million will not be enough. We have to do with what we currently have at the moment."

Dr Letsholathebe spoke about a programme called Cyclic Maintenance which has been stopped because it proved unsuccessful. He said 10 schools that need urgent maintenance have been identified for maintenance priority.

## Making do

"We have devised plans to find a manageable solution to utilise the money we have at our disposal," he noted. "We have to make a workable budget. We will explore other ways to address the problem and restore teachers' accom-

modation."

Brooks then asked if the minister was aware that the poor maintenance and living arrangements affect teachers and their work which can trickle down to the performances of their students.

"It is true," said the minister. "If teachers live in uninhabitable conditions, they are likely to execute their duties in (a poor) manner.

**"We know that the living situation is not ideal and shortage of accommodation is high while available accommodation needs urgent maintenance."**

## Alternative ways

"In some instances, some teachers share two-bedroomed houses. It affects their space and their ability to do their marking duties at home."

He added that the government will continue to seek alternative ways of funding maintenance of teachers' housing units and continue to visit and assess the affected schools to better appreciate the situation.

## F/town Taxi Operators Targeted In Spate Of Hijackings

- Eight cars taken within two months
- Operators decry poor police response
- Perpetrators are mostly Zimbabweans
- Honda Fit the model most targeted

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Taxi operators in Francistown downed tools last Friday to protest against police inaction in the face of a rising crime phenomenon of car hijackings in which cabbies are the main targets.

Eight cars have been lost to the criminals in two months during which no arrests have been made.

According to the Chairman of Francistown Taxi Association (FTA), Witness Monyamane, the hijackers seem to focus on Honda Fit cars that are a favourite of taxi operators.

### Mainly Zimbabweans

He added that the perpetrators are mainly Zimbabweans.

A common modus operandi entails the perpetrators booking a special taxi ride to an isolated destination where

they hold the driver at gunpoint or knifepoint.

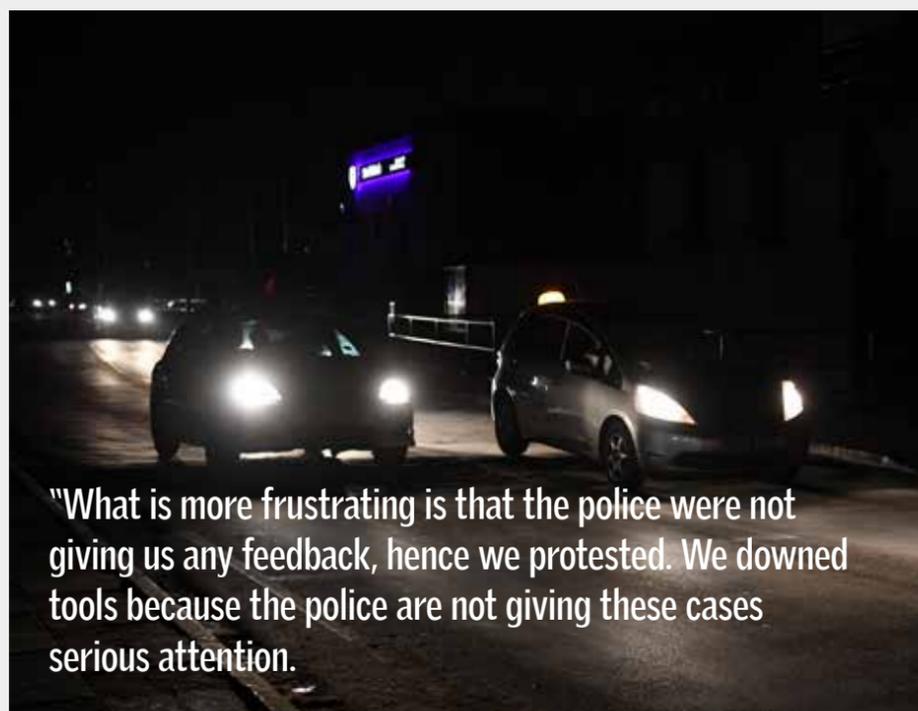
In other instances, according to Monyamane, the perpetrators book the taxi ride and on the way ask the driver to pick up someone.

"We have lost eight cars in two months in these hijackings that are either at knifepoint or gunpoint," he said. "We report the cases but the culprits are yet to be found.

"What is more frustrating is that the police were not giving us any feedback, hence we protested. We downed tools because the police are not giving these cases serious attention.

### Fear

"We now work in fear. And this is affecting our business because some of us are no longer keen on special taxi rides."



**"What is more frustrating is that the police were not giving us any feedback, hence we protested. We downed tools because the police are not giving these cases serious attention."**

Even so, there may be hope because FTA chairman thinks they caught the attention of law enforcement agencies with the protest. "Following our protest, we had a meeting with the police and Directorate of Intelligence and Security Service," he said.

"The police acknowledged our concerns and promised to become more

attentive. They actually advised us to raise the alarm whenever our passengers look suspicious."

At the time of going to press, Senior Superintendent Officer Commanding No. 15 District-Francistown, Kabo Badirwang, was yet to respond to texted questions from *The Botswana Gazette* that he had requested.

# Botswana's Beef Exports To EU To Hinge On New Regulation

- EU's Deforestation Regulation to become effective on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025
- Regulation requires evidence that the product did not harm forests and biodiversity
- Industry players believe the move could prove disastrous for beef trade



According to the EU, Botswana exports 9000 tonnes of beef to the EU and currently enjoys preferential market access to the region. Botswana is able to export beef to the EU duty-free and quota-free. Photo Credit: facebook/BotswanaMeatCommission

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's future in exporting beef to the European Union will hinge on demonstrating that the product

did not contribute to deforestation practices and loss of biodiversity.

The EU has formulated the Deforestation Regulation that will be effective from 1 January 2025. The soon-to-be-enforced di-

rective is aimed at guaranteeing that products entering the EU market do not contribute to deforestation or forest degradation.

The EU believes that deforestation is driven by expansion of agricultural land

that produces cattle, wood, cocoa and many other products. Beef, as one of the commodities linked to deforestation, is a product of cattle farming which usually requires land expansion.

## Expansion

The expansion often requires clearing of land whereby trees are cut and set on fire to make adequate space. Deforestation also leads to carbon emissions that go against the EU's eco-friendly approach.

If Botswana cannot demonstrate that its beef production had no direct links to practices that go against the EU's new regulation, the country could face an EU trade ban.

According to the EU, Botswana exports 9000 tonnes of beef to the EU and currently enjoys preferential market access to the region. Botswana is able to export beef to the EU duty-free and quota-free.

## Geolocations

According to the EU regulation, Botswana will be required to submit geolocations of the land where the cattle were grazing and raised. In its latest update, the EU has revealed that it gave partnering countries and businesses 18 months to ensure that they comply with the regulation by the end of 2024.

Industry players such as Namibia and the United States have raised concerns about the EU regulation. The US Meat Export Federation has spoken out against the move in July this year as it believes the new requirement will make the EU a complex market to enter.

## On the EU radar

According to *The Namibian Observer*, Namibia echoed similar sentiments and seeing the regulation as a big threat to the country's beef and charcoal exports. The Namibian Agricultural Union (NAU) holds that the EU regulation puts Namibia on the EU radar for being regarded as a standard risk.

Namibia also has a 400-tonne export quota with Botswana and Eswatini to export beef to Norway.

# Tshere Decries Meat Price Hikes Linked To Stock Theft Control In Mahalapye

- Says beef stew is priced at P60 per kg in Mahalapye but is P52.95 per kg in other parts of Botswana
- Butcheries reportedly hiking prices because they are sourcing meat from licensed suppliers and abattoirs again

BONGANI MALUNGA

The MP for Mahalapye West, David Tshere, believes that the anti-stock theft measures have had a knock-on effect on the pricing of meat in Mahalapye which he says is extremely high.

Tshere holds that while the anti-stock theft operation is intended for greater good, it has also affected affordability of meat as butcheries are hiking prices to make a profit because they have returned to sourcing meat from licensed suppliers and abattoirs.

He raised the issue in questions put to

the Minister of Defence and Security, Kagiso Mmusi, about the state of crime in Mahalapye in Parliament recently, seeking statistics on the number of butcheries that were linked to stock theft.

## Convicted

In response, Minister Mmusi revealed that one butchery that was linked to stock theft has closed down while one butchery owner has been convicted of stock theft.

Tshere interjected: "While the intended purpose of the operation was to help, it has since made things worse in terms of pricing. Meat worth P20 can only feed one person when initially it could feed up to five people."

## Huge price differential

He added that there is growing concern that more butcheries in Mahalapye could be closed down. According to Tshere, beef stew is priced at P60 per kilogram in Mahalapye, putting it beyond average working-class families.

He said this contrasts with other areas of Botswana where beef stew is priced at P52.95 per kilogram, representing a P7.05 differential between Mahalapye and most parts of the country.

Before the clampdown on stock theft, cattle thieves from nearby settlements frequented Mahalapye to sell carcasses. This resulted in certain butcheries in Ma-

halapye becoming well known for low meat prices.

## Unintended effect

Similar black-market hotspots for meat thrived in Palapye and Molepolole where the Botswana Police Service (BPS) has also turned its attention for anti-stock theft.

**Before the clampdown on stock theft, cattle thieves from nearby settlements frequented Mahalapye to sell carcasses. This resulted in certain butcheries in Mahalapye becoming well known for low meat prices.**

Mmusi noted that although operations of the anti-stock theft unit of BPS has inadvertently affected pricing of meat, it is evidently succeeding because butcheries are now trading at near-market level prices again.

# Masisi's Meeting With China's Politburo Committee Not Politically Motivated – Kwape

- Masisi met with Chinese Communist Party's 7th highest ranking member Li Xi
- Politburo Standing Committee is China's second chain of command
- It is second only to India's Bharatiya Janata Party in size of membership



Pic Credit; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Botswana

BONGANI MALUNGA

President Mokgweetsi Masisi's meeting with the seventh highest ranking member of the Chinese Communist Party's Politburo Standing Committee, Li Xi, was not politically motivated, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr Lemogang Kwape, has said.

Masisi met Li Xi on the margins of the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing, China last week.

## Botswana elections

The President met Li Xi – who is the Communist Party's head of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection – and briefed him on the upcoming elections in Botswana before holding talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping later during the conference while Li Xi committed to continuing to advance the two nations' cooperation.

According to Minister Kwape, President Masisi's meeting with Li Xi was a courtesy call that was extended by the Chinese government. "The Chinese government always extends such courtesies to the Botswana government," he said in an interview.

"It is important to note that the Politburo Standing Committee of the Chinese Communist Party ranks higher than the nation's cabinet. It is important for us to get an understanding of the inner workings of the Chinese government as we continue our bilateral cooperation."

## Main power branch

The Politburo Standing Committee is regarded as the country's top decision-making structure because it forms part of an exclusive group of advisers to President Jinping, who is the General Secretary of the party and the select committee.

The committee is the main power branch of the Chinese Communist Party that makes up the ruling council that is key to Jinping's policies. Its members are responsible for deciding the party's political, social and economic strategic approach.

They also play a major role in legislation as they perform the country's cabinet duties.

## 97 million registered members

Members of the committee are Jinping, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi. They are the second chain of command in the world's second largest political party by membership that has 97 million registered members.

The party is surpassed only by India's Bharatiya Janata Party, which has 170 million members.



BANK OF BOTSWANA

10 September 2024

## PUBLIC NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

**The Bank invites Companies to tender for the provision of ICT Governance Guided Implementation Services for the Bank, Tender Reference No: BOB/2024/02/03**

1. *The Procurement Method is, Open Domestic Bidding.*
2. *The Evaluation method is, Least Cost Selection.*
3. *Tenderers must, in order to be considered for award of this contract, be registered with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) under Code: 319 ICT Consultancy Services, Sub code(s): 04 ICT Risk Management or related.*
4. *Interested companies may purchase the tender documents for a non-refundable fee of P350.00 (Three Hundred and Fifty Pula, VAT inclusive). The payment can be done by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or cash at the Bank's Banking Hall in Gaborone, or at Francistown Branch Banking Hall, from 10 – 24 September 2024, Monday to Friday at 0900 to 1400 hours in Gaborone and from 0900 to 1245 hours in Francistown Branch during weekdays. The 50% price discount for purchase of the tender document will be applied to companies owned by youth, women and people living with disability who should provide proof of the same to qualify.*
5. *Companies are advised to email proof of payment to [keekeek@bob.bw](mailto:keekeek@bob.bw) who shall send the complete tender documents by electronically.*

### Bank Details for EFT payments

Bank : Bank of Botswana  
 Account Name : Accpac Sundry Receipts  
 Account Number : 0000110900001  
 Branch Code : 910167  
 Branch Name : Gaborone  
 SWIFT Code : BBOTBWGX  
 Please include reference (Company Name)

6. *Enquiries and clarifications relating to this tender may be addressed to [enquiries20240203@bob.bw](mailto:enquiries20240203@bob.bw).*
7. *The tender will be closed on 25 September 2024, at 1000 hours. The tender submissions will be opened on 26 September 2024 at 1015 hours or later as the Bank of Botswana may advise.*



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**ORGANISERS**

**PRIZE WINNERS**



Ms Katono, Senior Teacher Sciences at Tshwaragano JSS welcoming and introducing the guests and invitees.



The guest speaker Mr Boitumelo Leshiba presenting a motivating speech to the learners.



Master of Ceremonies - Mr Boleo, calling out winners to shake hands with speaker, Mr Boitumelo Leshiba



1st Position - Electronics - Katlego Galekake and Benson Malela of Moeti JSS



1st Position - Quiz - Nonofang Tsheko, Tumo Tshekoetsile and Tuduetsa Khutsafalo of Ngami JSS



1st Position - Mathematics Collaboration - Thero Bobebe, Lefika Mokerenge, Munnodjamo Ngavauva and Tumisang Monnaatsie of Moeti JSS



Ms Katono, Senior Teacher at Tshwaragano JSS presenting a token of appreciation to guest speaker Mr Boitumelo Leshiba



Organising Committee Chair - Mr Morwe with Tshwaragano JSS Mathematics Teacher - Mr Mojasagagwe



1st Position - Statistics - Charlotte Ditshameko and Eddison Malose of Maitlamo JSS



1st Position - Working Model - Ayo Tjamena and Metha Ntheetsang of Tshwaragano JSS



1st Position - Computer Related Project - Kgosi Montsho and Pako Mokopi of Maitlamo JSS



Senior Science Teacher - Ms Katono (seated) with Judges from Okavango Research Institute (ORI). From left to right; Mr Samuel, Mr Mosimanyana, Mr Mokoba and Mr Tladi



School teachers, from left to right  
1. Ms Ogotseng - Maitlamo JSS,  
2. Ms Katono - Tshwaragano JSS - Organiser,  
3. Mr Mojasagagwe - Tshwaragano JSS,  
4. Ms Gaolaolwe - Maitlamo JSS  
5. Ms Phetogang - Maitlamo JSS



1st Position - General Mathematics - Phemelo Makata and Thata Mfolwe of Maitlamo JSS



Guests and students seated and listening attentively to the proceedings



Quiz Final between Ngami JSS and Maitlamo JSS presented by Quiz master Mr Molobi a Science teacher at Tshwaragano JSS.



1st Position - Research and Ecology - Hillary Katono of Tshwaragano JSS with her Teacher, Mr Mojasagagwe walking to the podium

**G4 CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

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# Botswana Ranked 5<sup>th</sup> Best Nation With The Lowest Business Bribery Risks In Africa



BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana has been named in the top 10 of Africa's best nations with the lowest business bribery risks.

According to the latest TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix report, Botswana is ranked as the fifth best nation in terms of low business bribery risks on the African continent.

Global publication *Business Insider Africa* reported that Africa is prone to corruption as the risk of business bribery is high due to little or no institutional oversight.

Botswana comes in at the fifth spot with a score of 44. Namibia, Mauritius, Ghana, Senegal and Tunisia round off the top 10 of the list.

#### 194 jurisdictions

The TRACE Bribery Risk Index is a platform that analyses business bribery risks on a global scale. The Index examines how African countries react to business bribery as it assesses 194 jurisdictions, territories and regions.

The Index gives a score based on four factors, namely business interactions with government, anti-bribery deterrence, government and civil service transparency and capacity for civil society oversight.

The Seychelles is the highest-ranking nation on the list with a score of 36. South Africa is the second ranked nation on the list with a score of 39. Cape Verde follows in the third spot while Lesotho is situated on the fourth spot.

#### Global perspective

Botswana comes in at the fifth spot with a score of 44. Namibia, Mauritius, Ghana, Senegal and Tunisia round off the top 10 of the list.

In terms of the global perspective of the list, Botswana is ranked 73<sup>rd</sup> in the world out of 194 countries. Equatorial Guinea is the lowest ranked African nation in the 191<sup>st</sup> spot while North Korea is the lowest ranked nation on the list (194<sup>th</sup>).

## WORKSHOP

## Introduction to Property Tax

**20 September 2024**

**Phakalane Conference Centre**

**08h30 – 16h30**

**P2,800**  
Per delegate

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- VAT on property transactions, VAT zero-rating and when VAT on properties is triggered
- The exemptions from Capital Transfer Tax on immovable property transfers
- Conditional sales and how they impact property taxes
- How the cost of building properties reduces rental taxes
- The frequently asked fixed property tax questions

#### Your Presenter

Jonathan Hore has over 25 years practical experience in Tax and Customs matters acquired from working in Canada, Botswana and Zimbabwe. He holds various Tax-related qualifications including Advanced Tax & Customs Procedures (ZIMRA) as well as Advanced VAT (UNISA). Jonathan has facilitated over 80 Tax seminars in Botswana over a period of 10 years. He authored 11 books on Taxation: 9 on Botswana Tax and 2 on Zimbabwe Tax. His firm has served clients based in Botswana, the UK, South Africa, China, Germany, Nigeria, among other countries.



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The Minister of Minerals and Energy Lefoko Moagi has allayed fears that the rising usage of technology in the mining industry could result in layoffs for the human workforce. Photo Credit: BWgovernment

# Mining Technology Is Not Here To Replace Humans – Moagi

- Minister insists that technology is an addition to human labour in mining rather than a replacement
- But a leading global analytics expert holds that automation is likely to replace repetitive manual labour

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Minister of Minerals and Energy Lefoko Moagi has allayed fears that the rising usage of technology in the mining industry could result in layoffs for the human workforce.

Instead, Minister Moagi said, use of technology should be seen as a means to enhance and accelerate the mining processes of detection and extraction of minerals by making them seamless.

## Hitech at Karowe

He was speaking to journalists on the

sidelines of Lucara Diamond's official presentation of the historic 2492-carat rough diamond that was unearthed at the company's Karowe Mine late last month.

The discovery of the precious stone was aided by use of the cutting-edge technology of Mega Diamond Recovery (MDR)

X-Ray Transmission (XRT).

The XRT technology is hailed for being able to make real time estimates of diamond size frequency distributions (DSFD).

## Pinpoint accuracy

According to experts, the system uses X-ray transmission sensors that can dissect minerals based on their atomic density. This helps sort the materials with pinpoint accuracy.

Other mineral exploration companies in Botswana have announced implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to detect more mineral deposits and make sense of geological data at their disposal.

Implementation of AI is regarded as a quicker method of mineral exploration and cuts processes from months to weeks. AI and other technological advancements are faster alternatives to predicting mineral deposits and reducing mineral exploration costs.

**Use of technology should be seen as a means to enhance and accelerate the mining processes of detection and extraction of minerals by making them seamless.**

## Automation and repetitive tasks

But Minister Moagi's remarks notwithstanding, global data and analytics solutions expert Ali Soofastaei last year stated that mining jobs that involve repetitive manual labour such as drilling, blasting and loading could one day be replaced by automation.

While the general consensus is that technological advancements present a danger to the human workforce, potentially rendering many redundant, Moagi begs to differ.

The minister sees technology as a key addition to the industry which could benefit all involved in mining. "Technological advancements in the mining industry are not here to replace people," he insisted.

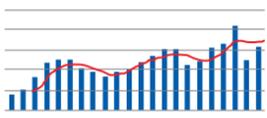
"We as a people need to embrace the presence of technology. It is here to enhance our mining systems and make our lives easier."

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BoB attributed the robust revenue performance to “larger-than-expected mineral receipts” as diamond production was ramped up to compensate for the shortfall in global supply due to G7 and US sanctions on Russia. (Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

# Strong Mineral Receipts Lead to Q1 Fiscal Surplus of P5.2bn

- Western sanctions on Russia prove a boon for Botswana as mineral revenues rise
- SACU receipts BoB’s income reported in line with 2023/24 budget projections

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The government has reported a budget surplus of P5.2 billion recorded in the first quarter of the 2023/24 fiscal year.

According to the Bank of Botswana’s (BoB) *Monetary Policy Report* of August 2024 released recently, the surplus was largely driven by an unexpected boost in mineral revenues, especially from diamond exports filling the gap left by Western sanctions on Russian diamonds.

BoB attributed the robust revenue performance to “larger-than-expected mineral receipts” as diamond production was ramped up to compensate for the shortfall in global supply due to G7 and US sanctions on Russia.

### Diamonds a critical factor

This surge in diamond production proved to be a critical factor in maintaining Botswana’s fiscal health during the period.

In addition to mineral revenues, other major streams like Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenues and the central bank’s own income were reported to be in line with the 2023/24 budget projections.

The report highlighted that “total government expenditure and net lending was P19.2 billion, lower than the P21.8 billion anticipated in the budget” and contributed to the overall budget surplus.

### Huge deficit projected

Despite the positive first-quarter results, the report has cautioned that the fiscal year might end in a deficit, projected it at P7.1 billion for the 2023/24 fiscal year, equivalent to 2.6 percent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

“For the 2023/2024 fiscal year, it is expected that the deficit will be P7.1 billion,” said the report, attributing the forecast deficit to increased recurrent spending and infrastructure invest-

ments.

In April 2023, the government implemented a 5 percent salary increment for public service employees, contributing to the higher recurrent spending.

### Infrastructure gaps

Additionally, development spending focused on addressing infrastructure gaps, particularly through implementation of delayed projects from the previous fiscal year.

The aim was to “unlock economic

growth” by improving infrastructure, which the government considers essential for long-term development.

The report also revised the projection for total government expenditure and net lending upwards by 1.6 percent to P88.8 billion, or 31.8 percent of GDP, a figure that slightly exceeds Botswana’s fiscal rule that limits total expenditure to 30 percent of GDP.

**“The increase in expenditure and net lending is lower than the change in the consumer price index, hence not inflationary.”**

### Not inflationary

However, the report emphasised that “the increase in expenditure and net lending is lower than the change in the consumer price index, hence not inflationary”, and therefore should not contribute significantly to inflationary pressures.

Meanwhile, Botswana’s diamond production faced challenges in the second quarter of 2024.

Debswana Diamond Company, the joint venture between the government and De Beers, produced 4.7 billion carats of diamonds, marking a 19.2 percent decrease from the 5.8 billion carats produced in the same period in 2023.

### Lucara’s special stones

The report attributed this decline to “unfavourable global economic conditions and geopolitical events” that affected production levels.

Debswana’s production target for 2024 is set at 20.7 million carats, down from 23.7 million carats in 2023. By contrast, Lucara Diamond Corporation, which operates Karowe Mine, reported a 12.2 percent increase in production, totalling 93,560 carats in the first quarter of 2024.

This boost was “mainly attributable to the increased number of special stones,” particularly those weighing more than 100 carats, the report noted.

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Stanbic Botswana CEO, Chose Modise Photo Credit:facebook.com/unpluggedbw

# Stanbic Sees Significant Gains Despite Rate Cuts

- Profit before taxes surged 45% to P420m yoy in June 2024 from P290m
- Net interest income up 20.5% despite cumulative rate cuts of 50 basis points
- Credit impairment charges down 63.5% despite growth in loans and advances

## GAZETTE REPORTER

Stanbic Bank Botswana Limited has reported a robust financial performance for the first half of 2024, showcasing resilience in a challenging economic environment.

The bank's net interest income (NII) saw a remarkable year-on-year growth of 20.5 percent, rising from P538 million in the prior period, despite two monetary policy rate cuts of 25 basis points each in December 2023 and June 2024, leading to a cumulative 50-basis point reduction.

Net interest income, a key indicator of a bank's profitability, reflects the difference between the revenue generated from interest-bearing assets, such as personal and commercial loans, mortgages and securities, and the expenses incurred on interest-bearing liabilities like customer deposits.

### Loan book optimisation

Stanbic's substantial growth in this area was largely driven by strategic loan book optimisation and robust credit risk management.

The CEO of Stanbic Botswana, Chose Modise, attributed the NII growth to the bank's strategic initiatives. "Our focus on loan book optimisation strategies, supported by strong credit risk management philosophies, has been instrumental in driving this growth," he said.

"The increase in transactional volumes, new client partnerships, and improvements in fee and commission income further bolstered our performance, resulting in a 3 percent

growth in non-interest income during the period."

In addition to these revenue gains, Stanbic Bank demonstrated significant efficiency improvements. Credit impairment charges dropped by 63.5 percent, from P24 million in the prior period, despite growth in loans and advances.

### Notable retrenchments

This reduction is particularly noteworthy, given the backdrop of economic uncertainties and notable retrenchments in certain sectors.

Modise emphasised the importance of risk management in achieving these results, noting that the credit loss ratio closed at 0.25 percent, a marked improvement from 0.7 percent in June 2023.

"Our success in managing credit risk is the result of effective collections and rehabilitation strategies, executed through the use of data analytics and insights," he explained.

### Future-proofing operations

"We have also continued to enhance our systems and drive data quality, which has been crucial in maintaining robust risk management practices."

Operating expenses for the period reflected an overall growth of 6 percent, rising from P426 million in 2023 to P450 million.

This increase was largely driven by a 13 percent rise in operating expenses, which Modise linked to strategic initiatives aimed at future-proofing the bank's operations.

"Our cost growth is aligned with our strategic goals of growing our people, aligning our processes to a future-proof operating model, and enhancing system stability to improve transactability and client experience," he said.

### Client trust

He added that cost optimisation initiatives are in place to promote operational efficiencies both in the short and long-term, as evidenced by the improved cost-to-income ratio.

The bank's profit before taxes surged by 45 percent, climbing from P290 million in June 2023 to P420 million in June 2024, thanks to a focus on balance sheet optimisation and the stabilisation of system performance that has restored client trust and enhanced transactability.

"Our development programmes have borne fruit, and our workforce is now stronger, more skilled and efficient than ever," he said. "They have the skills set to address our clients' rapidly changing needs."

### Market liquidity

Stanbic Bank's deliberate focus on improving the quality of its loan book has also paid off, resulting in a significant reduction in credit impairments and a rebalancing of portfolios across segments.

Modise highlighted the positive impact of recent pension fund regulations, which increased market liquidity and drove a reduction in the cost of liquidity, further contributing to the bank's strong performance.

"These focus areas have not only driven the 20.5 percent growth in net interest income but also influenced a 9.8 percent growth in our loans and advances and a 9.1 percent increase in deposits," he said.

# Sechaba Projects Significant Profit Surge for H1 2024

- Expects profit before tax to go up 20% to P26m
- But caution in Sechaba securities advised until further notice

## TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Sechaba Brewery Holdings Limited (SBHL) has projected a notable increase in profits for the half-year period ending 30 June 2024.

The company - which is a prominent shareholder in Kgalagadi Breweries Limited (KBL) - expects its profit before tax to rise by as much as P26 million, reflecting growth of up to 20 percent compared to the same period in 2023.

This optimistic forecast was disclosed in a recent cautionary statement issued by SBHL and published through the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE).

### BSE listing requirements

The announcement adheres to BSE's Listing Requirements, mandating listed companies to inform shareholders of any anticipated significant changes in financial performance.

"The Board of Sechaba Brewery Holdings Limited (SBHL) hereby announces that the results for the half-year ended 30 June 2024 will be higher than those reported for the half-year period ended 30 June 2023," the company stated in the announcement.

"The profit before tax is expected to be higher by between 10 percent to 20 percent. This translates to an increase of between P13 million and P26 million."

### Strong performance

To put this in perspective, SBHL reported a profit before tax of P132 million for the first half of 2023. The anticipated increase suggests that its profit for the first half of 2024 could range between P145 million and P158 million.

SBHL attributed this expected improvement to the strong performance of its associate companies, including KBL and Coca-Cola Beverages (Botswana) Proprietary Limited (CCBB).

"The process of finalising the results is still underway and full details on SBHL performance will be shared when the financial results are released on or before 29 September 2024," the company added.

"Accordingly, the shareholders of SBHL are advised to exercise caution when trading in the company's securities until a full announcement is made."

Sechaba Brewery Holdings has been a fixture on the Botswana Stock Exchange since 1989, establishing a reputation for financial resilience and wealth generation.

### Leading market player

Until 2018, SBHL's sole investment was in KBL. However, in a strategic restructuring that year, KBL separated its Non-Alcoholic Ready-to-Drink (NARTD) business, which later became Coca-Cola Beverages (Botswana).

Today, SBHL holds a 49.9% stake in both KBL and CCBB. The remaining shares in KBL are held by global beverage giant Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev) while Coca-Cola Beverages Africa retains the balance in CCBB.

The company's historical performance and strategic investments in Botswana's beverage sector have positioned it as a leading player in the market.

The expected profit increase for the first half of 2024 underscores SBHL's continued success and resilience in a competitive industry.

# Forex Reserves Dip As Economy Stagnates

- Current account in P2.5bn deficit in Q1 2024 compared to P1.8bn surplus in Q1 2023
- But money supply up 18% yoy to May 2024, a significant increase from 4.5% in May 2023

## TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana's foreign exchange reserves fell to P62 billion at the end of June 2024, marking a 6.2 percent decline from P66.1 billion in June 2023.

According to the Bank of Botswana's (BoB) *Monetary Policy Report* of August 2024, the reserves - which now cover 8.4 months of imports - reflect the economic pressures facing the country as it grapples with a challenging global environment and internal economic hurdles.

### Deterioration

The report reveals a troubling shift in Botswana's current account, which recorded a deficit of P2.5 billion in the first quarter of 2024, a significant downturn from the P1.8 billion surplus recorded during the same period in 2023.

This deterioration underscores the challenges facing Botswana's economy, which has been hit hard by a combination of global economic stagnation and ongoing geopolitical instability, particularly the war in Ukraine.

"Botswana's economic performance is closely tied to global demand for diamonds, and the current geopolitical climate has severely dampened that demand," it states.

The economic struggles are further compounded by the slow pace of domestic

economic transformation initiatives, which have yet to yield the anticipated growth in productivity.

### Bank credit down

It highlights a deceleration in commercial bank credit growth, which slowed to 3.9 percent in the year to June 2024, down from 6.3 percent in June 2023.

**The report tempers expectations, noting that "the prospects for significant economic growth are still not visible".**

This slowdown is attributed to reduced lending to the business sector, driven by decreased utilisation of overdraft facilities and revolving credit, as well as loan repayments.

The contraction in credit growth reflects the broader economic malaise, as businesses remain cautious in the face of uncertain economic prospects.

### Govt spending grows

In contrast, money supply (M2) surged by 18 percent in the year to May 2024, a significant increase from the 4.5 percent growth recorded in May 2023.

This expansion in money supply is likely linked to increased government spending and efforts to stimulate the economy, though its impact on overall economic growth remains muted.

The report details the BoB's implementation of an exchange rate policy aimed at enhancing domestic industry competitiveness.

### Pula depreciates 1.5%

For 2024, the policy includes a 1.51 percent annual downward rate of crawl, resulting in the nominal effective exchange rate (NEER) of the Pula depreciating by 1.5 percent in the year to July 2024.

Against the Pula basket currencies, the Pula depreciated by 2.6 percent against the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) and 0.1 percent against the South African Rand.

The Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) also depreciated by 2.3 percent in the year to June 2024, a result of the NEER's decline and lower inflation in Botswana compared to its trading partners.

### Fuel price increases fade

The report notes that inflation averaged 3 percent in the second quarter of 2024, a notable decrease from 6.1 percent in the same period in 2023.

This decline is largely attributed to the fading impact of the previous year's fuel price increases and slower growth in transportation costs, particularly in motor vehicle prices due to dealership discounts.

BoB forecasts that inflation will remain at the lower end of the 3 - 6 percent target range in the short-term and stay within this range consistently from the second quarter of 2025 onward.

### Optimistic inflation outlook

"The August 2024 inflation forecast has been revised downward compared to the June 2024 forecast," says the report, suggesting a more optimistic outlook for inflation control.

Botswana's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) showed no growth in the 12 months to March 2024, a sharp drop from the 5.2 percent growth recorded in the same period in 2023.

BoB attributes this stagnation to unfavourable global economic conditions and the ongoing geopolitical turmoil, which have hit demand for Botswana's key export - diamonds.

### Diamond jewellery

"The lackluster performance is partly attributable to unfavourable global economic conditions, and geopolitical events, including the war in Ukraine, which have negatively affected demand for diamond jewellery and rough diamonds," it emphasises.

Additionally, the report points to the slow and muted impact of economic transformation initiatives, persistent low productivity, and drought conditions as contributing factors to the weak economic activity.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also revised its projection for Botswana's economic expansion in 2024, lowering it from 3.6 percent to just 1 percent.

### Geopolitical challenges

This downward revision reflects the continued global economic challenges and geopolitical events that are expected to constrain Botswana's growth.

Looking ahead, BoB suggests that the effective implementation of economic transformation reforms could support economic activity by expanding productive capacity, accelerating transformation, and enhancing resilience in the medium-term.

However, the report tempers expectations, noting that "the prospects for significant economic growth are still not visible".



Botswana Congress Party (BCP) parliamentary candidate for Gaborone central Dr. Mpho Mmannana Pheko delivers her speech as BCP President Dumelang Saleshando launches her parliamentary candidate for Gaborone central in Broadhurst in Gaborone on 7 September 2024. (Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

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"The project remains on track for commissioning and production of battery-grade manganese in Q4 2024 for offtaker testing and qualification," said Danny Keating, President and CEO of Giyani Metals in the statement. Photo Credit: Benchmark

## Giyani Demo Plant Nears Completion

- Demo Plant will enable offtakers tonnes for testing rather than grams
- 7 of 9 modular process skids for high-purity manganese in place

### GAZETTE REPORTER

**G**iyani Metals Corporation has announced significant strides in constructing its Demonstration Plant (Demo Plant).

The plant, designed to produce battery-grade manganese, is on track for commissioning and production in the fourth quarter of 2024, according to the company's latest update.

Giyani Metals is a Canadian company at the forefront of the K.Hill Battery-Grade Manganese Project in Kanye.

July saw substantial progress, particularly with the installation of five additional modular process skids, or process modules, bringing the total to seven out of the nine planned modules.

#### Purification and crystallisation

These modules form the backbone of the plant's hydrometallurgical process, which is crucial for the purification and crystallisation stages necessary to produce high-purity manganese.

Among the newly installed modules are

three purification circuits, spread across two process modules. These circuits include reactors, filter feed tanks, and filtrate tanks, which are integral to removing impurities before the crystallisation process.

Another key addition is the Reagent make-up module, equipped with powder debagging stations and dissolution tanks for three primary reagent systems. These reagents are essential for the chemical processes within the plant and will be distributed across the facility as needed.

#### Water treatment and storage

The company has also completed the installation of the filtration process module. This module features four filter presses that support various impurity removal processes.

Additionally, a water treatment and storage module has been installed, encompassing both process water and reverse osmosis systems.

Installation of the instrumentation and electrical cabling, along with piping works, has commenced and is nearing completion for the Crystalliser Unit and its associated

Process Module.

#### Ventilation system

This intricate work will extend to the remaining process modules in a sequenced manner. Regarding the plant's supporting infrastructure, the ventilation system - designed to ensure a safe and comfortable operating environment - has been fully installed.

Furthermore, the main reticulation for the utility steam system has been installed and successfully pressure tested, marking another key milestone in the plant's construction.

In addition to the core processes, Giyani has begun civil works for the external waste storage tank system. This system will collect process discharge and waste streams, which will be analysed to optimise the water recovery system designs for the commercial-scale plant.

The company is also conducting simulation test work on the Yokogawa Distributed Control System (DCS) software, which will be used to control the demo plant.

#### Critical insights

Unlike traditional batch or lock-cycle methods, the demo plant will operate as a continuous process flow, providing Giyani with critical insights into how the commercial plant will perform once operational.

"The project remains on track for commissioning and production of battery-grade manganese in Q4 2024 for offtaker testing and qualification," said Danny Keating, President and CEO of Giyani Metals in the statement.

**"Successful construction and operation of the Demo Plant is key to demonstrating the inherent value of the project to investors."**

"It is exciting to see the Demo Plant coming together and appreciating the scale of the facility we are constructing, which is expected to be one of the largest battery-grade manganese process testing and optimisation facilities in the world."

#### De-risking

Keating emphasised the importance of the Demo Plant's continuous operation, noting that it will allow Giyani to preemptively detect and address potential issues that could arise during the ramp-up of the commercial plant.

"Successful construction and operation of the Demo Plant is key to demonstrating the inherent value of the project to investors," he said.

"The plant's ability to operate continuously at this pre-commercial scale will allow Giyani to understand how the Commercial Plant will respond ahead of construction, preemptively detecting and de-risking potential issues that could arise during ramp-up."

#### Proprietary flowsheet

Keating also highlighted the demo plant's role in optimising the company's proprietary flowsheet and reducing operating costs. "The value of this facility as a tool to optimise our proprietary flowsheet and reduce operating costs will be immeasurable," he said.

"The most important feature will be that we will now be able to provide offtakers with tonnes of product for testing, rather than providing samples measured in grams.

This level of production is not usually available until commercial production is achieved, further de-risking the Project for our potential partners and financiers."

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In March 2024, the Minister for State President, Kabo Morwaeng, introduced a sweeping Constitutional (Amendment) Bill that aimed to address governance reforms and expand constitutional rights. PPhoto Credit: facebook.com/BotswanaGovernment

# New Dawn for Democracy: Botswana's Constitutional Review

When the Constitutional Amendment Bill was dropped on 4 September 2024, a watershed moment in Botswana's history was marked. Special Correspondent **DOUGLAS RASBASH** looks at the context of what happened and sees auspices of a new dispensation for Botswana.

The withdrawal of the Constitutional Amendment Bill following public protests presents a unique opportunity to realign the country's constitutional framework with modern realities and aspirations. The development underscores the resilience and maturity of Botswana's democracy, which has long been celebrated for its stability and governance. However, the moment was the culmination of a longer journey that began in 2021 with a comprehensive constitutional review.

## A Historical Context

Botswana's constitution, established at independence in 1966, has been the cornerstone of its political and legal systems. Over the past six decades,

Botswana has evolved from a poor, agrarian economy to a middle-income nation, thanks to prudent governance, stable institutions, and natural resource management, particularly diamonds. However, the Botswana of 2024 faces new challenges, including shifting demographics, economic pressures, social changes and global dynamics.

Recognising the need for reform, the government initiated a Presidential Commission of Inquiry in 2021. The Commission sought public input from a wide range of stakeholders and conducted a thorough review of existing constitutional provisions. The goal was to ensure that the constitution reflected the contemporary needs of the country,

and by September 2022, the Commission delivered its findings.

## The Constitutional Amendment Bill

In March 2024, the Minister for State President, Kabo Morwaeng, introduced a sweeping Constitutional (Amendment) Bill that aimed to address governance reforms and expand constitutional rights. Some of the bill's key proposals included:

**Fundamental Rights and Freedoms:** New protections were proposed for intersex persons and people with disabilities, marking a significant step towards inclusivity. The Bill also aimed to elevate rights to health, education, work and collective bargaining

as constitutional guarantees.

**Governance and Judicial Reforms:** The Bill proposed limiting former presidents from holding significant public offices post-retirement, introduced a ban on dual citizens standing for the National Assembly, and sought to restructure the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) to enhance judicial independence.

**Parliamentary Representation:** It proposed increasing the number of Specially Elected Members of Parliament (SEMPs) appointed by the President from 6 to 10, sparking concern over executive overreach. It also suggested direct presidential elections, moving Botswana closer to a direct democratic model.

**The withdrawal of the Bill is not a setback but a step towards a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to constitutional reform.**

**Tribal Neutrality:** Reforms aimed to modernise the Ntlo ya Dikgosi (House of Chiefs) by introducing changes in the selection process, promoting tribal neutrality.

**Public Referendums on Moral Issues:** Controversial issues such as abortion, same-sex relations, commercial sex work, and the death penalty were to be decided by public referendum rather than parliamentary debate.

**Opposition and Growing Concerns**  
While the Bill aimed to modernise Botswana's governance framework, it quickly met with resistance. Civil society groups, opposition leaders, and legal experts voiced concerns over both the Bill's content and the process of its introduction.

**Civil Society's Legal Challenge:** A coalition of 44 civil society organisations, under the Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO), prepared for legal action if President Mokgweetsi Masisi did not withdraw the Bill. They argued that the process lacked transparency and inclusivity and called for a more people-centred approach.

**Concentration of Executive Power:** The increase in Specially Elected MPs raised alarm as critics saw it as an attempt by the executive branch to consolidate its influence over the legislative process. They feared that the Bill would weaken democracy by allowing the President to stack Parliament with loyalists.

**Judicial Independence:** Proposed reforms to the JSC, which remained largely under presidential control, were

# New Dawn for Democracy: Botswana's Constitutional Review

From Page 22

viewed as inadequate. Opposition parties demanded greater separation between the executive and judiciary to ensure judicial independence.

**Monopolisation of the Process:** Opposition leaders, particularly of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), accused the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) of monopolising the constitutional review process. Dithapelo Keorapetse of the UDC described the review as the “most important democratic project of our time”, warning that it should not be controlled by the ruling party for political gain.

**Lack of Public Participation:** Civil society highlighted the lack of public engagement in the constitutional review process. A petition demanding amendments to ensure public consultation criticised the government for excluding citizens from meaningful participation in shaping their constitution.

## A Watershed Moment

As public opposition grew, so did calls for the Bill's withdrawal. The situation came to a head on 4 September 2024 when widespread peaceful protests demanded a halt to the legislative process. These protests represented a crucial moment in Botswana's democracy, showcasing the country's commitment to peaceful civic engagement. The government's decision to withdraw the Bill following these protests underscores a pivotal democratic victory, demonstrating the power of public opinion and civic responsibility.

## Democratic Maturity

Botswana's handling of the constitutional review process, particularly the peaceful protests, presents a powerful example of democratic governance, not just for Africa but globally. While many nations have faced protests turning violent, Botswana's peaceful demonstration and the subsequent withdrawal of the Bill underscore the strength of its institutions and the civic responsibility of its citizens.

The episode highlights the importance of allowing more time for comprehensive dialogue and reflection, ensuring that future constitutional amendments truly reflect the will of the people. Botswana's democratic system, while not without its challenges, has emerged stronger, showing that public dissent, when expressed constructively, can lead to positive change.

## A Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity

Constitutional reviews are rare, often presenting a once-in-a-generation chance to redefine governance struc-



The Bill proposed limiting former presidents from holding significant public offices post-retirement, introduced a ban on dual citizens standing for the National Assembly, and sought to restructure the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) to enhance judicial independence.

Photo Credit: facebook.com/BotswanaGovernment

tures. Botswana, nearing its 60<sup>th</sup> year of independence, stands at a crossroads. The country must address complex contemporary challenges, including climate change, economic diversification, youth unemployment, and digital transformation. These issues require innovative governance solutions and greater inclusivity.

The withdrawal of the Bill offers Botswana an opportunity to pause, reflect and refine the process. It is essential that the next steps in the constitutional review be inclusive, drawing on insights from civil society, political leaders, the youth and rural communities alike. Ensuring broad-based participation will help create a governance framework that meets the aspirations of a modern Botswana.

**Botswana's next steps in this journey should be measured, ensuring that the constitutional review process is not rushed but thoughtfully completed.**

## The Road Ahead

As Botswana heads into its general elections in October 2024, constitutional reform will remain a focal point. Political parties must articulate their vision for the constitution and citizens must hold them accountable for creating a transparent, people-driven process. The peaceful protests of September 2024 have set the tone for a more thoughtful and inclusive approach to constitutional reform.

Botswana's next steps in this journey should be measured, ensuring that the constitutional review process is not rushed but thoughtfully completed. This is an opportunity to strengthen democratic institutions, protect fundamental rights and set the stage for sustainable governance that will serve future generations.

## Conclusion: A Beacon for Africa

Botswana's recent constitutional review process serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for democratic governance in Africa. The peaceful resolution of the protests, combined with the government's willingness to listen to its citizens, demonstrates the country's commitment to democracy. The withdrawal of the Bill is not a setback but a step towards a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to constitutional reform.

As Botswana continues its democratic journey, it sets an example for other nations facing similar challenges. This review is not merely about laws and governance; it is about ensuring that the constitution reflects the aspirations of all Botswana, creating a future rooted in equity, justice and progress. The events of September 2024 have shown that Botswana remains a model of democratic governance in Africa.

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# A Missed Opportunity to Witness True Human Triumph: The Paralympics Deserve More

We, as a society, are missing the most important lesson the special sports can offer - the ability to embrace, celebrate and elevate those who refuse to be defined by their limitations. The Paralympic Games showcase the extraordinary in the face of adversity, writes **DOUGLAS RASBASH.**



The Paralympic Games have come and gone but I wonder how many of us noticed. Who can name the winner of the men's 200m race? How many tuned in to watch? And perhaps the most glaring question: How many television channels actually covered the Paralympic Games in the way they deserved to be? The answers to these questions are not just disappointing; they are shameful. Photo Credit: Paralympics

The Paralympic Games have come and gone but I wonder how many of us noticed. Who can name the winner of the men's 200m race? How many tuned in to watch? And perhaps the most glaring question: How many television channels actually covered the Paralympic Games in the way they deserved to be? The answers to these questions are not just disappointing; they are shameful.

The Paralympic Games began in Paris on Wednesday 28 August when the opening ceremony was held and continued through Sunday 8 September. Around 4,400 athletes competed in 23 disciplines across 20 venues during the Paralympics.

At the Olympics, around 10,500 athletes competed in 48 sports disciplines. Events are organised according to the disability or impairment category which are T11-13 (vision impairment), T20 (intellectual impairment), T35-38 (co-ordination impairments (hypertonia, ataxia and athetosis) and T40-41 (short stature).

## Overcoming the impossible

We talk about athletes defying the odds, breaking barriers and pushing the limits of human potential, and yet it seems we are willing to let some of

the most awe-inspiring athletes slip from our radar. These are athletes who have faced challenges that most of us couldn't imagine. Paralympic competitors have lost limbs - some all of them.

**The men's 200m winner was Guity Sherman Isidro of Costa Rica in a world record time of 21.24s, just 0.74 seconds slower than Letsile Tebogo!**

They have lost their sight, their ability to walk and their sensory nerves. Yet, through sheer grit, determination and training, they are out on the track, the field or in the pool competing at levels few of us could ever dream of.

For these athletes, each race or event is more than just a competition - it is a testament to overcoming the impos-

sible. Whether blind, paraplegic or missing limbs, these athletes defy the limits of physical disability to achieve moments of staggering triumph. It is not just about medals, though every one of them deserves one. It is about the courage to compete, the spirit to persevere and the ability to inspire.

## Minimal fanfare

But where was the world to witness these achievements? While Olympic athletes garner frontpage headlines and dominate social media feeds, Paralympic athletes are often left in the shadows. The stark lack of coverage, the minimal fanfare, and the inexcusable absence of widespread support reflect a deeply uncomfortable truth: We, as a society, are missing the most important lesson the sports can offer - the ability to embrace, celebrate and elevate those who refuse to be defined by their limitations.

It is not just about the medals; it is about the stories behind those medals. Every Paralympian has fought their own battles off the track, court or field. They have navigated a world that often underestimates their potential, only to rise higher than anyone expected. They have endured gruelling physical ther-

apy, emotional hardships and societal prejudices, all for the chance to stand proudly on the world stage.

The Paralympic Games showcase the extraordinary in the face of adversity. And yet, by failing to give them the recognition they deserve, we diminish that extraordinary spirit. We should be broadcasting these events on every channel, making household names of these athletes, and teaching future generations about what it means to truly overcome.

## Unimaginable challenges

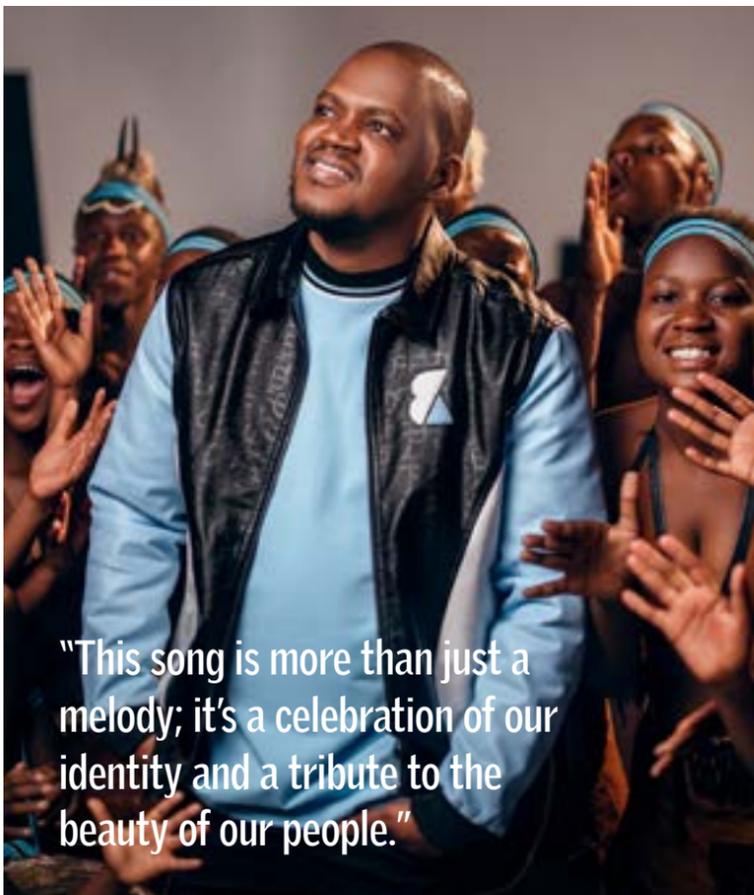
The least we can do is watch. The least we can do is celebrate them. The least we can do is care. This is because if we can't acknowledge and honour the achievements of those who have faced unimaginable challenges - and triumphed - we have missed the very essence of what it means to be human.

Oh yes, the men's 200m winner was Guity Sherman Isidro of Costa Rica in a world record time of 21.24s, just 0.74 seconds slower than Letsile Tebogo. He ran in the T64 disability category of having a single below-the-knee amputation who run with a prosthesis. Awe inspiring and humbling, the Paralympics must not be missed in 2028.



# BK Proctor's "Amazing Botswana" to Mark a Vibrant Fusion of Fashion and Culture

In addition to his latest fashion collection that stands out in the nation's emblematic Blue, White and Black, BK Proctor will release a musical tribute titled "Amazing Botswana" Botswana Day, September 30



"This song is more than just a melody; it's a celebration of our identity and a tribute to the beauty of our people."



abroad, blending modern design with deep-rooted national pride.

Inspired by the colours of the Botswana flag, the "Amazing Botswana" collection is a harmonious combination of Blue, White and Black.

## Endorsed by the President

The light blue mirrors the vast skies over the open expanse of the Kalahari Desert, white represents peace and the presence of people of Caucasian rootstock in the multi-racial nation, while the bold black symbolises strength and the majority population.

Each piece of the collection celebrates the essence of the nation, reflecting its identity with elegance and style.

BK Proctor's collection quickly gained national attention when President Mokgweetsi Masisi donned one of its signature pieces during his recent interaction with creatives.

This high-profile endorsement solidified the collection as a symbol of national pride and has led to growing interest in the southern African regional and the wider world.

## A global celebration of Botswana

"The 'Amazing Botswana' collection is a tribute to our nation's beauty, resilience and unity," said an enthused Proctor in an interview. "It's about celebrating who we are and where we come from."

The interest indeed extends beyond the nation's borders. Renowned personalities like DJ Fresh and South African actress Pearl Thusi have proudly showcased BK Proctor's designs, giving the brand an international platform.

The collection's universal appeal lies in its fusion of contemporary style with cultural significance, making it a fashion statement with an oomph for global penetration.

In addition to the fashion collection, BK Proctor is set to release an eponymous musical tribute dubbed "Amazing Botswana" on Botswana Day, September 30.

## More than just a melody

"This song is more than just a melody; it's a celebration of our identity and a tribute to the beauty of our people," Proctor enthused alongside the collection about his song that he said capture the quintessence of Botswana's cultural heritage.

As Botswana celebrates its 58th Independence Day, the "Amazing Botswana" collection stands as a testament to the nation's enduring spirit and vibrant culture.

With its powerful message and growing influence, the collection invites everyone to join in celebrating Botswana's extraordinary journey of unity and resilience.

## GAZETTE REPORTER

As Botswana gears up for its 58th Independence celebrations, fashion designer BK Proctor has unveiled a masterpiece collection styled "Amazing Botswana."

This striking tribute to the nation's rich cultural heritage has captivated hearts here at home and





Okavango Diamond Company, or ODC, is a rough diamond marketing company that is wholly owned by the Botswana Government. We offer our global customer base open access to scale supply of the full range of rough diamonds sourced from Botswana. The Company is inviting candidates with proven strong business acumen and impeccable integrity to apply for the following positions tenable in Gaborone:

### HR BUSINESS PARTNER

**Main Purpose of the Job**

ODC is seeking for an experienced HR Business Partner to support our departments by delivering comprehensive HR services. This role involves partnering with line managers to ensure effective people management, positive employee experiences, and alignment with business objectives.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Implement HR strategies and solutions to support business goals.
- Manage workforce planning, recruitment, and talent acquisition.
- Oversee performance management, talent development and ensure adherence to best practices.
- Provide data-driven insights to inform HR decisions and processes.
- Foster a positive workplace culture, resolve disputes, and implement wellness programs.
- Build strong relationships with key stakeholders and ensure compliance with HR policies and regulations.

**Qualifications & Experience:**

- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management or Industrial Psychology.
- Minimum of 5 years of HR generalist experience, with expertise in the full employee lifecycle.
- Strong knowledge of labor laws, HR analytics, and talent management.

### SYSTEMS ANALYST

**Main Purpose of the Job**

ODC is looking for a Junior Management -Systems Analyst to plan, develop, and manage the design and implementation of integrated business systems. This role involves conducting system analysis, coordinating business application projects, and ensuring the efficient use of IT systems to meet our evolving business needs.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Contribute to system design and ensure technical solutions support future upgrades.
- Coordinate change management processes, system implementation, upgrades, and provide user training.
- Translate business needs into technical requirements and develop system specifications.
- Provide technical guidance, conduct system testing, and ensure the development of modern, effective systems.
- Maintain effective communication with internal and external stakeholders and ensure alignment with business goals.
- Ensure adherence to regulatory standards, reduce risks, and promote ethical practices.

**Qualifications & Experience:**

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Systems, or IT.
- At least 5 years of experience in systems analysis.
- Strong analytical, technical, and communication skills.
- Knowledge of system requirements and technologies.

### SPECIALIST - NETWORK AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**Main Purpose of the Job**

ODC seeks a Junior Management Specialist in Network and Infrastructure to design, implement, and optimize our network systems. This role is crucial for ensuring the performance, security, and reliability of our network, supporting both current and future business needs.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Develop scalable, secure network architecture; plan for redundancy and high availability.
- Oversee procurement and installation of network equipment;
- Configure and maintain network systems.
- Manage data center operations, ensuring high availability and robust storage solutions.
- Implement and manage security measures to protect against cyber threats and unauthorized access.
- Design and implement backup and recovery strategies
- Ensure data integrity and security.
- Ensure adherence to regulatory standards and manage ICT risks.
- Promote safety, health, and quality standards within the ICT department.
- Exemplify company values and support a high-performance culture.

**Qualifications & Experience:**

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Systems, or related field.
- Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP).
- Minimum 6 years' experience in network management, including 3 years in a supervisory role.
- Proficiency in network design, security protocols, and virtualization technologies.

### ADMINISTRATOR: HR

**Main Purpose of the Job**

The HR Administrator supports various HR processes, including managing personnel records, updating databases, and ensuring policy adherence. Responsibilities include handling payroll data, job postings, interviews, and HR reports. The role also involves developing training materials and addressing

employee inquiries.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Manage job postings, screen applicants, coordinate interviews, and assist in final selection.
- Facilitate onboarding and orientation for new hires.
- Enhance new employee productivity and integration into company culture.
- Assist in resolving workplace disputes and implement conflict resolution strategies.
- Maintain confidential employee data, prepare HR reports, and ensure data accuracy.
- Build relationships with key stakeholders and maintain effective communication.
- Promote workplace safety and participate in safety programs.
- Ensure adherence to regulatory standards and corporate policies.
- Embody company values and support a high-performance culture.

**Qualifications & Experience:**

- Diploma in HR Management, Business Administration, or Industrial Psychology.
- 2 years in relevant HR roles.
- Proficient in HR software, MS Office, and knowledgeable in employment laws.

### SUPERVISOR - OFFICE ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

**Main Purpose of the Job**

The Supervisor will manage office operations, including administration, housekeeping, stock supplies, and logistics. This role involves leading a team, implementing streamlined processes, and supporting the success of Facilities Management.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Oversee administration services, office housekeeping, and meeting management.
- Ensure timely service provider payments and customer satisfaction.
- Monitor and manage office supplies, collaborate with vendors, and place orders as needed.
- Optimize transport services, develop budgets, and ensure fleet maintenance.
- Assist with safety training programs and monitor compliance with company policies.
- Promote high performance, develop teams, and manage processes.
- Build and maintain relationships with stakeholders and project a positive corporate image.
- Ensure regulatory compliance, resolve issues, and implement preventative measures.

**Qualifications & Experience:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Business

Administration, Logistics, or Facilities Management.

- 3 years of experience, including 2 years in a supervisory role.

### DATA ANALYST

**Main Purpose of the Job**

ODC is looking for a Junior Management-Data Analyst to support our Specialist: Data Analytics and Business Intelligence. This role involves using data analysis to drive business optimization, forecasting, and reporting to support strategic and operational decisions.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Utilize advanced analytical techniques and tools (e.g., SQL, Python) to provide actionable insights and support decision-making.
- Analyze business drivers and market trends to forecast operational needs and align product offerings with market expectations.
- Conduct research and provide insights on diamond pricing and market trends.
- Maintain high-quality data, ensuring accurate and reliable databases for reporting and analysis.
- Use forecasting models to improve production planning and integrate insights with operational and sales teams.
- Build strong relationships with stakeholders and maintain positive communication.
- Ensure adherence to regulatory standards and corporate policies, promoting ethical practices.
- Participate in safety programs and promote compliance with SHEQ standards.

**Qualifications & Experience:**

- Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Statistics, Computer Science, Business Analytics, or a related field.
- 3 years of experience in a commercial or analytical environment, preferably in the minerals sector.

### SENIOR MANAGER – CORPORATE AFFAIRS

**Main Purpose of the Job**

ODC is seeking a Senior Manager for Corporate Affairs, a strategic leader responsible for managing stakeholder engagement, corporate communication, and regulatory compliance. This pivotal role shapes ODC's reputation and supports its mission to enhance shareholder value and market impact.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Develop and implement corporate affairs strategies aligned with ODC's business goals.
- Lead PR, events, and media management to boost visibility and engagement.
- Oversee stakeholder engagement, influencing favorable policies and maintaining strong relationships.
- Direct ESG strategy and communication to demonstrate ODC's commitment to sustainability.
- Manage and mentor Corporate Affairs teams, fostering a high-performance culture.
- Ensure regulatory compliance and manage corporate governance.

**Qualifications & Experience:**

- Master's degree in Public Relations, Communications, Management, or a related field.
- 10+ years of experience, with at least 8 years in senior corporate affairs or related roles.
- Expertise in stakeholder management, PR, corporate governance, and ESG reporting.
- Strong leadership, decision-making, and communication skills.

### PRODUCTION MANAGER

**Main Purpose of the Job**

ODC is seeking an experienced Operations Production Manager to oversee the diamond production process from start to finish. This role ensures that the highest quality standards are met across ODC's production operations and that products are delivered to customers on time and with consistency.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Implement and monitor operational systems for efficiency, ensuring the delivery of high-quality diamonds.
- Align production with ODC's strategic goals and improve operational systems for greater efficiency.
- Oversee systems that ensure all products meet ODC's strict quality standards and Government Selling Assortment (GSA) requirements.
- Liaise with internal and external stakeholders to drive product quality and adherence to Service Level Agreements.
- Oversee sales lot valuations, calculate rough diamond values, and prepare price adjustments based on market trends.
- Manage stock control processes, month-end stock reconciliations, and work closely with the security team to mitigate risks.

**Qualifications & Experience:**

- Bachelor of Commerce degree or equivalent.
- Minimum 10 years of experience in a diamond production environment, with at least 3 years at a managerial level.
- Deep understanding of rough diamond sorting, valuation, and sales assortments.
- Expertise in stock management systems, regulatory compliance, and process improvement.

### PRODUCTION CONTROLLER

**Main Purpose of the Job**

The Production Controller ensures accurate sorting of diamonds based on ODC's classification model, maintaining technical consistency in assortment lots for sale. The role involves capturing data for reporting, optimizing operational efficiency, and supporting stock management and export processes. The controller also ensures compliance with technical standards and security procedures while fostering positive stakeholder relationships and upholding ODC's values.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Sort diamonds into categories according to ODC's diamond classification model.
- Ensure technical consistency of the diamond lots for sales, aligning with

- ODC's standards.
- Accurately capture analytical and statistical data into electronic programs for reporting.
- Assist in managing stock using ODC's internal systems, ensuring compliance with security protocols.
- Prepare sold sale lots for inspection and export, ensuring compliance with all regulations.
- Build effective relationships with stakeholders, ensuring alignment and trust.

**Qualifications:**

- Diploma in a business-related field.
- Minimum 5 years in a diamond-related industry, with at least 1 year in a similar production role.
- Proficient in rough diamond sorting, valuation, and stock management systems.

### PROCESS OPERATOR

**Main Purpose of the Job**

The Process Operator manages the processing of ODC's diamond shipments, including stock management, cost distribution, and price allocation. This role ensures smooth operations within the Control Room during customer viewings and export periods.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Handle inbound shipments, price allocation, and cost distribution.
- Perform stock management functions, maintain issue logs, and conduct system tests.
- Prepare pricing, lot design, and sales reports.
- Control parcel flow, maintain customer service standards, and address integrity issues.
- Prepare and document sold sale lots for export.
- Build trust and maintain positive relationships with stakeholders.
- Ensure adherence to regulatory standards and effective cost control.
- Promote workplace safety and compliance with SHEQ standards.
- Support and exemplify ODC values and high-performance culture.

**Qualifications:**

- Diploma and 6 years of process administration experience, preferably in diamond-related functions.
- Knowledge of diamond industry, stock management systems, and relevant regulations.

Are you interested in this challenging and dynamic position? Please send your application and CV to [hr@premiere.co.bw](mailto:hr@premiere.co.bw) or [recruitment@premiere.co.bw](mailto:recruitment@premiere.co.bw) or contact us on Tel: 3952878.

**Closing date: 04 October 2024**

Correspondence will be limited to Shortlisted Candidates only.



## GAZETTE REPORTER

The stage is set for the 13th edition of the Botswana Musicians Union (BOMU) Awards that are scheduled to take place at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC) on 23 November.

The awards continue under the theme "Music Beyond" but promise an even grander event than last year's show that trended across social media platforms and marked a new era for Botswana's music and entertainment industry.

The BOMU Awards recognise outstanding talents of producers, artists, and professionals in the recording industry who have delivered hit after hit throughout the past year.

**"This is part of our effort to rebrand and reset Botswana's music industry by attracting international brands, independent music distributors, TV broadcasters, and podcasters."**

#### 38 categories this year

With a total of 38 categories this year, the awards will celebrate the best of Botswana's music across a wider range with two new categories, "Best Traditional Contemporary Music/EP" and "Best Clap & Tap EP/Record," added.

Seabelo Modibe of Events Lab, a key partner in organising

# BOMU AWARDS SET FOR NOVEMBER

Two new categories, "Best Traditional Contemporary Music/EP" and "Best Clap & Tap EP/Record," have been added

the awards, has emphasised that the BOMU Awards are also about promoting and elevating Botswana's music industry.

"These awards provide a platform for local artists to showcase their excellence and create networking opportunities, both locally and globally," he said.

#### Workshops and masterclasses

In line with this, BOMU will host a series of workshops and masterclasses for artists and industry professionals aimed at developing crucial behind-the-scenes skills in areas like lighting, audio engineering, stage management, and event production.

"This is part of our effort to rebrand and reset Botswana's mu-

sic industry by attracting international brands, independent music distributors, TV broadcasters, and podcasters," Modibe added.

This strategic vision is not only helping grow the BOMU brand but is also expanding the music industry commercially while increasing viewership for their broadcast partner, Botswana Television.

#### Submissions now open

The 13<sup>th</sup> BOMU Music Awards are officially open for submissions, with the deadline set for September 30. Musicians, producers, record labels, and artist representatives are encouraged to submit their entries in accordance with the published rules and regulations.

#### BOMU Submission Guidelines:

\* Open to all musicians and creatives at no cost, though entrants are encouraged to join BOMU.

\* Submitted works must have been commercially available between June 2023 and August 2024.

\* Music previously submitted for the 2023 awards is not eligible for re-entry.

\* Entries will undergo a vetting process to ensure compliance with the awards' rules and proper category placement.

\* A panel of judges will adjudicate most categories while the public will vote for key categories like Best Female Artist, Best Male Artist, Best Newcomer, Al-

bum of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Group, and the Lifetime Achievement award.

\* All judging panels will be overseen by a Chief Judge with an annual review to ensure fairness and integrity.

As Botswana's biggest night in music approaches, anticipation is rising with several exciting events leading up to the awards ceremony.

A major highlight will be the Nominees Launch Party on 16 October where the official nominees in all categories will be revealed, setting the tone for what promises to be an unforgettable night celebrating Botswana's musical talent.

## Batho Fashion Week Dialogues Highlight Industry Challenges and Triumphs

Policy reform and sustainable financing will be the pillars of progress in the local fashion industry

#### GOSEGO MOTSUMI

In an effort to push the boundaries of Botswana's fashion industry, Batho Fashion Week recently hosted pivotal dialogues at the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC).

Industry experts, fashion designers and other stakeholders gathered under the theme of "Botswana's Fashion Industry: Rollbacks, Triumphs and Commitment to the Sustainability Story," sparking an in-depth analysis of key issues, trends and customer behaviour.

The discussions also emphasised sustainable financing, highlighting the need for a model that builds quality brands

and ensures long-term success for local designers.

#### Whirlwind

Fashion artist and producer Tsholo Dikobe, who has been at the forefront of the industry for nearly two decades, reflected on the journey that has shaped Botswana's fashion landscape.

"When I started 18 years ago, there was nothing," she recalled. "It's been a whirlwind of emotions to get the industry started. Now we have online platforms, and brands can connect with a global audience. But back then you had to rely solely on talent."

Dikobe described the establishment of the National Arts Council of Botswana (NACOB) as a beacon of hope for the future. "It's exciting to see what the Council can do for the industry," she said, hinting at a new era for fashion in Botswana.

#### Regulation

One of the most pressing issues discussed was lack of regulation within the fashion sector.

Founder of fashion brand Glotto, Mboko Basiami, stressed the importance of policy for regulating the industry, particularly with regard to importing textiles from South Africa.

"We import a lot of textiles and there's a lot of tax on that," she noted. "The industry needs governance to create a more competitive environment."

Botho Chalebwa of Botocy echoed this sentiment when she highlighted how interconnected the challenges are. "If we can have policies and regulations specific to our industry, we would address issues like sourcing materials, the high cost of testing fabrics, and the need for technical skills to ensure quality better," she said.

#### Second-hand clothes

The flooding of Botswana's market with second-hand clothes was another hot topic during the dialogues. While reusing clothes reduces waste, it also presents a challenge for local designers.

Both Basiami and Dikobe agreed that second-hand clothing poses a complex issue. "It's a two-sided coin," said Basiami. "There's a benefit in reducing waste. However, for fashion designers, there needs to be some regulation."

Sustainable financing models for Botswana's fashion industry came under discussion, with Basiami calling for creation of a fashion calendar to help attract investors and ensure a steady flow of funding.

#### "Fashion is a business"

"We need more fashion shows and a structure that allows investors to know when money is coming in," she said.

Chalebwa emphasised the importance of viewing fashion as a business. "We need to step out of the creative mindset for a bit, she said. "Fashion is a business, and we need to position ourselves within the value chain. We should understand what the government is doing so we can create an im-

pact and be reliable before investors look our way."

The potential of the National Arts Council to influence policy and create a thriving environment for Botswana's fashion industry became a hopeful focal point. Chalebwa expressed much optimism about this.

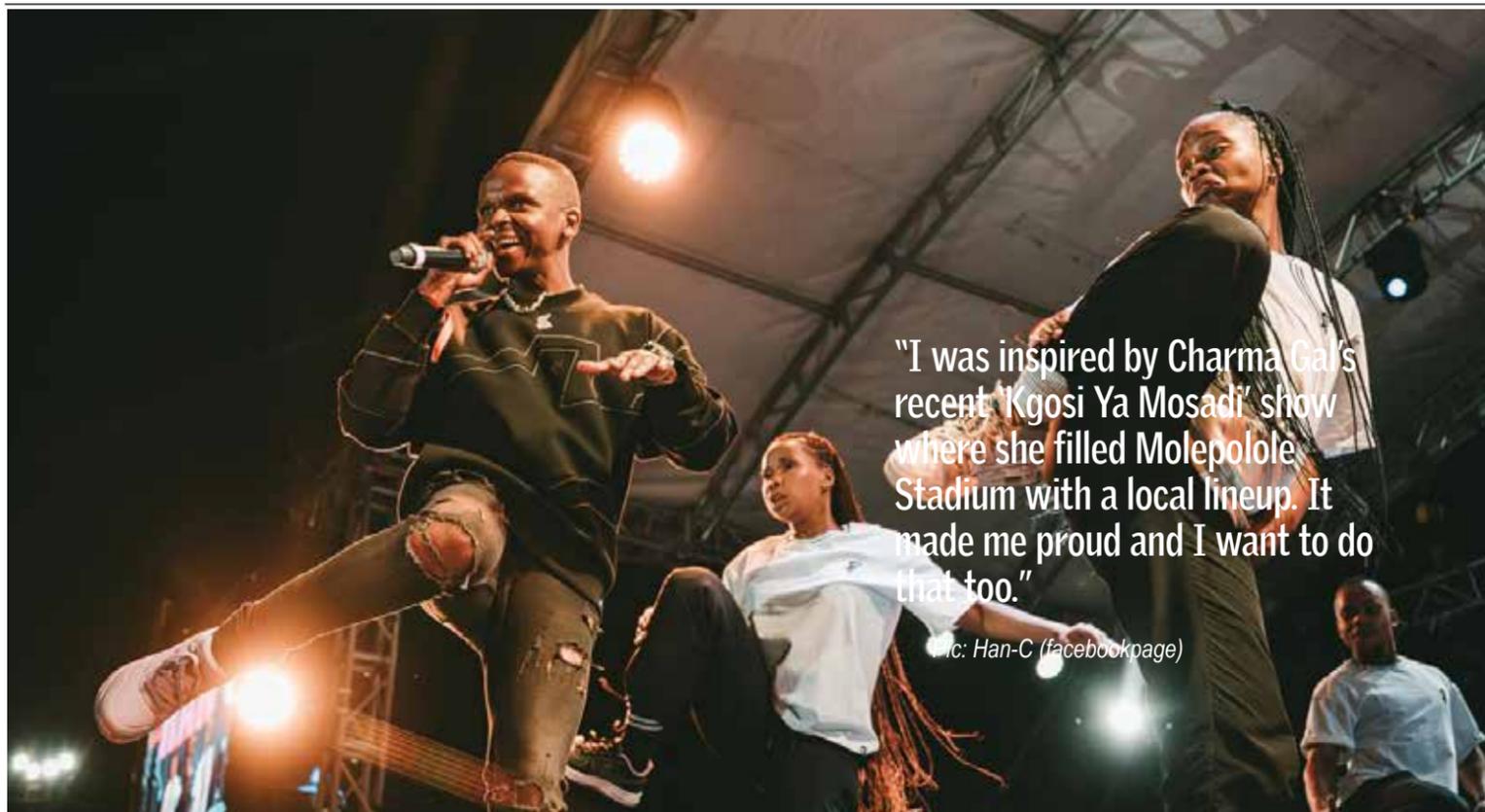
"The Council's mandate is to lobby for issues related to our industry," she noted. "It needs to break down its structure into different sectors so that each one gets the attention it deserves."

#### Transparency

Basiami agreed, stating that transparency within the Council will be key to the future of Botswana's fashion sector. "We need to know the organisational structure so that we can move forward together," she said.

As Botswana's fashion industry looks towards the future, it is clear that collaboration, policy reform, and sustainable financing will be the pillars of progress.

The dialogues at Batho Fashion Week were a crucial step towards building a more resilient, innovative and competitive industry; one that is ready to face the challenges ahead with creativity and determination.



"I was inspired by Charma Gal's recent 'Kgosi Ya Mosadi' show where she filled Molepolole Stadium with a local lineup. It made me proud and I want to do that too."

Photo: Han-C (facebookpage)

# Han C Returns with Mahalapye Spring Fest

The multiple award-winning artist has turned this festival into a hallmark of Botswana's music calendar where local talent thrives

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

As the Springtime renewal of life returns, so too does one of Mahalapye's most anticipated events - Han C's annual Mahalapye Spring Festival.

This year's edition will place on 29 September at Seduda Lodge,

continuing the tradition of celebrating local music and community in grand style.

Multiple award-winning artist, Han C, has turned this festival into a hallmark of Botswana's music calendar where local talent thrives and fans from all over the country gather to enjoy the spirit

of the season.

## A homecoming

Han C's Spring Festival is more than just a concert - it is for many in Mahalapye. "It is a time when everyone is back home and we thought to create a space for them to hang out, meet new friends and enjoy good music," Han C told *Time Out*.

Each year, the event brings together friends, family and music lovers in a setting that celebrates the vibrant culture of Mahalapye

while showcasing the best in local talent.

This year's lineup is nothing short of stellar, featuring some of Botswana's top artists such as ATI, Eskimos, Dato Seiko, Lebgee, MMP Family and Vee Mampezy.

## Charma Gal's "Kgosi Ya Mosadi"

With a diverse mix of genres and styles, the festival promises to offer something for every music enthusiast.

For Han C, the festival is about more than just entertaining a crowd but a furtherance of local talent too. "I'm always looking to support local artists," he said.

"I was inspired by Charma Gal's recent 'Kgosi Ya Mosadi' show where she filled Molepolole Stadium with a local lineup. It made me

proud and I want to do that too."

This commitment to promoting Botswana's music industry shines through in the all-local lineup, which not only provides a platform for seasoned artists but also gives emerging talent the chance to perform on a grand stage.

## Community and collaboration

The Spring Festival is a testament to Han C's belief in the power of community and collaboration, with every artist bringing their unique flavour to the event.

With the establishment of his production company, Mantswididi Productions, in 2023, Han C took on the responsibility of curating his own shows, and the Spring Festival has evolved and gotten better with each passing year.

Reflecting on the journey, he admits that it has not always been smooth. "When we first started, there were a lot of challenges," he said. "We didn't assign specialised roles, and it slowed the process. But now, everyone is assigned a role, it is effective and amazing."

## Better organised, more seamless

These lessons have only strengthened his resolve, hence this year's festival is expected to be better organised and more seamless than before. It is a testament to his growth as an artist and an event organiser, with a focus on delivering a world-class experience to his fans.

One of the festival's greatest appeals is its accessibility. Standard tickets are available for just P100 with prices rising slightly to P150 at the gate.

This affordable pricing should ensure that everyone can join in the fun, making the festival a truly inclusive event.

# Bring Business and Creativity Together: Mmabatho Kau on Pitching to Streamers

A crucial takeaway from Kau's session was the importance of understanding the platform you're pitching to

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

For 25 years, Mmabatho Kau has navigated the world of storytelling, gaining expertise that spans continents and platforms.

Recently, Kau - who is Netflix Indonesia's Development Executive - hosted a masterclass at the Btv Auditorium in Gaborone, offering Botswana writers and producers of stories a rare glimpse into the art of pitching content to global streamers and broadcasters.

In her session, she emphasised the essential blend of business acumen and creative passion.

## Rejection is a part of it

Kau opened the masterclass by sharing her personal experience, reminding the audience that rejection is a natural part of the industry.

"When I was Head of Production in South Africa, some of my work was rejected" she said. "It made me doubt myself, but I

learned that pitching is about resilience."

Her key message? Rejection is not personal, but rather a part of the process in this competitive field.

## Knowing your platform

She explained that successful pitching requires a solid understanding of both the creative and business aspects. "As creatives, we need to realise we are also in business," she said. "It's about presenting ideas that not only captivate but also make financial sense."

A crucial takeaway from Kau's session was the importance of understanding the platform you're pitching to. "You can't go to Netflix with an action film pitch," she warned. "It's expensive, among other challenges."

"Research what the platform stands for and what they need. Netflix is keen on faith-based content right now while Showmax wants content with mass

audience appeal. SABC, on the other hand, is looking for business solutions."

**"It's about presenting ideas that not only captivate but also make financial sense."**

Kau encouraged creators to lean into their own cultural nu-

ances. "Platforms are always interested in authentic stories, so use your culture to your advantage," she said.

## Building the right environment

Beyond the creative concept, Kau urged writers and producers to create a business environment for their content. "Sometimes, it's not about chasing money because when you build something strong, investors come to you," she said.

## Global markets

"As a producer, you need to pull together resources, build a finance model, and figure out how to make your content work."

For Botswana filmmakers, Kau stressed the importance of first proving the value of their content locally. "Before you take your work internationally, understand how it's received in Botswana," she emphasised. "International platforms will always ask how

well it did at home."

Drawing examples from around the world, Kau highlighted the Korean entertainment industry's global success through their distinct K-drama format and Europe's collaborative approach to co-productions.

"There are lessons to be learned from these regions," she said. "European countries have established regional funds that allow them to co-produce with other nations, opening up opportunities for global distribution."

## Pitching with heart

"We too need to look inward and figure out how to co-produce within Africa."

For Kau, a successful pitch isn't just about presenting a product but forging an emotional connection as well. "When you pitch, it's not only about selling the project," she asserted.

"Make the people you're pitching to feel emotionally connected to the product. That emotional association can be your biggest selling point."

As the masterclass came to a close, Kau left the audience with a piece of invaluable advice: "Pitch yourself, pitch your story, and more importantly, pitch what you have to say."

# Masisi Proposes National Arts Centre

- Centre to showcase Botswana culture with tourists paying to gain access
- Pledges to make Mbungu Wa Kathimana first digitised cultural event

BONGANI MALUNGA

The government aims to build a National Arts Centre to aid commercialisation of the nation's arts and culture, President Mokgweetsi Masisi has said.

The President said this when he opened the Mbungu wa Kathimana Cultural Festival in Molembo last Saturday.

#### Profitable commodity

He noted how Botswana's rich and varied cultural festivities need

a more sustainable approach to commercialising them.

Urging cultural event organisers across the country to continue showcasing and preserving the nation's culture, he emphasised that they should look at their heritage as a profitable commodity.

He stated that he will encourage the National Arts Council of Botswana (NACOB) and the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture to accelerate their plans of building a centre where cultural sculptures, traditional attire and



cuisine will be reserved and on display and the art of pottery and basketry imparted to others.

#### Digitised

"Not this year but probably next year, we will have an area where tourists pay a fee to access the beautiful cultural displays on offer," said the President.

He undertook to ensure that be-

ginning next year, the HaMbuku-shu cultural show is digitised to ensure its growth. "The Mbungu wa Kathimana Cultural Festival is the first cultural event that we will be digitised," Masisi said.

"Please ensure that you inform us well in time before confirming the venue for next year's event so that we work hand in hand with

you to make the venue attractive in order have more people coming. A better display of your goods and artefacts will also result in more revenue for exhibitors."

#### Cultural sites

He stated that he will encourage the National Arts Council of Botswana (NACOB) and the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture to accelerate their plans of building a centre where cultural sculptures, traditional attire and cuisine will be reserved and on display and the art of pottery and basketry imparted to others.

The President added that select areas of the North West District could become cultural heritage sites. "I have dreams that can become a reality because of the powers you have vested in me," he said.

"I want to ensure that we select key areas in the region as cultural heritage sites that are profitable to the community."

## NACB Head Unveils First-Ever Fashion Industry Fund

"Creation Botswana" is designed to provide structured investments in the fashion sector by offering critical support to designers and stakeholders across the fashion value chain while the Mobility Fund ensures that artists don't fail to travel and don't miss potentially fruitful opportunities. StaffWriter **GOSEGO MOTSUMI** reports

In a groundbreaking move for Botswana's fashion industry, the National Arts Council of Botswana (NACB) announced the imminent launch of a first-of-a-kind fund called "Creation Botswana."

The fund is specially curated to provide structured investments in the fashion sector, offering critical support to designers and stakeholders across the fashion value chain.

The announcement was made by the CEO of NACB, Shombie Ellis, during the Batho Fashion Week Fashion Dialogues that took place at the headquarters of Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) in Gaborone recently.

"This is the first time we are introducing such a specialised fund for the fashion industry," she said. "Through 'Creation Botswana,' we are going to incubate fashion designers and other key players in the industry's value chain."

#### 40 incubators

Ellis stated that the initiative will begin with 40 incubators who will ultimately be narrowing down to 12 eventually. Creation Botswana is designed to directly address many of the challenges of the country's fashion industry.

"We've been conducting roadshows and engaging with industry



leaders to ensure that we structure this project in a way that truly serves the needs of the fashion community," said Ellis. "Please take advantage of this fund."

Explaining the fund further, El-

lis said that the fund is a part of a broader strategy to foster sustainability within the fashion industry.

"We're not only looking to fund the creation of beautiful garments; we are investing in the future of

the fashion industry and empowering designers to thrive in a sustainable market," she noted.

#### To elevate quality

By supporting designers through incubation and other strategic interventions, the fund aims to elevate the quality and reach of local brands within Botswana and abroad.

**"We're bringing in a resource person to look specifically at commercialisation across the sector. It is time we focused on the business side of what we do."**

"Sustainability, to us, also means ensuring access to markets," said Ellis. "Without markets, production is pointless."

Ellis acknowledged that while

the NACB appears to have ample funding, much of it is the result of resource mobilisation. She noted that the NACOB's approach to sustainability is to ensure that Botswana's creatives have access to both local and international markets.

#### Fashion as a business

"We're talking about economies of scale. We can't only focus on creating if there's no market for these creations," she said, reinforcing the idea that fashion must be treated as a business and not just an artistic endeavour. In addition, Ellis highlighted NACB's "Mobility Fund" for covering artists' travel costs to engagements and other opportunities that they would otherwise miss due to financial constraints.

"We realised that a lack of funds was limiting our creatives from accessing valuable opportunities, and the Mobility Fund is our response to that," Ellis stated.

#### Commercialisation

She emphasised the importance of commercialisation of Botswana's creative industry. "This year, we're bringing in a resource person to look specifically at commercialisation across the sector," Ellis said. "It is time we focused on the business side of what we do."

Her message was clear: passion alone will not sustain Botswana's fashion industry. For the sector to thrive, it must operate like a business invested in its long-term commercial success and sustainability.

# HOUSES FOR RENT IN G-NORTH

- 3-bedroom apartments with a garage as well as master bedroom + an ensuite. Gated, electric fence, WUC water and sewerage + kitchen fittings and movable wardrobes -P4 750.
- A 3 bedroomed budget house is available for occupation in Gaborone North. Maximum security - fenced & gated. Septic tank (for sewer) and water tank. 1st turn after Phakalane robots. Inside is partially paved. -P3500

**Contacts-71870023/393 9435**



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA  
HELD AT LOBATSE (Before Garekwe J.)**

**CASE NO. CVHGB-000016-21**

In the matter between:  
**FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED**  
and  
**EMMANUEL RATSELA NAKEDI  
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS (PTY) LTD**

**PLAINTIFF  
1<sup>ST</sup> DEFENDANT  
2<sup>ND</sup> DEFENDANT**

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**NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION**

**BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT** pursuant to a Judgement granted by the above Honourable Court on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020, the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff DITIRO PRIGER GABOBAKWE** as follows:

**DATE OF SALE** : 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
**TIME OF SALE** : 1030 hours  
**PLACE OF SALE** : Tribal Lot 4782, Tlokweng  
**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD** : Piece of land being Tribal Lot 4782, Tlokweng in the Batlokwa Tribal Territory, measuring 869 m<sup>2</sup> (Eight Hundred and Sixty-Nine Square Metres) held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. TL 1396 / 2010 dated 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2010 made in favour of **EMMANUEL RATSELA NAKEDI**, situate in the Tlokweng Tribal Territory together with some developments comprising of 3 bedroomed house with master in-suites, 2 bedroomed house both bath, sitting room, fitted kitchen, both with aircons, paved, screen wall, electric fence and motorised gate and garage.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** : Cash or bank guaranteed cheque otherwise details and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriff's office situated at Plot 6193, Unit 4 Broadhurst Industrial, Gaborone, contact No. 72901534 / 73900288.

**DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2024.**

**DEPUTY SHERIFF DITIRO PRIGER GABOBAKWE  
C/O MOTSUMI ATTORNEYS  
Plaintiff's Attorneys  
Plot 64268/9, Block 3 Industrial  
Gaborone  
P O Box 550370  
MOGODITSHANE  
TEL: 3113863  
FAX: 3113865  
Email: admin@motsumiattorneys.co.bw**

**MOGOMOTSI J.  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA  
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN**

**CASE NO: CVHFT 000 287/24**

In the matter between:  
**FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED**  
And  
**GOLEBAONE KABOTHO**  
In re:

**APPLICANT  
RESPONDENT  
CASE No. CVHFT 000 287/24  
PLAINTIFF  
DEFENDANT**

---

**SUBSTITUTED SERVICE**

**TO: GOLEBAONE KABOTHO**  
Respondent  
Plot 05145, Mmopane  
**MMOPANE**

**formerly residing at Plot 05145, Mmopane** but whose present whereabouts are unknown that by summons issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within **Twenty One (21) days** after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o M Mmohe ATTORNEYS** (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** claims:-

- Payment of the sum of **P45 087.30**;
- Interest at the rate of 24.76% per annum from 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024 to the date of payment;
- 10% collection commission in the event of paying the amount in installment; and
- Costs of the suit at attorney and own client.

**TAKE NOTICE FURTHER** that if you fail to give such notice, judgment may be granted against you without further reference to you.

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024**

 **DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER  
M MMOHE ATTORNEYS**  
Applicant's Attorneys  
Plot 3936, Peolwane Street, Minestone  
P.O. Box 1860, **FRANCISTOWN**

**MATHAKA J.  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA  
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN**

**CASE NO: CVHFT 000 316/24**

In the matter between:  
**FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED**  
And  
**ODIRILE MATHABATHE**  
In re:

**APPLICANT  
RESPONDENT  
CASE No. CVHFT 000 316/24  
PLAINTIFF  
DEFENDANT**

---

**SUBSTITUTED SERVICE**

**TO: ODIRILE MATHABATHE**  
Respondent  
Kgosing Ward  
**METSIMOTLHABE**

**formerly residing at Kgosing Ward, Metsimotlhabe** but whose present whereabouts are unknown that by summons issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within **Twenty One (21) days** after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o M Mmohe ATTORNEYS** (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** claims:-

- Payment of the sum of **P46 023.97**;
- Interest at the rate of 23.62% per annum from 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024 to the date of payment;
- 10% collection commission in the event of paying the amount in installment; and
- Costs of the suit at attorney and own client.

**TAKE NOTICE FURTHER** that if you fail to give such notice, judgment may be granted against you without further reference to you.

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024**

 **DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER  
M MMOHE ATTORNEYS**  
Applicant's Attorneys  
Plot 3936, Peolwane Street, Minestone  
P.O. Box 1860, **FRANCISTOWN**

**MOGOMOTSI J.  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA  
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN**

**CASE NO: CVHFT 000 238/24**

In the matter between:  
**FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED**  
And  
**STEPHEN VOLKER**  
In re:

**APPLICANT  
RESPONDENT  
CASE No. CVHFT 000 238/24  
PLAINTIFF  
DEFENDANT**

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**SUBSTITUTED SERVICE**

**TO: STEPHEN VOLKER**  
Respondent  
Plot 14956, Village  
**GABORONE**

**formerly residing at Plot 14956, Village, Gaborone** but whose present whereabouts are unknown that by summons issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within **Twenty One (21) days** after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o M Mmohe ATTORNEYS** (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** claims:-

- Payment of the sum of **P78 312.83**;
- Interest at the rate of 22.76% per annum from 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024 to the date of payment;
- 10% collection commission in the event of paying the amount in installment; and
- Costs of the suit at attorney and own client.

**TAKE NOTICE FURTHER** that if you fail to give such notice, judgment may be granted against you without further reference to you.

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024**

 **DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER  
M MMOHE ATTORNEYS**  
Applicant's Attorneys  
Plot 3936, Peolwane Street, Minestone  
P.O. Box 1860, **FRANCISTOWN**

## APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPY OF TITLE DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. **1/1984** registered on the **25<sup>th</sup>** day of **January 1984** in favour of **NGAMILAND STATIONERS AND BOOKSHOP PROPRIETARY LIMITED** in respect of the following property:

**CERTAIN** : Piece of land being Tribal Lot 96 Maun  
**SITUATE** : at Maun in the Batawana Tribal Territory  
**MEASURING** : 1124m<sup>2</sup> (One Thousand One Hundred and Twenty Four Square Metres);

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within twenty-one (21) days of the last publication of this notice.

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.**

**M M M O H E**  
**A T T O R N E Y S**  
 ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street  
 Minestone  
 P.O. Box 1860  
 FRANCISTOWN  
 Telephone No. 2441616

## APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPY OF TITLE DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed of Deed of Transfer No. **286/1977** registered on the **16<sup>th</sup>** day of **September 1977** in favour of **FRANCISTOWN STATIONERS & BOOK SHOP PROPRIETARY LIMITED** in respect of the following property:

**CERTAIN** : piece of land being Lot 482 Francistown.  
**SITUATE** : in the Francistown District,  
**MEASURING** : 697m<sup>2</sup> (Six Hundred and Ninety Seven Square Metres),

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within twenty-one (21) days of the last publication of this notice.

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.**

**M M M O H E**  
**A T T O R N E Y S**  
 ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street  
 Minestone  
 P.O. Box 1860  
 FRANCISTOWN  
 Telephone No. 2441616

**NYAMADZABO J**  
**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**  
**HELD AT GABORONE**

In the matter between:  
**DENNIS TLAANG**

And  
**LEUNGO DENNIS (nee MAPHANYANE)**  
**EMILE MAPHANYANE**

In re:  
**DENNIS TLAANG**

And  
**LEUNGO DENNIS (nee MAPHANYANE)**

**CASE NO: MLHGB -000509-21**

**Applicant**

**1<sup>st</sup> Respondent**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Respondent**

**Plaintiff**

**Defendant**

### NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

**BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE** that pursuant to the judgment granted by the above Honourable Court the Defendant's property will be sold by public auction by **Deputy Sheriff Onkgopotse Motlhagodi** or his Assistant to the highest bidder as follows:

**DATE OF SALE** : 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
**TIME** : 10:30 a.m.  
**VENUE** : Tribal Lot 20, Mmashoro

**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD** : A certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 20, Mmashoro situate at Mmashoro in the Ngwato Tribal Territory, measuring 30.7402 Ha (Thirty Point Seven Four Zero Two Hectares) held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 772/2005 dated 20th day of December 2005 made in favour of Emile Maphanyane together with some developments being two boreholes with power connected.

**TERMS OF SALE** : Cash or Bank guaranteed cheques. Conditions of Sale are available for inspection at Deputy Sheriff's office or Plaintiff's Attorneys

**DATED AT GABORONE THIS 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2024.**

**DEPUTY SHERIFF ONKGOPOTSE MOTLHAGODI OR HIS ASSISTANT (75284049) C/o KATSE ATTORNEYS (3903258) Plaintiff's Attorneys, Plot No. 21244, P. O. Box 201018 GABORONE**

## APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPY OF TITLE DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed of Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. **31/1983** registered on the **25<sup>th</sup>** day of **January 1983** in favour of **SWAP INVESTMENTS PROPRIETARY LIMITED** in respect of the following property:

**CERTAIN** : Piece of land being Lot 6143 Francistown (Portion of Lot 6135, Francistown)  
**SITUATE** : in the Francistown Administrative District,  
**MEASURING** : 1779m<sup>2</sup> (One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Nine Square Metres);

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within twenty-one (21) days of the last publication of this notice.

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.**

**M M M O H E**  
**A T T O R N E Y S**  
 ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street  
 Minestone  
 P.O. Box 1860  
 FRANCISTOWN  
 Telephone No. 2441616

## APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPY OF TITLE DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed of Notarial Deed of Cession of Lease No. FT MA **193/2007** registered on the **1<sup>st</sup>** day of **November 2007** in favour of **FRANCISTOWN STATIONERS & BOOK SHOP PROPRIETARY LIMITED** in respect of the following property:

**CERTAIN** : piece of land being Tribal Lot 693 Maun;  
**SITUATE** : at Maun Village in the Batawana Tribal Territory;  
**MEASURING** : 588m<sup>2</sup> (Five Hundred and Eighty Eight Square Metres);

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within twenty-one (21) days of the last publication of this notice.

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.**

**M M M O H E**  
**A T T O R N E Y S**  
 ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street  
 Minestone  
 P.O. Box 1860  
 FRANCISTOWN  
 Telephone No. 2441616

## APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPY OF TITLE DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed of Deed of Transfer No. **2337/2002** registered on the **16<sup>th</sup>** day of **September 2002** in favour of **FRANCISTOWN STATIONERS & BOOK SHOP PROPRIETARY LIMITED** in respect of the following property:

**CERTAIN** : piece of land being Lot 28360 Gaborone  
**SITUATE** : in Gaborone West Extension 32  
**MEASURING** : 405m<sup>2</sup> (Four Hundred and Five Square Metres);

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within twenty-one (21) days of the last publication of this notice.

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.**

**M M M O H E**  
**A T T O R N E Y S**  
 ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street  
 Minestone  
 P.O. Box 1860  
 FRANCISTOWN  
 Telephone No. 2441616

## APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPY OF TITLE DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed of Deed of Transfer No. **52/1984** registered on the **6<sup>th</sup>** day of **February 1984** in favour of **SWAP INVESTMENTS PROPRIETARY LIMITED** in respect of the following property:

**CERTAIN** : piece of land being Lot 2575 Extension No.3 Selebi Phikwe.  
**SITUATE** : in Selebi Phikwe Extension No.3  
**MEASURING** : 648m<sup>2</sup> (Six Hundred and Forty Eight Square Metres);

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within twenty-one (21) days of the last publication of this notice.

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.**

**M M M O H E**  
**A T T O R N E Y S**  
 ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street  
 Minestone  
 P.O. Box 1860  
 FRANCISTOWN  
 Telephone No. 2441616

## APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPY OF TITLE DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed of Transfer No. **2284/2002** registered on the **9<sup>th</sup>** day of **September 2002** in favour of **FRANCISTOWN STATIONERS & BOOK SHOP PROPRIETARY LIMITED** in respect of the following property:

**CERTAIN** : Piece of land being Lot 13198 Gaborone  
**SITUATE** : in Gaborone Township Extension 42  
**MEASURING** : 690m<sup>2</sup> (Six Hundred and Ninety Square Metres);

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within twenty-one (21) days of the last publication of this notice.

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.**

**M M M O H E**  
**A T T O R N E Y S**  
 ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street  
 Minestone  
 P.O. Box 1860  
 FRANCISTOWN  
 Telephone No. 2441616

# BT TA To Host Thrilling Table Tennis Grand Finale



- Table tennis spectacular is sponsored by Phoenix to the tune of P40,000
- Entry to this year's Annual Independence Grand Finale free

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Table Tennis Association (BT TA) is poised to host its Annual Independence Grand Finale 2024, a hallmark event on the nation's sports calendar.

Scheduled for September 30 at Botho University Multi-Purpose Hall in Gaborone, the competition promises to be a high-level table tennis spectacular, drawing participants from across the country.

This year's Grand Finale, sponsored by Phoenix of Botswana Assurance, offers a total prize pool of P40,000 to ensure fierce competition among both senior and junior players.

## Continental Hopes Week

The event is set to attract the nation's top talent, with every participant eager to claim top honours. In a generous gesture of appreciation, BT TA has announced that entry to this year's event will be free for spectators.

It considers the decision a nod to the dedicated fans and players who have supported table tennis steadfastly throughout the year.

The free admission is also in celebration of BT TA's successful hosting of the Africa Youth Championships 2024 and the Continental Hopes Week and Challenge earlier in the year.

## Progress and achievements

BT TA president Kudzanani Motswagole is excited about the

upcoming event and has emphasised the organisation's ongoing efforts to elevate the sport in Botswana.

"This event is not just a competition; it's a celebration of our progress and achievements as the table tennis community," he said in a statement.

"We are thrilled to have Phoenix Assurance Botswana on board as our sponsor and look forward to an unforgettable day of high-level table tennis."

"We are thrilled to have Phoenix Assurance Botswana on board as our sponsor and look forward to an unforgettable day of high-level table tennis."

Kudzanani Motswagole

Assurance Botswana on board as our sponsor and look forward to an unforgettable day of high-level table tennis."

## A must-attend

As the date approaches, anticipation is mounting and BT TA is leaving no stone unturned in ensuring a smooth execution of the event, which is expected to be a

highlight in Botswana's sports calendar.

With significant prize money at stake and a chance for spectators to witness top-tier table tennis, the Annual Independence Grand Finale 2024 is shaping up to be a must-attend for sports enthusiasts

# Stanbic Pledges P304,800 To Morupule CEO Annual Cycling Challenge

- Latest pledge part of a 3-year commitment that totals P914,400
- Stanbic has contributed nearly P2 million to the event over 14 years



GAZETTE REPORTER

In a significant show of continued support, Stanbic Bank Botswana has pledged P304,000 to the 2024 Morupule Coal Mine (MCM) CEO Annual Cycling Challenge.

This latest contribution is part of a three-year commitment that totals P914,400.00, underscoring the bank's ongoing dedication to fostering health, wellness and community development across Botswana.

Over the past 14 years, Stanbic has contributed nearly P2 million to this esteemed event, making it a cornerstone of the bank's broader efforts to pro-

mote social responsibility and community engagement.

## Long-standing partnership

Widely recognised for its positive impact on local communities, the annual cycling challenge is a testament to the long-standing partnership between Stanbic Bank and Morupule Coal Mine.

Together they have worked tirelessly to support local charities and initiatives that uplift the most vulnerable members of society.

Stanbic Bank Botswana's Head of Business and Commercial Banking, Lesego Osman, emphasised the importance of this partnership in a recent statement.

## Community spirit

"We are immensely proud to continue our support of the Morupule Coal Mine CEO Annual Cycling Challenge, an event that has become a true beacon of community spirit and resilience in Botswana," he said.

"Beyond promoting health and well-being, this challenge represents a collective effort to uplift our communities and support meaningful causes that directly impact the lives of many.

"Our continued commitment to this initiative reflects our core belief that 'Botswana is Our Home, and We Drive her Growth.'

## Solar panels

"We remain dedicated to making a positive, lasting difference where it matters most – within our local communities, creating opportunities for development and prosperity for all."

The impact of the event and the support it garners extends beyond the race itself. In 2023, proceeds from the cycling challenge were used to instal solar panels at the Cheshire Foundation in Palapye, thus highlighting Stanbic's focus on sustainability and practical, impactful initiatives.

Because Stanbic Bank Botswana takes its commitment to social responsibility seriously, Osman emphasised the reaffirmation of

the commitment that the pledge represents.

## Rehabilitation and education

"Stanbic Bank Botswana remains dedicated to driving positive change in Botswana and is excited to see the continued impact of the MCM CEO Annual Cycling Challenge in the years to come," he said.

Meanwhile, the Cheshire Foundation - with locations in Palapye and Mogoditshane - is a charitable organisation dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities.

It provides essential services such as rehabilitation, education, vocational training and community-based support programmes.

## Physical and intellectual disabilities

The Foundation's work is crucial in helping people with physical and intellectual disabilities live independently and integrate fully into society.

By advocating for the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities, the Cheshire Foundation ensures that they have equal opportunities and access to resources within their communities.

The support from Stanbic Bank Botswana and other partners is vital to the Cheshire Foundation's ability to continue its mission.



**FNB**  
Premiership

# Chencha Game

	<b>Gaborone United</b>	3:30 pm National Stadium	<b>Township Rollers</b>	
	<b>Orapa United</b>	3:30 pm Itekeng Stadium	<b>Chadibe FC</b>	
	<b>BDF XI</b>	7:00 pm BIAC Stadium	<b>Matebele FC</b>	
	<b>Morupule Wanderers</b>	3:30 pm Palapye Stadium	<b>Mochudi Centre Chiefs</b>	
	<b>TAFIC FC</b>	3:30 pm Lobatse Sports Complex	<b>Nico United</b>	
	<b>Extension Gunners</b>	3:30 pm Lobatse Sports Complex	<b>Sua Flamingoes</b>	
	<b>Security Systems</b>	3:30 pm Lobatse Sports Complex	<b>Flamengo Santos</b>	
	<b>VTM FC</b>	3:30 pm VTM Arena	<b>Jwaneng Galaxy</b>	

Saturday, 21 & Sunday, 22 September



- Spokesman says they are ready to overcome Pirates "revenge mentality"
- Galaxy won an intense penalty shootout 5-4 victorious in last encounter
- Spokesman says Pirates must fall because they stand between Galaxy and CAF group stages

# Galaxy Brace for SA's Pirates' Revenge in CAF Champions Fixture



TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

**J**waneng Galaxy is preparing for a fierce showdown with South Africa's Orlando Pirates in the first leg of the CAF Champions League second preliminary round that is set for 4pm at the National Stadium in Gaborone on 14 September 14.

The match is expected to draw intense interest as both teams rekindle their rivalry from last year's competition.

Galaxy etched their name into the annals of African football history when they eliminated Orlando Pirates in the same stage of last year's CAF Champions League.

### High-stakes encounter

The tie ended 1-1 after two legs, forcing a nerve-wrecking penalty shootout in which Galaxy emerged victorious with a 5-4

scoreline. The stakes are just as high, if not higher, this year with Pirates certainly seeking revenge.

"We are expecting them to come with a revenge mentality," said Galaxy spokesman Tankiso Morake in a telephone interview. "They will do everything they can to win and make up for last year's result."

"But we are ready for them.

Our players are fit and focused because they understand the importance of this game. Our target is to qualify for the group stages of this competition, and we have to eliminate Pirates to do that."

### Injury-free

Preparation for the upcoming match has been thorough, both on and off the field. Morake is happy with Galaxy's training sessions,

saying they are "smooth" and "meticulous" and that the squad is injury-free.

Some of the players have been on national duty and were expected to rejoin the team today (Wednesday) to ensure a full-strength side for the crucial encounter.

Sales of tickets to the epic fixture are ongoing and will close on

Friday to make way for security arrangements. "We are taking the issue of tickets very seriously," Morake said. "All tickets will be scanned at the stadium to prevent use of fakes."

### Tickets to be scanned for fakery

But inspite their confidence in their preparations, Galaxy remains wary of the formidable challenge that Orlando Pirates poses. "We acknowledge that Pirates are a big team with a rich history," Morake noted.

"They (Orlando Pirates) are well-followed, not just in South Africa but across the continent. Infact, they might even have a larger following here in Botswana than we do. We are fully aware of the threat they pose."

"They are well-followed, not just in South Africa but across the continent. Infact, they might even have a larger following here in Botswana than we do. We are fully aware of the threat they pose."

# Botswana Tennis Wunderkinds In Morocco for African Junior Championship

For BTA, the experience will have more premium than trophies from the tourney that will feature top young players aged 14 and less from across the African continent slugging it out in clay courts. StaffWriter **TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO** reports

**T**he Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) has selected two of its rising stars, Malak Macheng and Tinashe Phatshwane, to represent the country at the prestigious African Junior Championship in Morocco.

Scheduled to take place from 11 to 16 September 2024, the tournament is organised by the Confederation of African Tennis in collaboration with the International Tennis Federation and the Federation Royale Marocaine de Tennis.

The event will feature top young players from across the continent, with boys and girls aged 14 and under competing in clay courts.

### Crucial platform

Expressing confidence in the two, the Director of Marketing

and Communications at BTA, Tshepang Tlshankane, said in a telephone interview: "They've been working tirelessly in preparation for this tournament."

"This is one of the most important continental tournaments in tennis. Obviously, we would like to have a podium finish but we also don't want to put the kids under too much pressure."

The African Junior Championship in Clay Court (AJCCC) is regarded as a crucial platform for young players to showcase their skills and gain valuable international experience.

### Mental toughness

Macheng and Phatshwane have been training rigorously in the lead-up to the event, focusing on refining their technique and mental toughness as key components for success in the clay courts of

Morocco.

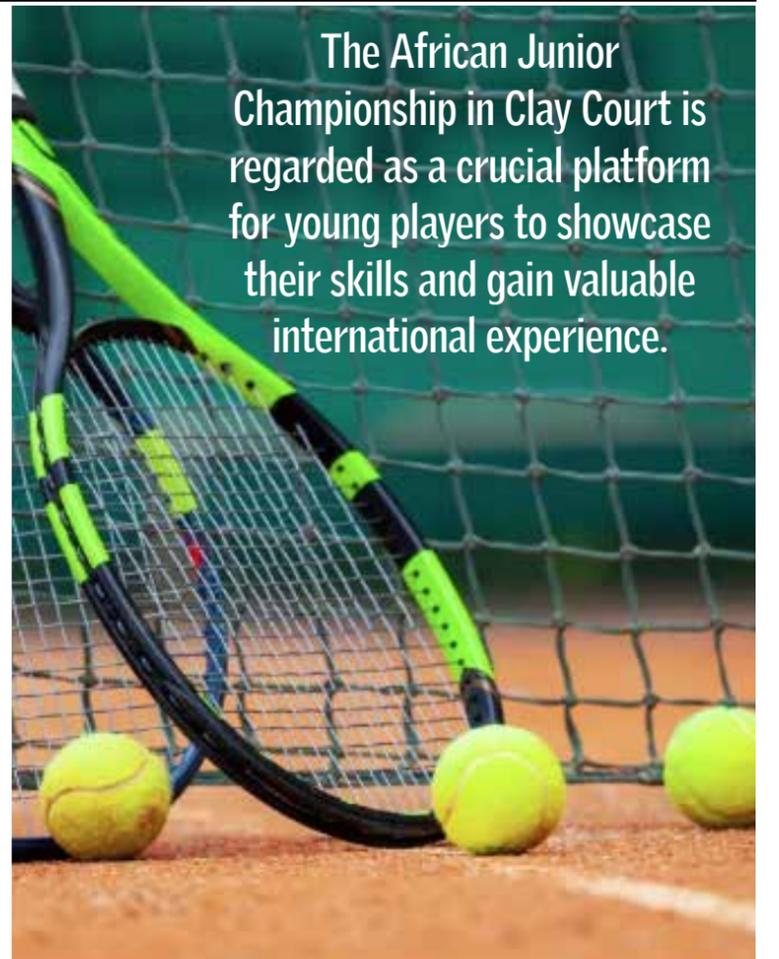
Tlshankane emphasised that while a podium finish would be ideal, the primary goal is to ensure that the players gain experience at this level of competition.

"The idea is to have a podium finish regardless of position," he said. "But if that fails, our kids will gain the experience needed to compete in such events in the future."

### Costly endeavours

But BTA faces challenges in funding international tournaments, sending players abroad being a costly endeavour. "We host a lot more than we send players out because it is expensive to travel for tournaments, which the Association has to fund if it is a national duty," he said.

Despite these challenges, BTA remains committed to provid-



ing its young athletes with opportunities to compete on the international stage. Macheng and Phatshwane's participation in the AJCCC reflects dedication to nurturing and developing Botswana's tennis talent.

As the two young athletes prepare to take on some of Africa's best junior players, they carry the hopes and dreams of a nation ea-

ger to see its sports stars shine on the global stage.

"Whether or not they bring home a medal, the experience they'll gain is invaluable," Tlshankane emphasised. "This is just the beginning of what we hope will be long and successful careers in tennis for Malak and Tinashe."

# Tebogo to Lead Botswana's Charge at Diamond League Finals in Brussels

As the world eagerly awaits the Diamond League Finals, Botswana's athletes - led by Tebogo, Ndori and Masalela - are aiming to deliver performances that will resonate far beyond Brussels and reinforce their status as some of the finest athletes on the global stage.

Staff Writer **TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO**

reports

**R**eigning Olympic 200m champion Letsile Tebogo has secured his spot in the 2024 Diamond League Finals that will be held in Brussels, Belgium on 13 to 14 September.

Tebogo - who has dominated the 200m this season - heads into the finals ranked second overall in the standings, amassing 32 points from three races.

The final will see him face familiar adversaries, among Americans Kenneth Bednarek and Erriyon Knighton, in what promises to be a thrilling showdown.

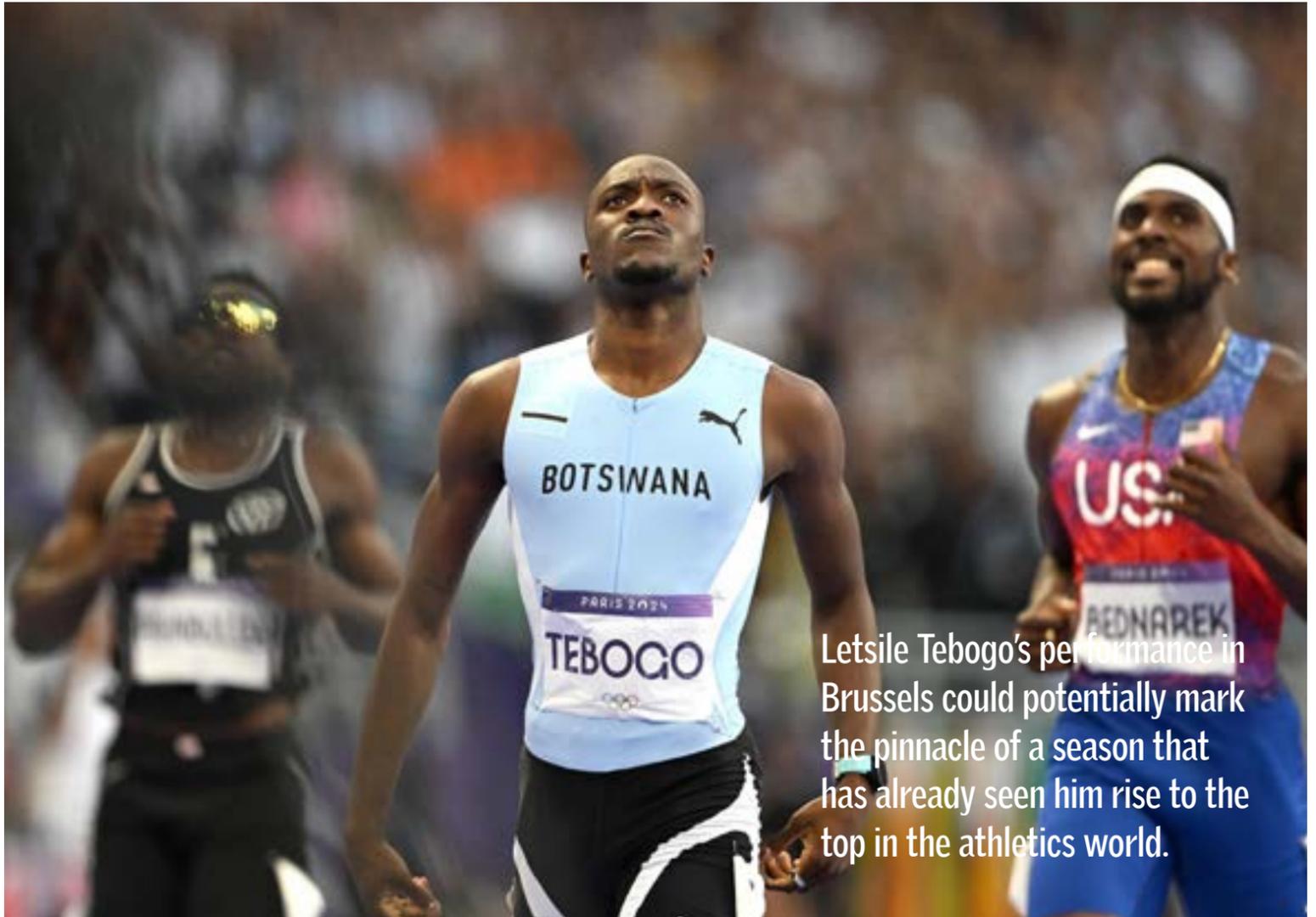
#### **Tebogo the man to beat**

Tebogo's remarkable 2024 season has seen him win six consecutive 200m races between 7 August and 8 September, including his Olympic triumph in Paris where he clocked an astounding 19.46s.

This consistency has placed him among the top contenders for the Diamond League title, with his rivals well aware of the formidable challenge he presents.

Bednarek, who finished behind Tebogo to claim silver at the Olympics, holds a season-best (SB) of 19.57s. Knighton, another American sprinter, boasts an SB of 19.77s, making them serious contenders for the top spot in Brussels.

While the competition is fierce, Tebogo's current form has made him the man to beat.



Letsile Tebogo's performance in Brussels could potentially mark the pinnacle of a season that has already seen him rise to the top in the athletics world.

#### **Clear focus on the 200m**

The stakes are high for Botswana's wing-footed athlete for whom a victory in Brussels would simultaneously cement his status as the world's premier 200m runner and earn him the prestigious Diamond Trophy and a \$30,000 prize (approximately P400,000).

With his eyes set on the prize, all attention will be on the 21-year-old who aims to cap off an extraordinary season with a Diamond League win.

While Tebogo's participation in the 100m (where he is currently ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the standings) was uncertain at the time of going to press, his focus on the 200m is clear.

#### **The Brussels pinnacle**

His performance in Brussels could potentially mark the pinnacle of a season that has already seen him rise to the top in the athletics world. The 200m will take place on 14 September.

But Botswana's hopes in Brussels are not solely pinned on Te-

bogo. Bayapo Ndori, who won a silver medal in the 4x400m relay at the Paris Olympics, has also qualified for the finals in the 400m.

Ndori, with 20 points after five races and an SB of 44.10s, will face stiff competition from the likes of Zambia's Muzala Samukonga and the USA's Quincy Hall.

#### **Masalela aims for his mark**

Samukonga finished third in the Paris 400m final and has an SB of 43.74s while Hall, the 2024 Olympic champion, leads the field with an SB of 43.40s. Ndori will need to deliver a career-best performance to stand a chance against such formidable opponents.

Another Botswana athlete to watch in Brussels is Tshepiso Masalela, who will compete in the 800m race. Masalela, who has an SB of 1:42.82s, will line up against Olympic gold medalist Emmanuel Wanyonyi of Kenya, who won in Paris with a time of

1:41.19s, and Canada's Marco Arop, who clocked 1:41.20s for the silver.

The 800m final promises to be a fiercely contested race, with Masalela hoping to make his mark on the international stage.

#### **A centrepiece**

Originally known as the IAAF Golden League, the Diamond League Finals in Brussels have been a centrepiece of the global track and field calendar since their inception in 2010.

After partnering with the Wanda Group, the event was re-branded as the Wanda Diamond League, with the Brussels meet playing a crucial role in expanding the sport's global reach.

Over the years, the Brussels Diamond League has witnessed some of the most exhilarating performances in athletics history. In 2011, Usain Bolt electrified the crowd with a 9.76-second run in the 100m, leaving an indelible mark on the meet.

Other legendary athletes like

Yohan Blake, Butch Reynolds, Michael Cherry, Aries Merritt, and Andre Phillips have also delivered memorable performances in Brussels, further enhancing the event's prestige.

#### **15 events**

The 2024 edition of the Brussels Diamond League will feature 15 events, including the 100m, the 200m, the 400m, long jump and pole vault.

The meet will also showcase the triple jump, high jump, discus, shotput, javelin, and a host of other events across both men's and women's categories, ensuring a thrilling spectacle for athletics fans worldwide.

As the world eagerly awaits the Diamond League Finals, Botswana's athletes - led by Tebogo, Ndori and Masalela - are aiming to deliver performances that will resonate far beyond Brussels and reinforce their status as some of the finest athletes on the global stage.