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FNBB IN P25M MESS

- Allegedly ill-treated and assaulted client wants FNBB to account
- Says he was imprisoned for an FNB loan he long settled
- Bank failed to update its records and client's debt portfolio
- Client rejects bank's out of court settlement bid
- Trial continues today in court

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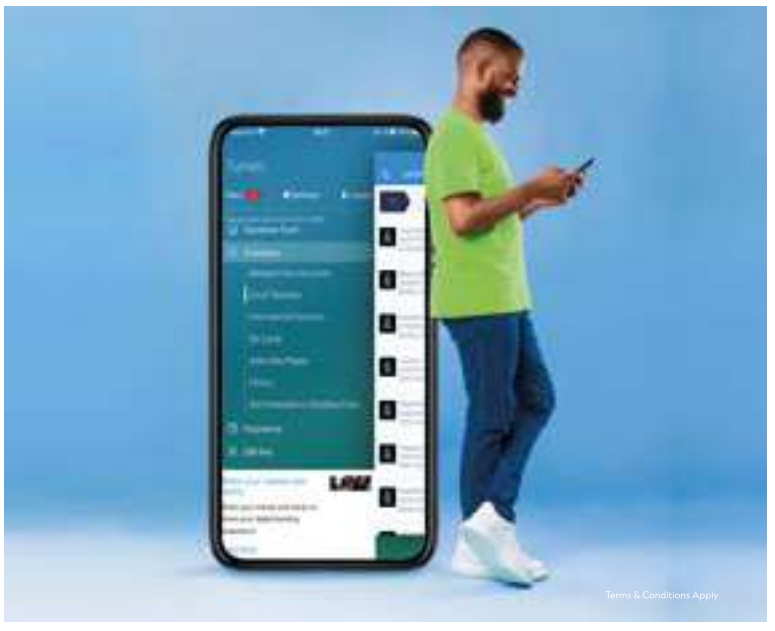
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FNBB IN P25M MESS

- Allegedly ill-treated and assaulted client wants FNBB to account
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GAZETTE REPORTERS

First National Bank of Botswana (FNBB) finds itself in a messy legal tussle in which a client, Moses Boarekwe Moses, has taken it to court for alleged injustices that he says he has suffered as a result of the bank's recklessness.

Moses says he was persecuted and prosecuted over a loan facility that he had long settled. He has slapped FNBB with a P25 million suit following a collapsed out of court settlement bid by the bank.

The case, according to court documents that this publication obtained, is that on or about June 2010, Moses entered into a personal loan agreement with FNBB for a loan amount of P150,000 that he later struggled to service. Consequent to that, FNBB issued a Writ of Summons through the High Court, claiming payment of P105,670 as the outstanding capital loan balance. Moses moved swiftly to settle the bill, a deposit which he says FNBB neglected to capture, to his detriment.

"It follows that, rather unfortunately, FNBB refused, omitted, neglected and/or failed to advise its lawyers to stop the lawsuit for the cleared personal loan account and/or failed to update its records and/or Plaintiff's debt portfolio to reflect the aforesaid Loan Account Deposits Payments, and, as a result, the Loan Account Deposits slips were not captured in Plaintiff's loan account statement, and this resulted in the Plaintiff's loan account reflecting a false and incorrect capital loan balance of P105,670 despite Plaintiff having made two Loan Account Deposits in total of P110,302 for the purpose of clearing arrears and closure of the Loan Account No. 4000001284307," reads the plaintiff's papers.

"Furthermore, despite Plaintiff's loan deposits into the Loan Account, 1st Defendant nonetheless proceeded to unlawfully and maliciously obtain Judgment against Plaintiff in the capital sum of P105, 670 together with interest and costs of suit – on 6th November 2015, when the Plaintiff had already made the Loan Account Deposits on the 25th November 2011 and 5th January 2012."

Following the writ, a Warrant of Execution for Imprisonment of Debt was issued against Plaintiff on 3rd March 2017 and, 1stDefendant's Attorneys subsequently instructed 2nd Defendant to execute the said Warrant by virtue of a memo dated 9th November 2017, according to court papers. The incidents that preceded the arrest were assault, hostility and brutality which were later followed by a week-long unlawful imprisonment.

Court records show that Moses was incarcerated at Gaborone Maximum Security Prison from 4th June 2018 to 8th June 2018, being a period amounting to five days, before being released by FNBB. Following that ordeal, the plaintiff reached out to the bank which later offered a settlement fee of P75 000 which was rejected by the plaintiff.

In a letter to the plaintiff, the bank's Chief Executive Officer, Steven Bogatsu, said: "I have carefully considered the issues raised by you, both at our meeting and in your letter under reply. Having considered all the facts and issues raised, I am of the view that the without prejudice settlement offer extended to you by the bank is, holistically a fair and reasonable offer. As a result, whilst the bank sincerely regrets your incident and whilst the bank remains committed to the achievement of an amicable resolution to the issues, I believe that in all the circumstances, the without prejudice offer made to you by the bank, is one which accords with the applicable Botswana legal framework and principles. I thus implore you to reconsider the bank's offer with a view to accepting same accordingly."

Moses rejected the offer and instead took the bank to court and now demands P25 million for assault, undignified treatment and medical conditions. The case is before Justice Omphemetse Motumise of Gaborone High court for a three-day trial which commenced yesterday (Tuesday). The bank is represented by Armstrongs Attorneys while the plaintiff is represented by Sikhumbuzo Masuku of Masuku legal firm.

Only P24m remains in COVID-19 Relief Fund

- Total COVID-19 contributions amounted to P3 billion
- P1.7 billion used to strengthen healthcare

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

The government's COVID-19 Relief Fund has less than P30 million left, ***The Botswana Gazette*** has established.

While most ministries are yet to submit their actual expenditures, Parliament has heard that over P1.7 billion was used to strengthen Botswana's healthcare system between February 2020 and March this year.

The Assistant Minister of Health and Wellness, Sethomo Lelatisitswe, told the House that P462 million out of P486 million is the remaining budget for the Industry Support Facility while P24 million is the general balance of the fund.

He said as at 14 March 2022, the fund had received over P3 billion through various contributions with government's capital at over P2 billion, payroll contribution at P10.8 million, donations at P128 million and Industry Support Facility at 1.3 billion.

"Structurally the fund was administered by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development while the finance minister is responsible for management of the fund through the appointed management committee," Lelatisitswe noted.

He stated that a significant portion of the funds allocated to his ministry was spent on procuring vaccines.

"P46 million was paid from the COVID-19 Relief Fund by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development as 30% upfront payment for the purchase of the Moderna vaccine on May 17, 2021," he said. "The other 30% was paid directly by the Ministry of Health and Wellness under the COVID-19 Relief Recurrent Vote, while the remaining 40% of the cost was paid by Debswana."

Lelatisitswe was answering a question from the MP for Mahalapye West, David Tshere, who had asked for an update on the amount that the government spent procuring vaccines from the COVID-19 Relief Fund thus far.

Tshere also wanted to know how much was budgeted for upgrading and capacitation of the public healthcare sector as well as the amount that the government had spent so far in the fight against COVID-19, including on Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), direct awards of tenders for other medical supplies and vaccines.

The Mahalapye West legislator wanted to know how much was held in the COVID-19 Relief Fund (balance) and when Botswana first placed its orders for vaccines, including from the COVAX Facility.



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President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi officiates the launch of Nant Botswana by cutting a ribbon in Gaborone on 28 March 2022. (Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

Mogoditshane Land Grab Scandal Deepens

- Kweneng Land Board to take back plots allocated in crude barter deal
- Politicians and lawyers benefitted hugely from controversial arrangement
- 38 land board workers implicated
- Gov't takes legal advice to stem tide of lawsuits

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

Kweneng Land Board has resolved to revoke all transactions made by Mogoditshane Sub-Land Board through its compensation in-kind arrangement made in 2019 because it was illegal, The Botswana Gazette has established.

The cancellation of this arrangement will see hundreds of people lose their plots despite holding valid title deeds while several land board officers implicated in the controversial deal have lost their jobs.

The Chairman of Kweneng Land Board, Kgang Kgang, told a press conference in Molepolole on Thursday that the in-kind compensation policy that was adopted by Mogoditshane Sub-Land Board was illegal and contravened the Tribal Land Act. The arrangement was a Mogoditshane Sub-Land Board idea to attract field owners to surrender their fields in exchange for six residential plots irrespective of the size of the field. These plots are around Mogoditshane Block 9 and Ledumadumane.

"The land board has since issued a show-cause-why notice to third parties whose rights will be affected by cancellation of transactions under consideration," Kgang said. "We have invited the affected parties to appear before the board to give them an opportunity to say why their title should not be cancelled."

He stated that the arrangement created serious loopholes within the land allocation system that resulted in corrupt land officers acquiring fields through dubious means through it.

The Botswana Gazette is informed that 38 land board officers are implicated in the illegal land grabbing and that some of them have been dismissed whilst others have been transferred to other land boards outside Kweneng. The corruption allegations are under investigation by the DCEC.

Sources say prominent lawyers and politicians are among the beneficiaries of the controversial compensation in-kind deal of Mogoditshane Sub-Land Board and that some of the politicians own more than eight residential plots.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Infrastructure Development is reportedly worried that the revocation of the arrangement will result in a tidal wave of lawsuits and has engaged the Attorney General's Chambers and other lawyers for advice.

The Permanent Secretary of the lands ministry, Bonolo Khumotaka, did not answer her mobile phone when The Gazette called on Tuesday afternoon.

Retrenchment Increases To Over 800

- 457 more companies to retrench
- Already 344 Batswana have lost jobs through retrenchment due to the effects of COVID-19

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The number of Batswana who lost their jobs through retrenchment since the outbreak of COVID-19 is expected to reach over 800 after 457 companies submitted notifications of intent to retrench, the Minister of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development, Machana Shamukuni, has revealed.

Responding to a question from the MP for Gaborone Central, Tumisang Healy, on Monday, Shamukuni said 344 people were retrenched between April 2020 and February 2022, with an additional 457 also expected to be laid off following the recent companies' notification.

"Since the outbreak of COVID-19, 344 Batswana were retrenched between April 2020 and February 2022. However, the number is expected to increase after 457 companies submitted notifications of intent to retrench to the ministry. The additional 457 number of companies also raised the effects of COVID-19 as the reason to downsize the staff."

"As much as we understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted so many companies, the latter also have to find other means of minimising mass job losses just like the government did,"



However, Shamukuni said that his ministry is doing everything in its power by engaging the respective companies to pursue other alternatives of cost cutting without laying off their staff.

"As much as we understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted so many companies, the latter also have to find other means of minimising mass job losses just like the government did," the minister said. "Our effort is bearing fruit because some of the companies acceded to our requests"

The Minister added that it is worth noting that the government prevented job losses by introducing programmes which include wage subsidy and the Industry Support Fund. Therefore, the private sector should follow suit. "As government, we introduced programmes that prevented job losses," he said.

"Moreover, the government is currently introducing policies that have long-term benefits. These policies are also meant to cushion the negative impacts of COVID-19 pandemic."

DR PATRICK SOON-SHIONG PLEDGES 100M DOSES OF PULA CORBEVAX TO BOTSWANA

In a historic development this week, Botswana joined the eminent league of nations that are crushing what is thus far the worst terror of the 21st Century, COVID-19, by adding its own Pula Corbevax vaccine to the existing suite that is set to be the most efficacious. **KATLEGO RAKOLA** reports



(Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

The Founder of the first COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing company in Botswana and Africa, Dr Patrick Soon-Shiong, has pledged 100 million doses of Pula Corbevax vaccine to Botswana.

This emerged in the course of the official opening of Dr Soon-Shiong's company NantWorks, at Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH) in Gaborone on Monday this week where vaccines are already being manufactured for distribution to places of need around the world.

According to the Director of Government Communications, Gomolemo Zimona, told Dr Soon-Shiong wants to ensure there is sustainable supply of vaccines in Botswana and the southern African region. "What it means is that at intervals, whenever the government is in need of vaccines, they will be immediately supplied from the plant," Zimona said.

The government signed an agreement with NantWorks to set up in Botswana last December. Building the plant ensued soon after until the ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by President Mokgweetsi Masisi this week.

"With manufacturing of the Pula Corbevax, it was more of transfer of technology from one area to the next," Zimona told The Botswana Gazette. "There was not so much being set up as there was sharing of knowledge. The vaccines will now be manufactured in Botswana and distributed to where they are needed."

Zimona emphasised that unlike other COVID-19 vaccines, Pula Corbevax kills the virus in the body and can overcome every variant, including Omicron. The vaccine is historically approved and recognised as the first vaccine for Africa made in Botswana. In addition to the unprecedented efficacy of the vaccine, it is envisaged that the initiative will create much-needed jobs for young Batswana.

Beyond the vaccine production plant in Gaborone, the US conglomerate NantWorks has committed to playing a role in development of Maun Science Park. The park, is one of President Masisi's pet projects and is being overseen by a Brussels-based NGO that seeks to turn the safari destination of Maun into a technology hub.

Based in California, NantWorks is also expected to improve health management systems and sustainable water generation at Lobu Farm.

NantWorks is a multinational conglomerate holding company that owns a number of companies in the fields of healthcare, biotech, artificial intelligence startups, as well as venture capital firms in the healthcare, education, science and technology sectors.

The company expressed interest to set up in Botswana during President Masisi's visit to California in September last year.

BUAN
BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Inspiring Sustainable Growth

The Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) invites applications from suitably qualified individuals for the following post:

FACULTY OF ANIMAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCES

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 2021:03:07

CHIEF TECHNICIAN – ONE POST

JOB PURPOSE

The successful candidate will be required to organise, supervise and control the provision of technical and laboratory services within the Faculty. Provide technical guidance and motivation to junior technicians in the Faculty of Animal and Veterinary Sciences Laboratories. He/she will be required to demonstrate or conduct practical exercises, participate in research activities in the Faculty, carry out asset replacement, order and maintain inventory of equipment and chemical stocks, diagnose technical faults in the equipment and ensure that all equipment is in good working order, and undertake any other duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.

THE REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should possess a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science or equivalent qualification plus at least 8 years post-qualification experience in laboratory and field work, including the teaching and supervision of practical laboratory exercises, field practicals and research in agriculture. Experiential knowledge in Laboratory processes and procedures; advanced knowledge of the specific discipline; knowledge of occupational health and safety standards and practices in laboratories and workshops. A considerable experience and knowledge on instrumentation will be an added advantage.

COMPETENCIES

- Analytical and Conceptual Skills
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- Research and Teaching Support
- Financial Management

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Method of Application:
Application quoting the vacancy number, the post being applied for and accompanied by detailed CVs, three contactable referees, certified copies of educational/professional certificates should be forwarded to.

The Director, Human Resources
Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Private Bag 0027
GABORONE

OR Email: recruitment@buan.ac.bw

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

CLOSING DATE: 08 April 2022

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DCEC HANDS DOCKET OF INFLUENCE PEDDLING TO POLICE

Docket emanates from whistleblower's report on IT project manager at Local Government



Tymon Katlholo

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) has referred a case in which certain senior employees of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) were allegedly involved in a scheme of insider trading and influence peddling for tenders of projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to the Botswana Police Service.

This comes after a report, that features a senior manager at the ministry, was compiled by a whistleblower and reached DCEC.

DCEC spokesperson Lentswe Motshoganetsi has confirmed this. "We received a report from an anonymous source that we realised was a matter for the police when we analysed it," Motshoganetsi said. "So we have referred it to the police."

The head of DCEC, Tymon Katlholo, had said he could not discuss the case because of a contractual obligation with a whistleblower. "We have a contract with the whistleblower because whenever he or she reports to us there is confidentiality," said Katlholo.

At ministry headquarters, Minister Kgotla Autlwetse responded: "Whenever DCEC investigates something involving an employee of the ministry, they do not disclose that they are doing so because that could compromise the investigations," the minister said. "At this point we have not been told anything by DCEC."

Sources say the whistleblower's report detailed a 2016 tender for support services for a Financial Management System (FMS) used by councils. The ministry created a pool of IT officers drawn from various councils as support teams. However, it is alleged that the selection criteria were not merit-based but were purely at the discretion of one of the appointed project managers.

The project manager allegedly elevated one junior IT officer to be her confidant despite there being more qualified and experienced systems analysts at councils around the country. The report alleges that the project manager and the IT officer together compiled a request for funding for training from UNDP that was not in the project scope. They allegedly detailed other system requirements like human resources and payroll systems to inflate the cost of the tender.

In November 2019, the ministry rejected the request for funds to travel to a Microsoft Dynamics GP User Conference in the United States due to lack of funds. It is alleged that the project manager and her confidant subsequently went to the ministry's IT department and a certain officer applied for funds from the IT department on their behalf making it appear that he was travelling with them only to change at the last minute that he would not be joining them.

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APPLICATIONS

- Applicants can apply online by clicking on the hyperlink Admissions | IDM (idmbls.com).
- Applications forms can also be downloaded from the IDM website: www.idmbls.com or from the admissions offices in Gaborone, Francistown and Serowe.
- On submission, ensure that you have attached certified copies of educational certificates and Omang to the completed application form.
- **NB:** Those applying for government sponsorship should meet the minimum sponsorship requirements set by the Department of Tertiary Education Financing (DTEF).

All the above programmes are registered with Botswana Qualifications Authority under the legacy system

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Govt ditches Fighter jet Plans

- Less than P100m reserved for air assets
- BDF decries sorry state of military air arm



LETLHOGILE MPUANG

President Mokgweetsi Masisi's administration will not be going ahead with plans to procure fighter jets because of budget constraints, the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security, Kagiso Mmusi, has revealed.

The Botswana Defence Force (BDF) has been allocated P4 billion out of P10 billion under its parent ministry.

Speaking to ***The Botswana Gazette*** in an interview this week, Minister Mmusi said that only P1 billion will be used to strengthen the country's military capacity in areas such as infrastructure development and maintenance, procurement and refurbishment of air assets, maintenance of military vehicles, communication equipment and defence equipment and that no provision has been made for procurement of fighter jets.

In fact, Minister Mmusi said since he assumed office in September 2019, the government has never come anywhere near procuring fighter jets for the BDF. "As much as it our wish to have fighter jets, we have never discussed the purchase of any since I came into this office," he told ***The Botswana Gazette*** this week.

"It is true that our current fighter jets are old and we need new ones, but our financial situation as a ministry does not allow us. Military equipment is very expensive, and from this budget around P80 million will be used to maintain and service our aircraft and airports. We cannot do anything more than that."

Reports subsequently suggested that the deal collapsed following a fallout between Khama and his successor, President Masisi

Although the BDF's attempt to procure fighter jets was mired in controversy under former president Ian Khama, the army has consistently insisted on the need to replace its old Canadair CF-5 Freedom Fighter jet fleet which currently consists of 10 F-5A fighters and 3 F-5D trainers, all purchased second-hand from Canada in 1996.

Because of budget constraints, experts proposed upgraded that the BDF Air Wing's F-5 fleet instead of buying new aircraft in 2013. Before former president Ian Khama exited office in April 2018, the government had approved funds to procure Gripen jets from Sweden. Reports subsequently suggested that the deal collapsed following a fallout between Khama and his successor, President Masisi.



There are no Punitive Measures to take against Anti-Vaxxers

- MoH has not devised any punitive measures against anti-vaxxers
- Resorts to aggressive public education to vaccinate



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Government of Botswana cannot take any action against people opposed to vaccinating against COVID-19 because it has not devised any measures for doing so, The Botswana Gazette has established.

Instead the government will pursue an aggressive public education campaign on the benefits of vaccination to persuade people to take COVID vaccines and is already doing so.

According to the Chief Public Relations Officer of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoH), Dr Christopher Nyanga, there are people who have been unwilling to take COVID vaccines since the programme began last year. Nyanga said religious grounds, skepticism about vaccine safety and undisclosed personal reasons are the three main categories of the anti-vaxxers in Botswana.

"Since the vaccination programme started in March 2021, there are a few people who were not willing to get vaccinated," he said in response to Gazette enquiries this week. "The importance of COVID-19 vaccination remains the approach (and it) has so far yielded some results."

This publication is informed that the BaZezuru tribe is among those unwilling to be vaccinated on religious grounds.

He noted that so far more than 60% of the population has received at least the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines. "The ministry regards this as a commendable effort and continues to encourage all those who are unvaccinated to turn up for vaccination," Dr Nyanga said.

This publication is informed that the BaZezuru tribe is among those unwilling to be vaccinated on religious grounds. The leader of BaZeZuru in Mandunyane, Jacob Hamadziripi, told The Botswana Gazette when the vaccine programme began last year: "We do not believe in any vaccination or that our bodies could rely on them. That is why even our children never take the vaccines that are normally given to newly-born babies. In our religion, seeking medical attention is a last resort."

nardi

National Agricultural Research and Development Institute

National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) wishes to invite offers for the below tenders. Bidders must be registered with Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB) and Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA);

Tender Reference Number	Tender Name	PPADB Code	Preference	Tender Closing Date
NARDI:ITC/DCS/PT 01 2021/22 A Non-refundable deposit of **P200.00 (P100.00 for youth only)**	Supply and Delivery of Tractors and Farm Implements	**Code 200** Agricultural Products & Related Equipment **Sub-code 05** Agricultural Equipment Spares and Accessories.	Domestic Citizen -Owned Companies	**Closing Date:** 19/04/2022 **Closing Time:** 10:00 Hours
NARDI:ITC/DCS/PT 02 2021/22 A Non-refundable deposit of **P400.00 (P200.00 for youth only) N**	Procurement of Services for Change Management Services for a period of nine(9) months	**Code: 317** Human Resources Services. **Subcode: 01** Organisational Design and Change Management	Domestic Citizen -Owned Companies	**Closing Date:** 19/04/2022 **Closing Time:** 10:00 Hours

Tenders document collection

The physical address for the collection of tender documents is National Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Plot 75762 Pinnacle Park, Unit 2 Block 10 Gaborone, Department of Corporate Services, Procurement Section, ground floor. Documents may be collected during working hours 08:30-12:30 and 14:00-16:00hrs on weekdays with effect from 28/03/2022.
Tenderer to bring proof of payment to collect the tender document at the above address.

The tender documents shall be collected upon showing proof payment of through deposit or bank transfer using the following banking details ;

Acc Name: National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI)
Bank: First National Bank Botswana
Account Type: BUSINESS CHEQUE ACCOUNT
Account Number: 62797125484
Branch Code: 284567
Branch Name: KGALE VIEW
Swift Code: FIRNBWGX

Queries or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed in writing no later than 5 working days before the tender closing date to Mr. Ofentse Kgaogano(Manager Procurement & Supplies), Tel No. 3117667, email: ofentse@nardi.org.bw or procurement@nardi.org.bw and Fax No. 3117617

Telephonic, facsimile or emailed tender offers will **not** be accepted.
Late tender offers will not be accepted.

New Prisons Head Won't Discuss What Happens In The Execution Chamber

- Says she has witnessed several executions being carried out
- Says Batswana prisoners be allowed to choose execution method



South African music artist Ndivhudzannyi Ralivhona, known by her stage name Makhadzi rocked the show during her 'One Woman Show' at the Royal Aria stadium in Tlokweng, Gaborone on 26 March 2022. (Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

TEFO PHEAGE

The new Commissioner of Prisons Service, Dinah Marathe, says she has already witnessed several executions being carried out but will not answer any "controversial" questions about her experience.

Addressing the press, Marathe stated: "I have witnessed it on several occasions. I may not say how many I have witnessed or how I felt at the time of the executions. please allow me not to answer the question. It's part of my everyday work and my duty is actually to act on any judicial warrant presented at my table."

She is not the first Commissioner of Prisons to express unease about what happens in the execution chamber, leaving it out of bounds even by word of mouth. But she answered a question regarding condemned prisoners choosing their preferred method of capital punishment without difficulty, saying perhaps Batswana should take advantage of the ongoing constitutional consultative process to raise the matter.

"We will have our time to submit our views to the constitutional review process commission but I also think Batswana will speak on these issues," Marathe said.

Across the world, common primary means of execution of condemned prisoners are done by hanging, electrocution, the gas chamber, firing squad and lethal injection. Botswana hangs its condemned, which usually entails a calculated drop of the prisoner to fracture the neck that should be followed by instant loss of consciousness.

"We will have our time to submit our views to the constitutional review process commission but I also think Batswana will speak on these issues," Marathe said.

In their 2020 report to Universal Peer Review process, Botswana's NGOs, said Botswana understates the brutality of executions. "The executions by hanging are carried out in total secrecy," they said. "The authorities constantly fail to give prisoners sufficient notice about the death warrant and the date and time of execution. It was also mentioned that the method of carrying out the death penalty is done with care to preserve the dignity of the prisoner. The truth is as long as the death penalty is involved, dignity cannot be preserved."

Led by Ditshwanelo, the NGOs noted that in paragraph 76 of its Second Periodic Report, Botswana acknowledged the need for another public opinion survey on the death penalty following the one conducted in 1997 but has not implemented the acknowledgment.



Job Title: Project Controls Manager
Requisition ID: 1155
Location: Gaborone

Debswana Diamond Company would like to invite suitably qualified innovative, results oriented and self-driven individuals to apply for the position listed and described below and join a professional team driven by service excellence, where the demands of the business are met by encouraging team work and addressing the needs of the individual.

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Provides leadership regarding establishing, maintaining, and continuously improving the Project Controls system in a complex and multi-project environment. Oversees the integration of the full spectrum of Project Controls in a complex project environment, i.e cost analysis, estimating, planning, project administration, and document control.

Key Job Responsibilities

1. People:
- Manages, develops, and retains the Project Controls staff compliment.
- Ensures adequate Project Controls resource levels for the Debswana project environment.
- Manages the effectiveness of subordinates by setting-up key performance measures, monitoring performance and taking remedial action as necessary.

2. Governance:
- Oversees the planning, setting up, and managing of Project Controls.
- Oversees Project Controls-related integration between project management work, support work, and technical/specialist work, including inter-technical/specialist work.
- Monitors the effectiveness of Project Controls standards and procedures and brings about the necessary changes to ensure continuous improvement.

3. Service delivery:
- Oversees trends-determination, change request control, changes to performance measurement baselines (scope-time-cost), and monitoring and measurement of the associated impacts.
- Oversees transfer of data between financial, accounting, planning, estimating, and procurement systems; the review of errors arising from such transfers, and coordinating actions to rectify such errors.
- Oversees the drafting of procurement operating plans (POP), and the controlling of the contracts as stipulated in the POP.
- Performs project controls-related reporting on Portfolio-level.
- Manages and controls allocated funds and operates within set parameters.
- Implements knowledge management principles through application of tools and methodologies to continuously improve and sustain business performance.
- Initiates and implements creative and innovative ideas to continuously improve and sustain business performance.
- Establishes and maintains effective relationships with all key stakeholders and partners to ensure achievement of business objectives.
- Responsible for the safety, health, and environmental program in area of responsibility.

Technical Competencies
- Project Portfolio Management
- Project Commercial Management
- Scope Management
- Project Control Management
- Data Integration
- Estimate Management
- Cost Control/Engineering
- Planning and Scheduling
- Project Risk Management
- Project Change Management
- Project Design and Engineering Management
- Project Procurement and Logistics Management
- Construction Management
- Commissioning Management
- Operational Readiness
- Document and Information Management
- Front End Loading (FEL)
- Value Management

Behavioral Competencies
- Building Oragnisational Capability
- Business Acumen
- Change Leadership
- Concern for Safety, Health and the Environment
- Impact and Influence
- Innovation
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Managing Performance and Holding People Accountable
- Service Orientation
- Teamwork and Collaboration

Debswana is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.
Only candidates who meet the above requirements need apply by visiting us on https://jobs.debswana.com to register and apply.

Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to. Closing date: 13 April 2022

Govt May Scrap Refugee Encampment Policy

- UN says Botswana's "outdated" refugee law burdens UNHCR
- Has called on Botswana to allow refugees to work and move freely

TEFO PHEAGE

The government may yield to pressure from the United Nations and repeal its encampment policy that limits the free movement of asylum seekers and refugees.

It currently reviewing the Refugee (Recognition and Control) Act of 1966 after several United Nations reports stated that the law burdens the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), which is often the first line of contact for the plight of refugees.



The government may yield to pressure from the United Nations and repeal its encampment policy that limits the free movement of asylum seekers and refugees. *Photo Credit:www.dw.com*

Botswana confines refugees and asylum seekers in camps and does not enable them access to higher education and means of livelihood except with special permission. "Due to the outdated nature of the Refugee Law of Botswana and encampment policy, refugees are faced with challenges that prohibit their optimal exercise of basic human rights and exclude them from access to certain rights," a recently released report said.

"They face deprivation and inequality as a result of the inability to freely move around beyond the confines of the camp and the prohibition to engage in any form of employment."

A former permanent secretary in the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security, Matshidiso Bokole, who presided over a review process, has commented: "The Botswana refugee law is being amended and by the time I left the ministry the Bill was being vetted. I hope it will be taken through all other legislative processes this year."

Botswana confines refugees and asylum seekers in camps and does not enable them access to higher education and means of livelihood except with special permission.

Sources say while Botswana is willing to repeal the encampment policy, there are concerns associated with risks of doing so, most of which are security-related. But the UN has said the encampment policy has led to full reliance of refugees on UNHCR for basic needs such as food and non-food items for persons who should ordinarily have been self-sustaining.

"Extended periods in the detention centre awaiting status determination by the government and the further prohibitions faced by the refugee community in the camp place the community at risk of engagement in illegal activities as a means of sustenance and they often face detention for movement without possession of exit permits," the recent report points out.

It adds that women and girls engage in survival sex in the host community of Dukwi where there is a high rate of truckers en-route to the Kazungula border. The reports note that these women are at high risk of contracting diseases and face gender-based violence, including from their partners who disapprove of their engagement in such activities to supplement their household needs.

nardi
National Agricultural Research and Development Institute

REQUEST FOR AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY, DELIVERY, AND INSTALLATION OF COMPACT LIQUID NITROGEN SYSTEM GENERATOR FOR NARDI

BACKGROUND
The National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) was established through Presidential Directive 31(B)/13 of 28 November 2013. The entity was incorporated as a company limited by Guarantee on 13 January 2015 under the Botswana Companies Act of 2003. Ahead of the establishment of NARDI, Presidential Directive CAB 4(A) 2011 of 24 February 2011 had directed the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security (MOA) to merge the operations of the Department of Agricultural Research (DAR), National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL) and National Food Technology Research Centre (NFTRC). NARDI will be operating from decentralized, cluster-focussed, commodity-based specialized Research & Innovation Centres; Testing and Diagnostic Laboratories; Field Stations; Experimental Sites (R&D Ranches & Farms), Technology Test-beds, agri-business incubation centres, and Technology Spin-Offs around the country.

THE REQUIREMENTS:
Minimum Requirement of the System
- Fully automatic liquid nitrogen generator operated by programmable logical controller (PLC) control
- Producing liquid nitrogen in volumes of 10 – 20 litres/hour
- Adjustable liquid nitrogen pressure
- Low noise level (60-80 dBA)
- Connectable to power supply of 240V
- Service & maintenance plan available

SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST.
NARDI now invites eligible contractors to express their interest in providing these works. Interested companies must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services.

INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT THREE COPIES (2) ONE MARKED "ORIGINAL" AND 1 COPY MARKED COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE MARKED REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF COMPACT LIQUID NITROGEN SYSTEM GENERATOR FOR NARDI

The closing time for the receipt shall be on **08 April 2022 at 10:00hours** The Secretariat, Internal Tender Committee National Agricultural Research And Development Institute Private Bag 00177 Gaborone, Plot 75762 Pinnacle Park, Unit 2 Block 10 and shall be opened soon thereafter at the NARDI office ground floor, Tender Box. **All submissions must be in English.**

Once submissions have been evaluated, shortlisted applications will be invited to submit a comprehensive proposal.

INTERESTED PARTIES WITH THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE SHOULD EXPRESS THEIR INTEREST FROM WHICH RELEVANT FIRMS WITH THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE AND REPUTATION WILL BE SHORT-LISTED.

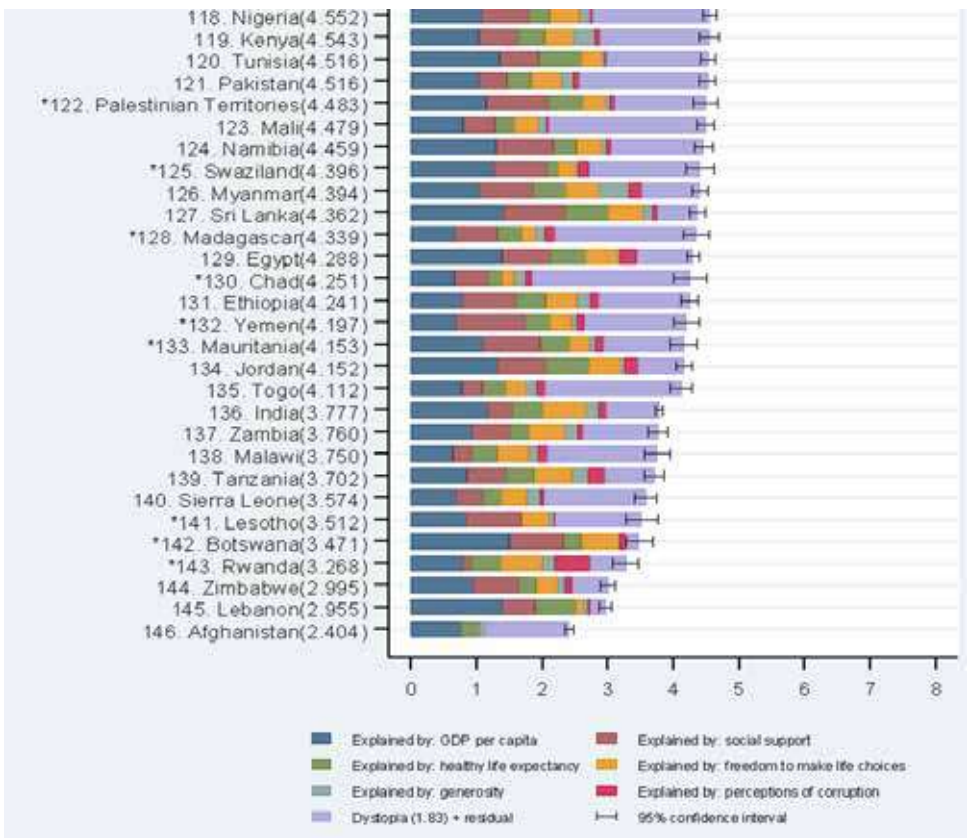
Eligibility criteria
1. Tenderer who are domiciled in Botswana must, to be considered for shortlisting, be registered with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board in the following category:
   PPADB code 200 (Agriculture Product and Related Equipment) **Subcode 05** (Agricultural Equipment, Instruments, Spares and Accessories (including tractor).
2. Citizen held or partnerships with citizen companies will be preferred.
3. Certificate of Incorporation by the issuing body (or equivalent).
4. Valid Tax Clearance (applicable on locally registered companies)
3. I nterested parties should submit a brief company profile to include the type of service/work offered.

A ll enquiries should be directed to this email **procurement@nardi.org.bw**, with a copy to **ofentse@nardi.org.bw: Telephone 3117667**

Telephonic, facsimile or emailed tender offers will not be accepted.

The Paradox of Batswana's Unhappiness

It seems that by digging below the gloss of Botswana's commendable record of economic development, there are deep social problems of an unhappy nation that has the world's highest rate of rape and the second leading in divorce.



DOUGLAS RASBASH

How can a middle income, peaceful, secure, free and democratic country not be happy – at least comparatively happy? According to the World Happiness Index (WHI), we are a very unhappy lot, scoring 3.47/10 compared to top placed-nation Finland with 7.8 and bottom-placed Afghanistan with 2.4. So how can it be that we are much closer to Afghanistan than Finland? Should this be taken seriously, and if so, how should we react?

On 28 June 2012, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/28, proclaiming 20 March International Day of Happiness to be observed annually. The World Happiness Report is released every year around 20 March as part of the International Day of Happiness celebration.

It has become widely appreciated that GDP, or its derivatives alone, cannot explain the general well-being of a nation and that there are social, emotional and health issues that combine to explain general well-being or happiness. There is increasing interest in measuring happiness, and because of this the science of happiness measurement is evolving. The World Happiness Index comprises 1. GDP per capita, 2. Life expectancy, 3. Social support, 4. Freedom to make life choices, 5. Generosity and 6. Perceptions of Corruption. Additionally, levels of positivity and negatively are also measured.

Let us take a look at the measurements. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in terms of purchasing power parity at 2011 prices from the World Bank scored 1.53/10. Social support from a binary question, "If you were in trouble, do you have relatives or friends you can count on to help you whenever you need them – or not" scored 0.815. Having a Healthy life expectancy taken from time series data from the WHO scored 0.280. Freedom to make life choices was based on a binary question, "Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your freedom to choose what you do with your life?" This scored 0.571. Generosity, computed from the response to the question, "Have you donated money to charity in the past month?" This was very low and scored only 0.012. Lastly, a subjective measure, if the absence of Corruption, derived from the binary response to two questions "Is corruption widespread in government or not?" and the same question but for business, this metric scored 0.102.The total score for Botswana was 3.47, which is lower than 2019. The trend shows decreasing happiness in the figure.

"Did you experience the following feelings (reference to a list of feelings). The negative effect was defined as the average response to previous days feelings, asking, "Yesterday did you experience worry, sadness, anger?"

Levels of negativity and positivity combine to give a measure of dystopia. Dystopia is the opposite to Utopia; in other words, a world without hope. Certainly there is much negatively around in the world and it is getting worse with the crises in Ukraine, Ethiopia, Yemen, Syria, Palestine and many more. Then there is the pandemic and climate change about which scientists state the world cannot exist with another +3.5 Celsius by 2100. But these social pressures affect the globe and not only Botswana. So why is it that Botswana emerges as one of the most dystopian nations with a dystopian score of 0.187? A country with zero dystopia would score 10.

The dystopian metric was based on measuring positivity and negativity. The positive effect was defined as the average of the previous days feelings, asking, "Did you experience the following feelings (reference to a list of feelings). The negative effect was defined as the average response to previous days feelings, asking, "Yesterday did you experience worry, sadness, anger?"

Besides direct questioning – positive and negative emotions are also revealed from access to Twitter and Facebook through monitoring key words that reveal the feelings of the individual. Cynicism, Pessimism, Hopelessness, Negative Perceptions of the Future pervaded. Complaining and criticism seems more prevalent than praise and commendation, but that is probably true everywhere.

WHI by Country (Part) Botswana ranked 142nd.

It is difficult understand the paradox of why we are, on the one hand living in a diamond-funded comfort zone and on the other hand practically incapacitated by feelings of hopelessness. It seems utterly inexplicable that with such a great government, free education and health, super social infrastructure, exceptionally high levels of peace, press freedom and human development in Africa that our beloved Botswana sinks almost to the bottom of the happiness league table.

Because it is so hard to believe, let us look at a few less abstract signs than the WHI, for example, rape, divorce and suicide. It is a bit grim, but let us proceed.

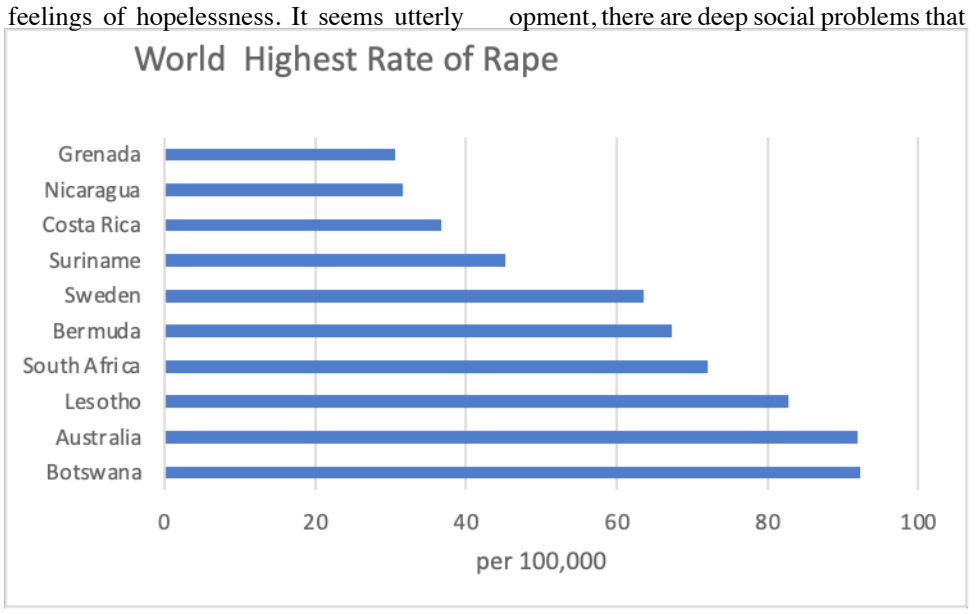
The rate of rape and abuse is very high in Botswana. It is actually the highest in the world. The question hangs in the air - could it be that there is a connection between unhappiness index and the rate of rape?

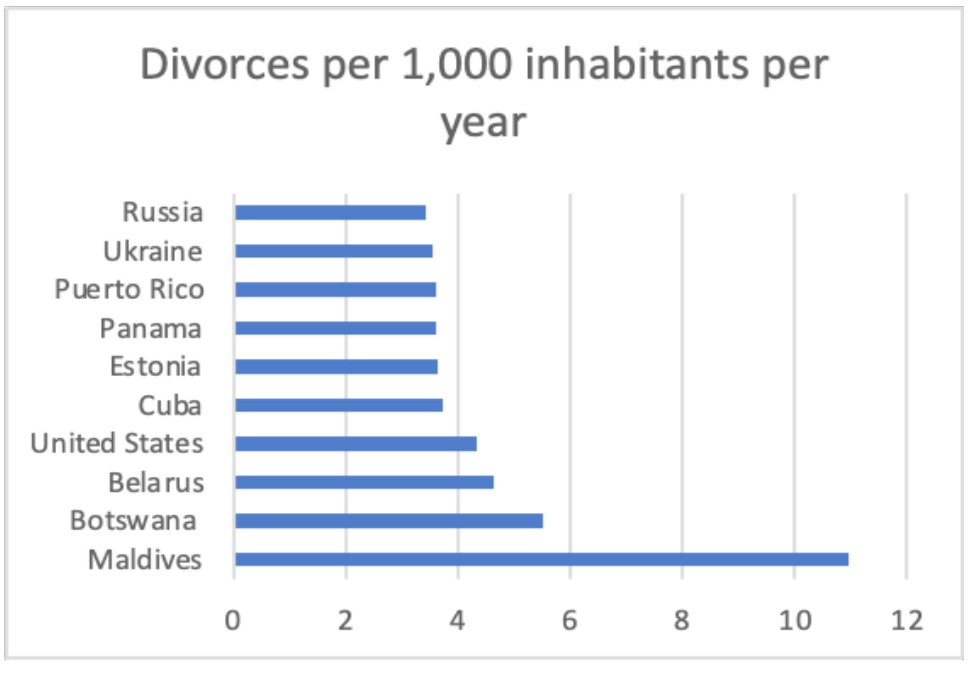
The divorce rate may be another indication that society is not well. Gaining up-to-date information on divorce rates was harder than expected and Botswana seems not to submit this specific information to the United Nations. The diagram is based on divorce rates in 2002, which is very old, but it showed Botswana had the second highest rate of divorce. The numbers are admittedly old, but more recent commentary suggests that the rate of divorce is deteriorating.

Suicides must arguably be the most poignant indicator of societal health. For Botswana the latest information shows the rate to be 16.1/100,000 placing it 25/176 countries.

So where do we go from here? Notwithstanding the more widely known and discussed economic issues such as unemployment and financial inclusivity, it seems that by digging below the gloss of Botswana's commendable record of economic development, there are deep social problems that evidence an unhappy people. Putting aside the indisputable empirical evidence of prevailing social ills, there also appears to persist a prevalence of pessimism and uncertainty about a modernistic future despite a rosy vision of a high income knowledge-based society. Perhaps it is the embedded certainty that diamonds are not forever and there is, so far, nothing to replace that level of income, that creates an underlying fear for the future that feeds social diseases.

While governments remain mostly fixed to the GDP and other classical indicators, they are slowly – arguably too slowly – looking at the World Happiness Index. The extent to which WHI is considered by decision-makers is hard to say – there is scant research on the application of the WHI to forming policy. For example, would investors be put off investing in an unhappy country? It seems self-evident that they might because having an unhappy workforce is an obvious risk. If the WHI is likely to become a dominant factor in decision-making, then it would be expedient for government to take more interest now in exploring the 'Botswana Paradox.'





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Selibe-Phikwe: We Hope For Better Days; It Shall Rise From The Ashes

This was the slogan of what was once the 21st Century's economic powerhouse of industrial automobile manufacturing and luxury, the City of Detroit in the US. Today, the town is officially declared bankrupt and has become a ghost town.

The cautionary tale on the rise and fall of Detroit should have been a lesson that experts at Government Enclave have paged through before pulling the plug on BCL Mine, which was the lifeblood of a town full of life and promising economic activity for Batswana.

As sad as it is, it is now evidently clear how the government has dismally failed the once roaring mining town Selibe-Phikwe and its environs due to lack of implementation of long-term strategies of economic revitalisation and bad decisions.

BCL Mine was abruptly shut down by then President Ian Khama in 2016 and placed under provisional liquidation, leaving 6 000 people jobless overnight and thousands of their dependants in limbo. Judging by the economic crisis that followed the shutting of the mine, it is hard to imagine what will bring back the town to life in the foreseeable future because even hope is often forlorn.

Interventionist programmes such as SPEDU and SEZA are yet to bring any meaningful economic progress in spite of the hype around them. What is not in short supply are studies and academic projections by paid consultants that remain irrelevant to the abjection of 6 000 outcasts who have yet to regain their livelihoods.

In late 1990s America, the closure of Chrysler and General Motors spelt doom for the City of Detroit, and any interventions to bail out the city from de-industrialisation have proved futile from the time of President Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1970s to Barack Obama and now Joe Biden. While so many things about Detroit point to de-urbanisation, poor planning and racial legacies, what is outstanding in these causes, as Charlie Leduff unpacked in his book, "Detroit: An American Autopsy," was graft and corruption in the key decision-making engines of the local government.

While we remain wary of the events that culminated towards the collapse of the BCL Mine, graft was one of them, although there has been no accountability to-date. It is several years since 2016 when the lifeblood of Selebi-Phikwe, BCL Mine, suddenly stopped running and the key organs of the copper town have been inevitably withering for lack of nutrition and oxygen carried in the blood.

With fuel prices increasing now, so will those of electricity, food and water and much of everything else in the ecosystem of survival, and it is difficult to even think what this means for 6 000 former miners and their families whose livelihood was ended by an impersonal decision in Gaborone.

However, government says it has lined up economic activities for the town which include the Selibe-Phikwe Citrus Project which is expected to create 1 000 new direct jobs and up to 1 500 seasonal jobs once operational, the Oxygen Gas (Pty) Ltd Air Separation Plant which plans to produce 10, 615 tonnes of oxygen, 3 054 tonnes of nitrogen and 876 tonnes of nitrous oxide per annum. Furthermore, CEDA is said to have invested P242 million for over 2 589 projects with a total employment of 5 325 in the entire Selibe-Phikwe region.

Despite this, critical economic commentator Lenyatso Mbaakanyi is of the view that the government blundered by shutting down the mine without any economic plan to cushion the economic activities of the town. In the early 1980s, the rise of BCL empowered the community and enriched the corporations, which created a template for expansion of the middle class around Botswana. Left unimplemented, any interventions in Selibe-Phikwe's economic, social or political fortunes would still leave the town with a troubled legacy. Hopefully, it is not too late and the government must have learnt a lesson from this mess that it created.

Botswana Government does Not Respect Human Rights



Where is the rule of law or even justice when a court of law can refuse to treat as urgent a request by the former President to hear his complaint that he had been deprived of his official home by the DIS and thereby remaining homeless in his own country, and has had his personal property removed from the said home without his consent.

MOGOMOTSI KABOEAMODIMO
CEO- SKI KHAMA FOUNDATION

The office of the SKI FOUNDATION has noted with shock and disbelief claims by government and the Directorate on Intelligence Security Services as follow:

- that there are no plans to harm former President Khama and his associates;
- that the former President remains a person of value to Botswana who by law should be protected at all times;
- that they (DIS & Government) know that it is against democracy to bring harm to the former President and his associates;
- that they also know that they are required by law to provide personal security to the former President;
- that the former President has full legal recourse if the DIS oversteps its mandate;
- that the DIS conducts itself in a professional manner in its operations when dealing with the former President and his associates; and
- that Khama's complaints about harassment and persecution by government and the DIS are without merit;

What honour is there when a former Head of State can have his home declared a crime scene on false accusations of possession of weapons of war? How would he have been able to amass such weapons when any weapon he may have is looked after by the DIS itself and how would this have escaped the eye of the Botswana Defense Force and other security agents all this time?

Where is the rule of law or even justice when a court of law can refuse to treat as urgent a request by the former President to hear his complaint that he had been deprived of his official home by the DIS and thereby remaining homeless in his own country, and has had his personal property removed from the said home without his consent.

What respect can it be when government can punish and terminate the employment of public officers simply because they facilitated or respected the former President in doing his charitable work. How can a government that is doing everything possible to embarrass the former President claim protection duties for him?

What protection when the same institutions collude in failed attempts to kill the former President by poisoning, accusation they have never taken seriously or made any attempt to prove otherwise?

What honour is there when a former Head of State can have his home declared a crime scene on false accusations of possession of weapons of war?

It is neither fiction nor allegation that the DIS has contrary to established norms and practice declared war against the former President and his close associates and family at the bidding of an invisible hand that has the power to do so. It is a truism backed by ample evidence and several examples including the current illegal and unfair harassment of both the Commissioner of Police Keabetswe Makgophe and the former President's twin brothers. The learned Hon Unity Dow (MP) and former justice of the High Court of Botswana has already given Parliament the historic summary of the DIS acts of offensives with impunity.

That still echoes in the minds of all right thinking Batswana who must ignore the empty rhetoric by government and DIS clearly intended to spook.

We appeal to all Batswana to condemn heavy handed public arrests of individuals and subsequent illegal detention of people without any charges. It is not about the former President and his family alone. It is about law abiding citizens who have the right to dignity and respect for their person as human beings.

We also appeal to the Diplomatic Community in Botswana to hold the Administration of President Masisi responsible for the developing environment of unhappiness, democratic and human rights curtailment, and potential social unrest brought about by the administration's disregard for personal rights and freedoms of individuals including former President Khama.

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Managing Director: Shike Olsen , Editor: Lawrence Seretse, Email: seretsel@gazettebw.com, Advertising Manager: Joyce Mohurutshe , Email: jmohurutshe@gazettebw.com
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Employer-Provided Security and Utilities Trigger PAYE

Generally, employees' compensation offered by corporates tends to include benefits and allowances that attract the best talent available on recruitment. Employers may therefore offer benefits to existing employees to retain them. Accordingly, to motivate and retain efficiency in management, some corporates usually offer non-monetary benefits which include home or personal security, electricity, water and maids. Certainly, such benefits are prone to increase efficiency as employees get to focus more on the work than worry about their domestic affairs. However, in as much as such benefits may enhance productivity, the downside is that it triggers additional tax in the hands of the beneficiary i.e., the employee.

Firstly, it is key to note that for tax purposes an employee is regarded as anyone who receives compensation for employment services in the form of remuneration.

Firstly, it is key to note that for tax purposes an employee is regarded as anyone who receives compensation for employment services in the form of remuneration. Accordingly, working directors are embraced and considered as employees. Therefore, remuneration paid to the same is required to comply with the provisions of the income tax laws. Now, for the purposes of assessing tax payable by an employee, the income tax laws provide that any payment in the form of cash and non-monetary benefits constitutes remuneration that is subject to PAYE. Consequently, managers or directors who enjoy security services, utility bills benefits and domestic workers' services fully paid by the employer are deemed to have received an employment benefit that is assessable for PAYE. In this respect, the market value of the benefit technically becomes the cost that is subjected to PAYE. In other words, the amount of money that would have been paid to the security company, BPC or WUC or the maid is added on the employee's salary and PAYE is calculated thereon.

In this regard, organisations and employers need to take cognisance of the fact that any benefit enjoyed by an employee at the expense of the employer is assessable for PAYE. Therefore, security, BPC or WUC bills and maids benefits provided by the employer technically constitute non-monetary remuneration subject to PAYE.

This article is of a general nature and is not meant to address particular matters of any person. Please contact us on the details in this article for tax consulting or to join our free Tax WhatsApp group or to know more about our 9 Tax e-books.



Standard Chartered Bank Botswana announced their financial results in Gaborone on 29 March 2022. Mpho Masupe, chief executive officer of the bank making his point during the results announcement. (Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

Dulux let's colour

Dulux Botswana extend their community development campaign to Boatlaname Village



Boatlaname trained youth and Dulux Botswana team posing for a picture



MC- Ontibile Setsosarona



Bakwena Paramount Chief- Kgosi Kgari Sechele III



Welcome Remarks- Kgosi Rudolph Shima Mojalemotho



Dulux Botswana, Sales & Marketing Manager- Ayanda Sempe



VDC Chairperson- Mr Gordon Modukanele



Trained youth rep- Kabo Motseke



Newly painted VDC houses

Dulux Botswana remain resolute in their philanthropic effort and they embarked on yet another community empowerment initiative at Boatlaname village last week Friday. This successful ceremony held at the village main kgotla included awarding of training certificates to Boatlaname youth as well as handing over of newly painted VDC houses and Boatlaname village Kgotla.

In his welcome remarks Boatlaname village headman Kgosi Rudolph Shima Mojalemotho expressed his sincerest gratitude to this commendable effort by Dulux Botswana towards youth empowerment. He highlighted that this is a compassionate undertaking as education is a very important tool to attain success. Kgosi Mojalemotho further noted that the trained youth will be able to improve their livelihoods as this will unlock job opportunities which will also provide them with income to take care of their families. He also asserted that this is only the beginning and a big step in the right direction as a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step and wish this to be a soaring partnership.

According to VDC Chairperson, Gordon Modukanele, the partnership between Boatlaname and Dulux Botswana is a resounding success which promises to be a continued milestone which bring people together for a purposeful goal. Modukanele expressed joy and appreciation towards this gesture which he said has instilled a sense of hope and imparted painting skill to 16 Boatlaname youth through painting of 10 VDC houses and the kgotla offices.

Dulux Botswana, Sales and marketing manager, Ayanda Sempe indicated that as Dulux Botswana this is one of their many CSR projects as they have trained over 700 youth and painted houses in different communities including; Old Naledi, Kasane, Selibe Phikwe, Good Hope and others. Ayanda emphasized that they appreciate the effort and commitment which was exhibited by the Boatlaname youth who were involved in this training program. He urged them to use the knowledge they acquired to enhance their lives and also pass it to others. Furthermore, he indicated that they have a workmanship database which they will be added into for job recommendations. Ayanda also noted that they will stretch this program to Molepolole main kgotla and continue to uplift the youth in the Kweneng region.

Upon handing over of training certificates to the successful graduates, Bakwena paramount chief Kgosi Kgari Sechele III applauded Boatlaname youth and Dulux Botswana for this community empowerment project through imparting skill and knowledge to the youth and also beatifying the villages. He also highlighted that training will not only impart knowledge but also improve quality of work in their painting projects in the village as they will now have skilled workers to do the job diligently.

In his closing remarks, one of the graduates, Kabo Motseke gave an overview of their training journey which he emphasized as a worthwhile experience. According to Motseke skills he acquired includes leadership and teamwork which has earned him the confidence to be a skilled worker and will eventually cease job opportunities to improve his living standard. He concluded by expressing delight and highlighted how grateful they are for this phenomenal community development project by Dulux Botswana.

Dulux Botswana (Pty) Ltd

Tel: +267 395 1011
Fax: +267 390 3387 / +267 397 4085
P.O. Box 459 Gaborone
Head Office: Plot 1240 Haile Selassie Road, Old Industrial Site, Gaborone

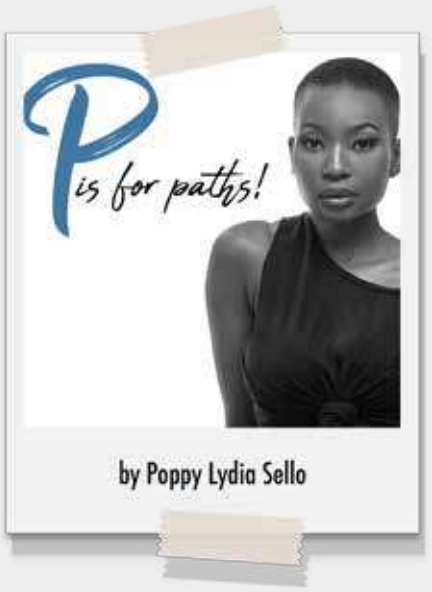
AkzoNobel

TAX SI
Consulting .



A fuel pumping station displaying the current fuel price in the last hour of the day on 28 March 2022. Fuel prices went up at 00:01hrs. (Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

Public Relations: Underrated Yet Essential



Most people have a limited grasp of what public relations is or what goes into it and the benefits it provides to organisations and individuals. Some think of PR as dealing with the media to generate articles or promotions and CSR events. Only a few people are aware of its full significance.

Public relation is a powerful mix of social media strategies, relevant digital channels and encouraging active customer interaction with brands. Most importantly, public relations is a pillar of organisations since it is responsible for maintaining a positive relationship between the organisation and its stakeholders (external and internal), which ultimately improves the brand's reputation.

During any crisis, the public relations team is the first to be hands on deck because a lot of work goes into maintaining a brand's reputation. Yes, some strategies include press releases, press conferences and interviews, but maintaining a brand's reputation is not only about smart talk and polished English; it is about building trust. And trust is built through transparency, effective communication, and honesty.

Brand crisis, which is defined as "unforeseen circumstances that weaken brand equity by threatening a brand's perceived ability to fulfil expected benefits", has been hovering over local brands (organisations and individuals.)

Brand crisis, which is defined as "unforeseen circumstances that weaken brand equity by threatening a brand's perceived ability to fulfil expected benefits", has been hovering over local brands (organisations and individuals.) However, the impact doesn't last (a good thing or a bad thing?). This is a good thing because there is no damage to their revenue but a bad thing because their reputation remains infamous, especially if nothing is done to fix it.

In other countries, bad PR has a huge impact on brands, i.e. they drop in market share and stock prices and lose endorsements. We have seen how artists such R, Kelly, whose music was blocked by numerous streaming platforms, suffered loss of revenue and the reputation he had built for years was destroyed after his scandals were published in the media.

One thing is common with local organisations is the ''hush'' effect. When people expressed their concerns regarding the Keno Custom Suit's Keno Woman Competition, the organisation did nothing to respond. We have also seen how nothing really changes for famous people in politics and entertainment accused of horrendous things such as gender-based violence and rape. The endorsements keep coming, they remain in office, and

To Page 15



We invite qualified individuals who possess good communication and organisational skills as well as excellent customer service skills to apply for the following full-time positions tenable in Gaborone

1. **OPTOMETRIST**
Reporting to the Practice Manager, the Optometrist will be responsible for the detection of defects in vision, ocular diseases or abnormalities and problems with general eye health.

RESPONSIBILITIES
- Perform comprehensive eye examinations
- Diagnose refractive errors and ocular pathology
- Prescribing glasses and contact lenses and other visual aids
- Repairs and adjustments
- Record all diagnosis and treatment plans including transfers
- Promote eye and general health counselling
- Practice administration
- Keeping patient records organised

QUALIFICATIONS
- BSc Optometry degree
- BHPC Registration
- A minimum of 2 years' experience as an Optometrist

2. **OPTICAL ASSISTANT/ RECEPTIONIST**
Reporting to the Practice Manager, the Optical Assistant/ Receptionist will be responsible for providing expert advice to customers on optical frames and conduct administrative duties.

RESPONSIBILITIES
- Administration & organisational skills
  - o online quotations, obtaining medical aid benefits
  - o invoicing, creating patient files
  - o submitting medical aid claims, recalls
  - o basic accounting
- Debtors
  - o following up on outstanding accounts including medical aid claims
- Sales
  - o sales experience will be an added advantage
- Communication skills
  - o respond to emails, WhatsApp's, Facebook messages
  - o following up with customers & answering the phone in a professional manner
  - o resolve issues in a professional manner and ensure our customers have a positive experience
- Ordering of spectacle lenses, contact lenses & other spares or stock; and checking up on jobs

QUALIFICATIONS
- Form 5 certificate and secretarial diploma or AAT will be an added advantage
- 1-year optical experience
- A valid class B driver's license

3. **OPTICAL LAB TECHNICIAN**
Reporting to the Practice Manager, the Optical Lab Technician will be responsible for dispensing and fitting prescribed optical glasses.

RESPONSIBILITIES
- Read work orders or other instructions to determine product specifications or materials requirements
- Examine prescriptions, work orders, broken or used eyeglasses to determine specifications for lenses, or other optical elements
- Assemble eyeglass frames and attach shields, nose pads, and temple pieces
- Repair broken parts, using precision hand tools and soldering irons
- Operate optical equipment

QUALIFICATIONS
- Form 5 certificate, post qualification will be an added advantage
- 1-year optical experience
- A valid class B driver's license.

Qualified candidates should submit their cover letter, curriculum vitae, transcript, Omang or equivalent identification and at least two reference letters before **April 8th 2022.** Only candidates who meet all the minimum qualification and requirements as stipulated in the advert, will be shortlisted. If you do not hear from us within three weeks of your application, please consider your application as unsuccessful.

Applicants who meet the requirements forward their applications: recruitmentvs7@gmail.com



Before we can talk about how best countries can relax, or abandon, COVID-19 protective measures and other mitigation protocols, legal or voluntary, embraced by a menaced world two years ago this month, let us remember that this response, though facing some illiterate opposition in some quarters, was swift, coordinated, and a major synchronised whole-of-world approach to disease control and containment; the best of it's kind since the influenza health crisis of the 1920s.

The Problem of Pandemic Exit

If irresponsible (exit) decisions about the coronavirus and the COVID-19 pandemic are now acceptable elsewhere, we don't have to go the same way, writes OSCAR MOTSUMI

Before we can talk about how best countries can relax, or abandon, COVID-19 protective measures and other mitigation protocols, legal or voluntary, embraced by a menaced world two years ago this month, let us remember that this response, though facing some illiterate opposition in some quarters, was swift, coordinated, and a major synchronised whole-of-world approach to disease control and containment; the best of it's kind since the influenza health crisis of the 1920s.

There is no denying the success of this global approach. It saved lives, millions of lives - the masks, the social distancing, the hygienic measures and the socio-economic restrictions, the vaccines. In some countries very authoritarian legal measures, desirable or not, were, in their entire combination, very effective in controlling the virus spreading, disease infections, hospitalisations and saving the lives of billions, including the more than 140 million who got infected and surviving.

Now that we are getting out of the worst possible impacts of this pandemic, isn't it necessary that we gather, study and overview lessons learned from this coordinated global response and tie this success to pandemic exit strategies that already seem to be working in some countries?

We must agree that we live in a world that is forever rapidly evolving and highly interconnected and frenetically mobile, and that all this hectic mobility and inter-relatedness makes risk governance a major challenge for all governments, especially emergency health administration. Just as pandemic control could not be achieved by nation-oriented approaches in the past two years, COVID-19 pandemic exit cannot now be accomplished through narrow-minded, inward-looking policies.

To achieve pandemic exit success - a tall order by any measure, given the problem of mutant variants and the frequently waning effectiveness of the vaccines currently in the market, not to mention that billions of people remain unvaccinated - we ought to devise and implement global strategies for maximum collaboration and commit to shared progress in defeating the coronavirus and COVID-19 pandemic in the long-term.

Isolated, short-termism is not the best approach. We just cannot have each and every country doing its own thing, getting things wrong, coming back to the international fold again for help, and going back to local social experiments of its own, failing, and trying again. That just won't work. We survived this pandemic by largely working together; designing conceptual frameworks, tools, and entities responsible for public safety and disease control for every individual, every community, and government and all global health systems, as best we could, synergistically cutting down everyone's risk and maximising disease control, progress and scientific impact.

We did this as a global community, galvanising clear global leadership and solidarity, drawing useful and effective lessons from previous health pandemics from all parts of the world, implementing well-tested pandemic mitigation tools developed in response to plagues like Ebola and influenza outbreaks.

Why is it acceptable now for other countries to start running ahead, leaving others behind, not helping with vaccines and institutional support, and creating unnecessary risks for everyone?

The roles apportioned to individuals, to communities and governments these past tremulous two years; these things do not come from COVID-19 pandemic mitigation only, they come from the wisdoms of our forebears the world over, their provenance is in the historic past of health emergency administration and management.

Why is it acceptable now for other countries to start running ahead, leaving others behind, not helping with vaccines and institutional support, and creating unnecessary risks for everyone? Is the world ready to abandon masks now? I don't think so. Is the world safe from further COVID-19 infections? Obviously not, and people are still dying in large numbers even in those regions with high rates of vaccination.

Is it wise to relax international travel measures right now? Yes, but caution must be the guiding rule, and frankly this should not be left to individual governments. WHO should put in place science-informed rules for international travel? Why not? They have better data about the global reach and impact of this pandemic than any single government, and frankly most governments have no reliable data at all. Besides, if for one reason or the other this pandemic suddenly becomes as deadly as it was 12 months ago, it is WHO that is going to take the flake.

It is also worth noting that we actually are still studying this virus - its mutants and whatever it can do to come through to us again in the future, should a cure not be found soon. Also, the regions most unvaccinated are the most fragile, the most exposed and the least capable of self-defence. And because they are needy, they are likely to be the ones most likely to take the worst possible risks towards pandemic exit.

Namibia, for example, just announced that masks are no longer a requirement in public places. We expect many more African countries to follow the same route in the near future, and damn the consequences! As civil society, we are very worried about these developments. An uncontrolled pandemic requires resources and focused political leadership, not irresponsible adventurism.

It requires education, knowledge and a strong health and financial infrastructure. Africa, and Africans, do not have these things. If irresponsible decisions about the coronavirus and COVID-19 pandemic are now acceptable elsewhere, we don't have to go the same way We encourage our leaders to do the right thing; follow the science and safe lives.

Public Relations:

From Page 14

their day-to-day lives continue as normal.

Promoters are also infamous for bad PR. We recently saw a social media war between a South African artist and a local promoter regarding an event that happened last year that the artists were to headline. The way the issue was handled was evident that no PR practitioner was engaged to remedy the situation. PR is not only about the good stuff like giving media tickets, hosting press conferences and approaching sponsors.

In moments of crisis, these are the people who ensure that the reputation of the brand and event remain intact. If there are more shows to be hosted, how will potential sponsors trust the brand if the nothing was done to actively restore the reputation of the promoter and his entertainment company?

Another example is the recent Miss Botswana Dress debacle. It was a shock to the entire nation to see our beauty queen walk down a world stage in a dress that was not a part of her initial wardrobe as before paraded. But Miss Botswana Organisation's sloppy practice in crisis management dates back years ago. It started when winners and runners-up were not receiving their full prizes in the midst of rumours of mishandling finances. The lack of brand management from a PR perceptive ultimately damaged the reputation of the organisation. Every year something negative hovers over the pageant and its management.

In any self-respecting organisation, a proper crisis management plan would have been in place to address the nation about what happened. Relationships - which we all know are difficult to maintain and even more difficult to develop - are at the heart of PR. It seems brands lack the patience to reap the benefits of PR's efforts since it is difficult to understand that media attention and devoted audiences don't happen overnight. Nonetheless, a well-thought-out strategy for maximising public relations possibilities is just as crucial as advertising or sales promotions.

But again, ''Batswana ba' lebala ebile ba itshwarela ka spiti.'' Perhaps it is our culture to sympathise with our fellow compatriots, even if it costs us our reputation as a nation. Nonetheless, bad PR, small or little, shouldn't go unresolved. Furthermore, it makes it difficult for marketers to carry out their activities if people don't trust the brand because people won't use their products, services, or affiliate themselves with it ultimately.

Any organisation may thrive if public relations is the anchor and casts a light on brands, their goodwill and relevance, no matter what may be going on in the marketplace. As public trust in a brand grows over time, a company's public relations efforts help to establish a lasting story about the brand. From this perspective, public relations should be a part of every marketing strategy, not merely a nice-to-have when additional sales are needed or crises arise.



"The airline is in constant consultations with major importers and exporters and is currently working with the Botswana Chamber of Mines to secure a monthly consignment of 150 tonnes from China for use in manufacturing of mining inputs."

Pic:skytraxratings.com

Govt Revamps Air Botswana Privatisation

- Relevant legislation due next month (April) as benchmarking with privatised national airlines continues
- General sales and service agents appointed in China, India, Dubai, Germany and SA
- Negotiations with Botswana Chamber of Mines for monthly consignment of 150t of mining inputs from China advanced
- Zimbabwe's FastJet to operate services between Victoria Falls and Maun beginning July

GAZETTE REPORTER

Plans to privatise Air Botswana are still underway with promulgation of the airline transition legislation expected to be initiated next month (April), the Minister of Transport and Communications, Thulaganyo Segokgo, told the (parliamentary) Committee of Supply recently.

Minister Segokgo said Botswana's national carrier is currently conducting benchmarking, especially with other national airlines that have been privatised. "Other privatisation models such as finding a strategic partner or investor(s), the PPP model, are also being explored prior to issuance of an Expression of Interest (EOI)," he said.

He disclosed that in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Air Botswana has developed a new three -year strategic recovery plan (2021-24) to turn its fortunes around. The strategy will focus more on diversification of revenue streams that will see Air Botswana becoming more cargo-driven.

"The airline has reviewed the cargo potential and identified major source markets (as) China, India, Dubai, Europe, Singapore, Indonesia and South Africa," said the minister. "General Sales and Service Agents (GSSA) have been appointed in China, India, Dubai, Germany (covering the European region) and South Africa from November 2021 to-date."

Segokgo said the airline is also negotiating Cargo Special Prorate Agreements (SPA) with long haul operators from identified source markets in order to increase its cargo tonnage. "Further, Air Botswana is pursuing a multimodal approach (both surface and air) between Johannesburg and Gaborone to argument tonnage capacity in order to handle bulky goods owing to the small capacity of our aircraft," he noted.

"The airline is in constant consultations with major importers and exporters and is currently working with the Botswana Chamber of Mines to secure a monthly consignment of 150 tonnes from China for use in manufacturing of mining inputs."

Meanwhile, while overall aircraft and passenger movements declined by about 85 percent and 87.9 percent respectively since March 2021, there is now an Indic ation of recovery. "As of March 2022, there is an indication of recovery and we are operating at 43.5 percent and 36.7 percent aircraft and passenger traffic respectively of the pre-COVID era," Segokgo said. "Vaccines will allow some governments to relax travel restrictions and support flights utilising Botswana airspace."

He added that following the negative impact that COVID-19 has had on the aviation industry, the Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana and its partners will ensure that the industry is back on its feet again. "In an attempt to increase connectivity and travel opportunity for Batswana, FastJet, a Zimbabwean airline, has been licensed to operate services between Victoria Falls and Maun, commencing in July 2022," he disclosed.

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INVESTMENT FUND	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
Mompati Life Fund	12.87	13.14	13.23	13.47	13.14	13.04
Mompati Retirement Annuity Fund	59.04	60.29	60.73	61.87	60.40	59.94
Mompati Educator Fund	15.38	15.71	15.81	16.10	15.73	15.63
Mompati Offshore Fund	3.47	3.57	3.58	3.68	3.52	3.45
Ex-IGI Fund	43.80	43.94	44.26	43.43	43.95	44.10
Khumo 2016 Preservation Fund	12.10	12.12	12.15	12.18	12.21	12.24
Shariah Model Portfolio Fund	1.05	1.11	1.12	1.19	1.21	1.27
Balanced Life Fund	14.74	15.10	15.24	15.56	15.21	15.11
Balanced Retirement Fund	67.78	69.46	70.11	71.7	70.08	69.63
Moderate Life Fund	17.63	18.06	18.22	18.63	18.22	18.12
Growth Offshore Fund	4.16	4.30	4.32	4.46	4.26	4.19

For more information, see our Fund Fact Sheets on our website

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RDC Investment and Property Portfolio Up 153%

- Company makes fair value gain of P36.6m on investment property
- Profit after tax grows from P22.2m to P647. 3m
- RDC realises revenue growth of 11.4% to P146.6m



The investment and property portfolio of diversified property outfit, RDC Properties, increased by 153 percent from P2.29 billion in 2020 to P5.82 billion in the year that ended 31 December 2021, RDC Executive Chairman, Guido Giachetti, has said.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The investment and property portfolio of diversified property outfit, RDC Properties, increased by 153 percent from P2.29 billion in 2020 to P5.82 billion in the year that ended 31 December 2021, RDC Executive Chairman, Guido Giachetti, has said.

Noting that the increase was primarily due to acquisitions undertaken by the company, Giachetti said 43 percent of the entire portfolio has been independently valued, which reflects in a fair value gain of P36.6 million on investment property.

This is the Group that realised revenue growth of 11.4 percent from P131.6 million in the prior year to P146.6 million in the year under review.

RDC's profit after tax increased substantially from P22.2 million in the prior year to P647. 3 million in the year that ended 31 December 2021.

According to Giachetti, the commercial property portfolio has been resilient in Botswana, as reflected in the fair value gains realised through the independent property valuations as at December 2021.

"Collections for the year stood at 96 percent, including some P8.5 million of rental converted to long-term loans to assist tenants with liquidity and enable them to trade out of this crisis," he said in the Group's financials released recently. "The hospitality assets were under continued pressure and underperformed through the lockdowns and travel restrictions. The global vaccinations programmes and the pent-up demand for leisure travels herald a positive outlook for the tourism industry in 2022/23."

The Protea Hotel by Marriot, Masa Square faced challenging trading conditions and a pro-longed recovery," Giachetti said.

He singled out RDC's key leisure asset, Chobe Marina Lodge, for enjoying good trading conditions through the fourth quarter of 2021. "The Protea Hotel by Marriot, Masa Square faced challenging trading conditions and a pro-longed recovery," Giachetti said. "The hospitality teams are working tirelessly to contain costs, maintain standards and protect the value of these key assets."

He noted that in South Africa, the Capitalgro portfolio's performance has remained solid and has distributed some R26.2 million to shareholders, representing an interest rate of 8.3 percent on shareholder loans. The iconic Radisson Red Hotel in Rosebank opened its doors in the third quarter of 2021 and, with its trendy offering and niche art focus, has become the place to be in Rosebank.

RDC Properties Limited is a variable rate loan stock company that develops and invests in modern commercial, industrial and residential buildings in various locations in Botswana, South Africa and Madagascar, among other countries. The company operates through the property rentals segment.

Trade-Up North Gears Up For Mining Expo

KATLEGO RAKOLA

The Mining Expo Trade-Up North will take place next month in Francistown. The expedition, which brings together buyers and sellers of mining equipment, will be taking place after a two-year break, owing to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Organisers Soapbox Communications, a 100% citizen-owned company, told ***The Botswana Gazette*** in an interview that the event presents the latest technologies and equipment, services and machinery for mines and mining industries. These are for companies in exploration, excavation, processing, production and export.

The expo also comes with investment opportunities in Botswana for mining, manufacturing and construction companies.

"The north of Botswana is a hub for mining and construction. It is vast and can be time consuming and expensive to cover. Trade Up North is unique in the way it brings together a large number of customers from one single region, which facilitates sales work," said Mojela.

Organizer Vuyiswa Mojela believes Trade-Up North is well positioned to ignite a new spark in the country's mining sector, strategically positioned in the north of the country where a number of mines are located.

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The mining industry slumped after the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, with most mines halting production as sales slowed due to lockdowns around the world. However, the mining sector is recovering rapidly, with some now back to pre-pandemic production and sales levels. Mojela sees this as an opportunity for the industry to pick up where it left off and share the latest in the industry.

"This is a chance for people working in these industries to meet and make new contacts, engage in technology transfer and business linkages," he said in an interview. "The expo is also a great platform to identify potential investors to boost collaboration and international trade in the minerals development and construction sectors."

The event will also host several seminars focusing on key areas in the mining sector. They include one on legislation and development potential, the economic outlook for the North East, energy security as an enabler, opportunities for junior miners in Botswana, government and private sector collaboration to unlock mining potential in Botswana, as well as finance, logistics, market development and access.

"The expo is also going to address burning issues such as beneficiation of minerals in Botswana and also look at existing and upcoming construction projects," Mojela noted, adding that job seekers are encouraged to use the opportunity to approach potential employers.

Trade-Up North is sponsored mainly by the Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources. "Decision makers in all areas of mining, construction and power generation such as analysts, foremen, engineers, mine managers, procurement managers, SHEQ/Safety managers and technicians will be present," Mojela said.

BSE Records Highest Turnover In 2022

But the record P1.1bn in 2021 remains the highest turnover ever recorded in a single day of trading since inception of trading on the BSE in November 1995

GAZETTE REPORTER

Last week, the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) recorded the highest turnover in a single day of trading so far in 2022 at P186.7 million.

This single turnover in trading joins a series of significant trade milestones by the BSE in recent years, including P494.3 million recorded in 2016, P484.6 million in 2017, P458.6 million in 2018, P149.8 million in 2019 and P1.1 billion in 2021, which remains the highest turnover ever recorded in a single day of trading since inception of trading on the BSE in November 1995.

Said Thapelo Tsheole, the CEO of the BSE, commenting on this milestone: "As a market, it is important that we demonstrate our technological innovation and capabilities through handling trades of this magnitude to the global business community."

"As a market, it is important that we demonstrate our technological innovation and capabilities through handling trades of this magnitude to the global business community." Tsheole

"Such achievements serve to position the BSE on the global investment map of prospective issuers and investors looking to tap into developing markets with advanced infrastructure. As such, I would like to thank my team for their efforts in ensuring the seamless transactions of today's high turnover."

The BSE has the responsibility of operating and regulating the equities and fixed interest securities market. Formally established in 1989, the BSE is pivotal to Botswana's financial system, in particular the capital market, as an avenue through which the government, quasi-government and the private sector can raise debt and equity capital.

The BSE plays host to the most preeminent companies doing business in Botswana. These companies represent a spectrum of industries and commerce, from banking and financial services to wholesaling, retailing, tourism and IT.

The Pandemic That Will Never End

ANALYSIS



For most, the word pandemic was new, something more serious than an epidemic. Looking back the numbers on the 3/11/2020 seem very small, only 118,000 cases, 4,291 deaths spread over 113 countries. Photo Credit: www.newscientist.com

DOUGLAS RASHBASH

Nine eleven (9/11) is a date that is etched permanently in the minds of billions – it was when the Twin Towers in New York were attacked killing 3400 people in 2001. But how many will associate 3/11/2020 (American Date) as the day the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared a pandemic which has killed six million and possibly many more than that. For most, the word pandemic was new, something more serious than an epidemic. Looking back the numbers on the 3/11/2020 seem very small, only 118,000 cases, 4,291 deaths spread over 113 countries.

And yet, it was so terrifying, that a pandemic was declared. It was the rate of increase of cases, the scale of the contagion, the high probability of serious illness and the lack of any vaccine and treatment, that gave cause for concern.

The pandemic announcement led to dramatic changes in international travel, closing down entire countries or regions, prohibition of movement, social distancing, keeping at least two metres apart and, of course, mask wearing. Hand sanitisers appeared everywhere – it was as if a pandemic industry had sprung up out of nowhere. The pandemic shut down clubs, bars, and restaurants, forbade gatherings and even stopped folks attending the funerals. Health services were stretched beyond their limits too with insufficient beds and ICU places, oxygen in bottles became a hot commodity.

Fortunately, science came to the rescue, on December 8th, 2020, the first vaccination was given to a 91-year-old woman in the UK. The incredibly fast development of vaccines was unprecedented, clinical trials had taken place for only four months, but data suggested that it was safe for use. Since then, 11 billion doses have been administered in every country and over 5 billion have been fully vaccinated. The global vaccination program was and still is skewed heavily in favour of richer developed countries where almost all of the population have been vaccinated. The term vaccine nationalism exactly described the selfishness of many countries. Africa lags behind with a vaccination rate of but is fortunately catching up. Botswana Government has done well after a slow start frustrated by vaccination nationalism but currently has a vaccination rate of circa 65/100 persons.

During the two-year period of the pandemic, corona virus has mutated thousands of times and few of these variants have been of concern. The WHO even named them after the Greek alphabet. Omicron swept through the world like a cyclone and quickly became the dominant strain though not as life threatening as the previous variant of concern - Delta - which was more dangerous and claimed many lives. Recently another new one has been discovered in France which is dubbed Deltacron because it shows signs of being like Omicron and Delta. Deltacron is approximately 1.4 times more infectious than the original Omicron strain BA.1 making similar to measles which is reckoned to be the most infectious disease. But the good news is that case numbers of Deltacron are falling.

Currently infections remain very high though they appear to be falling. There are 2 million new cases and 7,500 deaths each day. In mid-January there was 4.5 million new cases and over 10,000 deaths each day. Yet given this high number of cases there is optimism that the worst is over. Many countries are removing restrictions and are understandably eager to return to normalcy. So, the question then that hangs in the air like a heavy cloud is what are the conditions that would end the pandemic? Current COVID-19 cases and deaths are twenty times what they were when the pandemic was called by the WHO. But this week this organisation, on the second anniversary of the pandemic, the WHO has started to discuss exactly what should be the criteria for calling an end to the pandemic. The international organisation made it clear that it is not considering calling an end to the Pandemic as the numbers are still far too high but what the criteria should be.

One of the criteria is the level of immunity in the population, but that is a long way off for some countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo where the vaccination rate remains at less the one percent. And given the universality of the disease it is unlikely that the pandemic would be called off unless at least two thirds of nations have fully – at least 90% - vaccinated their populations or have acquired natural immunity through having had the disease.

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Most experts believe that COVID-19 will become endemic and will never leave us. This being the case, we will simply have to boost our immunity through periodic vaccinations or – as is hoped – using new oral vaccines that are in the advanced stages of development. It is likely that the end of the pandemic will be an anti-climax there will be no fanfare or street parties even though a 'world war' will have been won. More likely that individual countries will lift all restrictions one by one. This will be a pity because we deserve to pat ourselves on our backs.

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Unpacking Fashion with Batswana creatives in Joburg

Sustainability and indigenous culture won the day at this year's Fashion Without Borders in Jo'burg that featured more than 18 fashion designers and 40 models from across the African continent. Botswana's Mothusi Lesolle held sway in the sphere of fashion for social change. StaffWriter **GOSEGO MOTSUMI** reports

In a bid to transform fashion from the entertainment aspect into business and lifestyle, Fashion Without Borders (FWB) kicked off this year's edition in Johannesburg, South Africa last weekend, featuring more than 18 fashion designers and 40 models from across the continent.

In its 8th edition in Joburg, the FWB programme started with Fashion Unpacked Masterclass, which was a showcase featuring Botswana designers NGUO, Donlu Amour, Kapari Flava and Black Excellence Clothing. "The fashion, textile and clothing industry has enormous potential to transform lives, particularly for women and youth," said Serge Kabisoso, Co-founder and Creative Director at Effigy Productions, the company behind Fashion Without Borders.

"With the aim of reaching the fashion designers across different regions of Africa in order to give underdeveloped fashion situations access to the wider market of the African continent, this year's edition is a blend of new talent and emerging and established names."

Motswana fashion designer Mothusi Lesolle, who once auctioned a dress to address issues of the girl child, raised the hot topic of fashion for social change during the Masterclass workshop, noting that people have different ideas about how to impact fashion, especially for social change.

The iZaura owner cited international model Naomi Campbell's campaign for poverty relief as an example of something in the realm of fashion for social change.

"My ideology of sustainability is based on my experience," Lesolle said. "I was formally introduced to sustainability by a company called Eco Age when I was asked to create a gown that was showcased at Buckingham Palace. I say 'formally' because I would like us to acknowledge that sustainability has been a part of our daily lives long before it became fashionable.

"Sustainability is a hot topic but in this side of the world we still associate it with more developed communities. I grew up under sustainable practices in Serowe, living with my grandmother. She didn't have the business acumen to understand that what she was practising every day could create wealth in the future. Grandmother would mix cow dung with different colour sands to create wall paintings at home. All this happened around us."


(Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

Yet he could not figure out the meaning of sustainability when the established designer was challenged to create a sustainable gown. He also faced limited resources because Botswana's textile and fashion industry is still heavily reliant on materials manufactured outside and a market limited in skills.

"These challenges are the reason why sustainability seems unachievable in developing communities," Lesolle pointed out. "I believe when taught right, we can have the right capacity and embrace the concept of sustainability. The *mophane* cocoon, for instance, has been proven to be 100 percent silk."

Lesolle is a proponent of commercialising culture and has started doing so with his "*jale*" scarfs as a modern interpretation of the *mogagolwane*, a blanket draped over shoulders by especially married women on formal occasions. This is similar to the way international luxury fashion brand Louis Vuitton was inspired by the BaSotho legacy to create blanket fashion pieces, leaving many native Africans resentful.

"Commercializing culture means conceptualising and packaging our inheritance in a way that is able to attain competitive advantage within the market," Lesolle said. "It's a challenge to create handmade cultural items in bulk, but in places like Asia they are able to create machinery that can replicate those products to push numbers. That is where we lack as developing communities."

This fashion designer is also an advocate of ethical fashion that ensures that people involved in creating their artistry and the communities that they work within benefit positively. This is because Lesolle is aware that today's consumer is conscious of how their clothes are made and the people making them after the "Who Made Your Clothes" campaign inspired by child labour stories in Asia trended worldwide.

"It is important for us to advance technical skills to be able to improve manufacturing in Africa because we have skills but lack capacity," he said. "We need to turn our indigenous culture to money and to decolonise our minds because we have the power as Africa yet the developed countries set trends."

FWB collaborated with its long standing partners, *The Voice* newspaper, AvonSouthAfrica #WHATCHMENOW, SABC News, NEWSROOM AFRICA, LeAfrika BLM Naturals and Perfect Choice. The event was held at The Radisson Blu Gautrain Hotel under strict COVID-19 regulations over three days of creativity, ingenuity and self-expression.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Motor Vehicle Accident Fund invites qualified companies with the following expertise to submit their proposals as follows:

Procurement Requirements: **Procurement of Consultancy Services**

1. **RFP-04-2022** - Brand Perception Survey for MVA Fund
PPADB registration: Code 317- Other Consultancy Services- Sub code: 01 or 02 or 05
Prescribed Reservation Schemes: **100% citizen owned companies**
Tenders Closing: **20th April 2022**
2. **RFP-05-2022** - **Production of Road Safety Television Educational Documentary (Setswana Version) for MVA Fund**
PPADB registration: Code 128 - Media Services- Sub code 02
Prescribed Reservation Schemes: **100% citizen owned companies**
Tenders Closing: **18th April 2022**
3. **RFP-06-2022** - **Development of MVA Fund's Strategic Plan (2023 – 2027)**
PPADB registered: Code 317- Other Consultancy Services, Sub code: 01 or 02
Prescribed Reservation Schemes: **CEE Policy, EDD Policy, and Local PS**
Tenders Closing: **26th April 2022**

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Toll Free 0800 600 739
Email: mvafund@mvafund.bw
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Africa.com names Catherine Lesetedi in Definitive List of Women CEOs



(Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

- BIHL describes it as "an incredible honour" to see Catherine named once more
- Lesetedi among 74 women leading large scale businesses with impact across Africa

The Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited (BIHL) Group has announced that Group CEO, Catherine Lesetedi, has been named as part of the Africa.com Definitive List of Women CEOs, an initiative that recognises depth of female talent across the African continent.

Lesetedi has been named alongside 74 women recognised in the prestigious list that was published on the International Women's Day, 8 March 2022. It is the second year that she is included.

The list is a unique research effort that highlights women who lead big businesses in Africa, based on data by Bloomberg. No other list of successful African businesswomen is grounded in quantifiable research like this, making the Definitive List of Women CEOs among the most data-driven on the continent.

Said Mahube Mpugwa, Acting Chairman of the BIHL Group Board: "This is an incredible honour to see Catherine named on the list once more in such outstanding company and recognised for the incredible commitment and contribution she makes.

"Sitting at the helm of such a behemoth entity as the BIHL Group and wielding positive impact and progress even in the most challenging of circumstances is no small feat.

"Catherine does it with poise, commitment, passion and visionary leadership. We celebrate her and we celebrate this milestone achievement. It is a testament to the calibre of talent we have in the Group, and indeed across Botswana."

According to Africa.com, all of the women-run businesses featured must see revenue of $100 million or more. Africa.com is not only reporting on women in corporate Africa but also runs large scale, free training for African women in the first five years of their corporate careers.

Lesetedi is among such other visionary women leaders as Natascha Viljoen, CEO, Anglo American Platinum; Nompumelelo Thembekile (Mpumi) Madisa, CEO (Executive Director), Bidvest Group; Bertina Engelbrecht, CEO, Clicks Group; Lizé Lambrechts, CEO, Sanlam; and Nneka Onyeali-Ikpe, Managing Director and CEO, Fidelity Bank Nigeria, to name just a few.

She also stands along with Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane, Managing Director of Absa Bank Botswana Ltd., and Faith Mabu Nteta, Managing Director of Sechaba Breweries, as the only three women named from Botswana.

Said Lesetedi: "It is a privilege and an honour to be named amongst so many other women whom I look to with great admiration. I am grateful to Africa.com for the humbling gesture and for recognising the work of so many women across Africa. May this list grow stronger with every year, for our continent and indeed our country is rich with phenomenal leadership and leadership potential.

"Let us not waste this but leverage the progress we have made and the potential we carry to impact the next generation of women leadership. This is how we break the bias, challenge the status quo, and advance ever closer to the sustainable goals we have set before us, from the UN SDGs to our very own country ambitions for diversity, inclusion, and impact.

"We need to continue to empower women and girls, for it is essential to the health and social development of families, communities and countries. It is also key to economic growth, political stability and social transformation."

"A closed Mouth doesn't get Fed"

- Girlfriend Series takes the scary out of networking
- White Label Fragrances founder underlines being intentional

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

"A Closed Mouth Doesn't Get Fed," which underlines the need to speak up and assert yourself so you are not overlooked, is an idiom that was reiterated by media entrepreneur and storyteller, Tshepo Ntshole-Hall, at another Girlfriend Series event at Burundi Private Lodge in Rasesa last weekend.

For some people, networking is a terrifying and disabling prospect because they are socially awkward, shy, lack confidence or just don't know exactly how to network. "But once you develop a plan to find the relationship you need to help you in your vision, you begin to see a world of difference in your opportunity hunting results," Ntshole-Hall said in an interview.

"I am always inspired to want to impart and always take from the previous engagements, which revealed that a lot of women express the desire to network but do not know how to, they are scared or don't know how to approach people."

The Girlfriend Series, which is a platform that encourages powerful conversations so that women become the best versions of themselves, hosted women from different professions to engage and impart tips on mastering the art of networking in business. Sharing her networking experiences while building an international brand, White Label Fragrances, Thamani Thothe said she strongly believes in collaborations, intentionally aligning with circles that move her closer to her vision and making moves with purpose.

White Label Fragrances will be launched soon to the South African market after the bespoke brand was challenged to create a scent that represented Botswana recently. The result was a bottled scent of rain, which was a collaborative effort between the brand and France.

"I am always inspired to want to impart and always take from the previous engagements, which revealed that a lot of women express the desire to network but do not know how to, they are scared or don't know how to approach people."

Said Thothe: "If you have a business idea, setting yourself up from a networking point of view is all about intention. When I started my business, I was intentional about how I wanted it to be perceived. I wanted an aesthetic that felt international.

"In the process of building the brand, I had a lot of Batswana giving feedback and I realised that they knew exactly what they wanted. I then allowed them to build the brand without losing what my vision was. I opened my mind to different possibilities. I was authentic and didn't lose the vision. The challenges were there but the vision was there too and I did not waiver in way."

Thothe underscored being intentional and moving in certain circles because it is important for the growth of any business as the right individuals can influence and place a brand where it needs to be. She noted that the growth of White Label Fragrances has thrived on collaborations that encourage teamwork.

"When I started running the business, I came up with a democratic leadership style," she said. "It is important to know what every individual you are working with is thinking and their goals. During our interviews I ask them their goals and the type of job I offer is aligned to the direction they want to take. This also gives them an idea of what their career path involves."

The Girlfriend Series is a community that engages through different platforms such as podcasts and big events that they partner with. For the networking series, they partnered with Inverroche, White Lace Events, Musa Mhlasi, DJ Taysomething, Buruundi Private Lodge and Purell brand.

Tebogo LebotseSebego is Woman of the Year

Minister Peggy Serame officiates at first women's awards



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Celebrating trailblazing women from different fields of work, Mascom's chief communications manager and sports administrator, Tebogo LebotseSebego, was awarded the Woman of the Year award at Botswana's first women's awards last weekend.

As the Woman of the Year, Lebotse-Sebego was recognised for breaking the glass ceiling and demonstrating that women are capable and they can which was the theme of the awards.

"I did not expect (to win) this award as I was nominated alongside great women," she said in her acceptance speech. "I would like to thank my husband who allows me to be who I am with no judgements."

The Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Peggy Serame, who presented the awards to winners, said the event would go down in history as a day women in Botswana stood up to say they are capable and they can. She noted that as the Women's History Month, the month of March afforded women an opportunity to reflect on their contribution and how they can forge gender equality in all spheres of life.

"Women have demonstrated many times through their life, work and their leadership in governance, diplomacy, social norm and just by the task of raising a family that we are suited for any challenge and we will excel anyhow," the minister said.

"*Mosadi ke thari ya sechaba* (Women are the cradle of the nation), almost every child or citizen of Botswana is familiar with this phrase. I can just say women indeed have a positive impact on building a prosperous nation. When we are engaged as women, we always bring something unique, special and of high quality to any decisions bound to be taken."

While there was a promise of a unique event, the inaugural awards ceremony at Travel Lodge in Gaborone got off to a damp squib because of poor coordination that was clear to everyone present. The night was mercifully salvaged by none other than the recognition and celebration of the 15 women who attained profound success for their impact and contribution in Agriculture, Health, Activism, Sports, Business, the Media and other spheres of endeavours themselves.

They were honoured for the positive impact that they have made and continue to make in society as well as for being inspirational to other women and the girl child. "We have become incredible role models and examples for young girls whom we can positivity influence to carry on and do better in becoming unrelenting women of great influence," said Serame.

"The awards ceremony will indeed raise awareness for women to be granted equal participation, particularly in decision-making positions. This is one way of breaking the bias and it demonstrates the awards' contribution to the theme of this year's women's month."

Winners

1. WOMAN OF THE YEAR
Tebogo LebotseSebego
2. BEST WOMAN OWNED BUSINESS
Sprint Couriers
3. INFLUENTIAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR
Berry Heart
4. BEST WOMAN IN STYLE & FASHION
Masi Sithole
5. MEDIA WOMAN OF THE YEAR
Zizi Panther
6. BEST WOMAN IN AGRICULTURE
Pearl Gaone Ranna
7. WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & FITNESS AWARENESS
Chaikhwa Nani Lobatse
8. BEST WOMAN IN CREATIVITY, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY
Neo Kebiditswe
9. BEST WOMAN PROMOTING ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE
Zenzele Hirschfeld
10. BESTWOMAN WITH COMMUNITY IMPACT
Kgalalelo A. Nolly Lesetedi
11. COMPANY/ ORGANISATION SUPPORTING WOMEN
Motswana Woman
12. INSPIRING MALE SUPPORTING WOMEN
Mr Wise
13. BEST WOMAN LIVING WITH DISABILITY
Chaikhwa Nani Lobatse
14. YOUNG/YOUTH WOMAN OF THE YEAR
Tshireletso Seoromeng
15. SPORTS WOMAN OF THE YEAR
Sedilame Boseja

MASCOM DERBY RETURNS AT EASTER



After being on a hiatus related to curbs on the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Mascom Derby has returned to reclaim its spot on the country's events calendar. Slated for 16 April 2022 at Shashe Horse Track in Maun, the derby promises an extraordinary show of fashion and cultural diversity over the Easter long weekend. Running under the theme "A New Dawn," the resort town of Maun is set to be a beehive of activity for revellers who will get to explore several activities lined up for them.

Said Mascom Communications Manager, Tebogo Lebotse-Sebego, when she launched the return of the derby recently: "We are very excited to be back this year for yet another eventful Mascom Derby. This event is the highlight of the Maun Easter Holiday calendar with tourists coming in from different countries around the world to join in the excitement and experience Maun cuisine, music, fashion and the horse race competition."

Renowned King of Rumba, Frank 'Franco' Lesokwane will join this year's festivities as the headline act at the derby on 16 April while Dato Seiko will be the main act for the Mascom Fashion Show on 15 April. In its revival, Mascom and the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Culture Development have ensured the event returns with 120 race horses set to compete in two separate categories for the grand prize of P500 000.

Since its inception in 2006, the Mascom Derby has evolved into one of the biggest horse racing events in Botswana. This year marks 14 years since Mascom has been supporting the derby. In its maiden years, the race alternated between Gaborone and Maun, until finally relocating to Maun.

BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE

BVI recognised by the African Union for its contribution in Rinderpest eradication

Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited (BVI), joined the livestock industry under "The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Health (AU-IBAR)" in commemoration of the AU-IBAR 70th Anniversary as well as the 10th Anniversary of Rinderpest Eradication held in Nairobi Kenya. The event also saw the launch of the Pan Africa Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR Programme 2022-2026).

In 2011 the Veterinary fraternity and all its stakeholders celebrated the declaration of the eradication of the first ever livestock disease from the planet, Rinderpest. The disease had over many decades afflicted significant mortalities and losses to the livestock keepers of the World to the extent that it was given the notorious name "Cattle Plague".

Recognizing the detrimental impacts of the disease and its ability to arrest reverse any gains made in the livestock sector, the leading animal health bodies and various stakeholders embarked on a significant drive of eradication of the first livestock disease rinderpest through vaccination and surveillance through the program named the Global Rinderpest Eradication Program (GREP). BVI alongside other globally players produced and supplied millions of doses of high-quality Rinderpest vaccines over decades through its Pestobov 100 vaccine as well as improving this vaccine to offer a version that could be kept outside refrigeration Pestobov- 50T and still maintain its potency.

At a prestigious event organized by AUIBAR, BVI was recognized through an Award for its significant contribution in Rinderpest eradication.

At the same meeting the second five-year plan for global eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) disease 2021-2026 was launched. PPR is the second livestock disease targeted for Global eradication. BVI is amongst leaders in PPR vaccine production having started producing the vaccine in 1998 and having being the first World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), PPR vaccine Bank for Africa (2012-2016) and is currently the European Commission PPR vaccine Bank (2018-2022). BVI is primed for the eradication of the second disease as it was one of the first laboratories in the World to develop a thermotolerant PPR Vaccine that could be kept out of refrigeration at 40 degrees Celsius for five days. This improvement on the regular vaccine will ensure access of potent vaccines to the hardest to reach areas especially within the African continent thus ensuring that furthest and most remote areas are not left out on this noble programme. BVI currently has capacity to produce 100 million doses of PPR Vaccines annually.



Dr Mohammad Mahmoud Abubaker, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Nigeria, handing over the Certificate of appreciation to BVI General Manager Mr Andrew Madeswi.



Dr Mohammad Mahmoud Abubaker, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Nigeria, handing over the Trophy of appreciation to BVI General Manager Mr Andrew Madeswi



Monument of Indigenous Africa Bull was Unveiled: Symbolising Readiness; strength and stamina; determination; agility and wisdom; resilience; triumphant

New Mombo Head Chef champions Sustainable Dining Menu

Tondi is an accomplished earth-to-plate chef who never stops learning and is now conscientiously bringing the entire universe of the Okavango Delta to the palate of the guests at Mombo

Set in the heart of the Okavango Delta, Okavango Wilderness Safaris Mombo recently announced the appointment of Tonderai Chipfupi as its Head Chef, coinciding with the camp's rollout of an outstanding new earth-to-plate sustainable dining menu.

Mombo's food ethos is led by three guiding principles - celebrating regional produce, reducing food waste and collaborating with local farmers and artisans - all combined to create a delicious and exclusive food offering suited for all tastes.

"At Mombo, our guests' food experience is a journey in itself, and we want them to feel truly indulged as they discover local ingredients and learn about this spectacular wilderness area," said Chipfupi, who is affectionately known as Tondi.

"We believe that the more food is locally grown, the more we can reduce our 'foodprint', strengthen our ties with the community and create a healthier, more harmonious environment for all of us."

Mombo's food culture has always been relevant to its surroundings, centred around local African ingredients and cultures, offering guests authentic yet refreshing and stylish dining deep in the remote Okavango Delta. Using indigenous heritage ingredients, Mombo supports its neighbouring communities and celebrates heirloom produce from each region.

All Mombo's dishes are designed to use as much of the ingredients as possible, with the chefs constantly investigating ways to reduce food wastage

At Mombo, chief among this is the iconic baobab and the superfood powder produced from its fruit. The 100% organic powder is exceptionally nutrient-rich, providing a wide range of health benefits.

Said Tondi: "We source it from a local supplier who picks the fruit that falls to the ground and transforms it into a powder for us to use in our recipes such as our signature baobab and turmeric dressing, its golden colour adding a touch of African sunshine to our delicious new brunch bowls. We also use it in our morula and millet granola, and our homemade curd-like plant-based yoghurt and extremely moreish Baobab Nice Cream."

Other signature dishes include Mombo's world-renowned Botswana Beef Fillet, Ostrich and Apricot Tagine, Pan-fried African Bream Fillet with Avocado, Vine Cherry Tomatoes and Grilled Corn Salsa, and Honey and Harissa Chicken Skewers served on a Baby Herb Salad.

Old Mombo favourites such as made-from-scratch Wild Mushroom Lasagne and hand-chopped Gourmet Botswana Beef Burgers served with Kalahari Truffle Aioli are also on offer. In addition to the a la carte menu, there is a daily chef's delight/surprise on offer to pique guests' personal taste preferences.

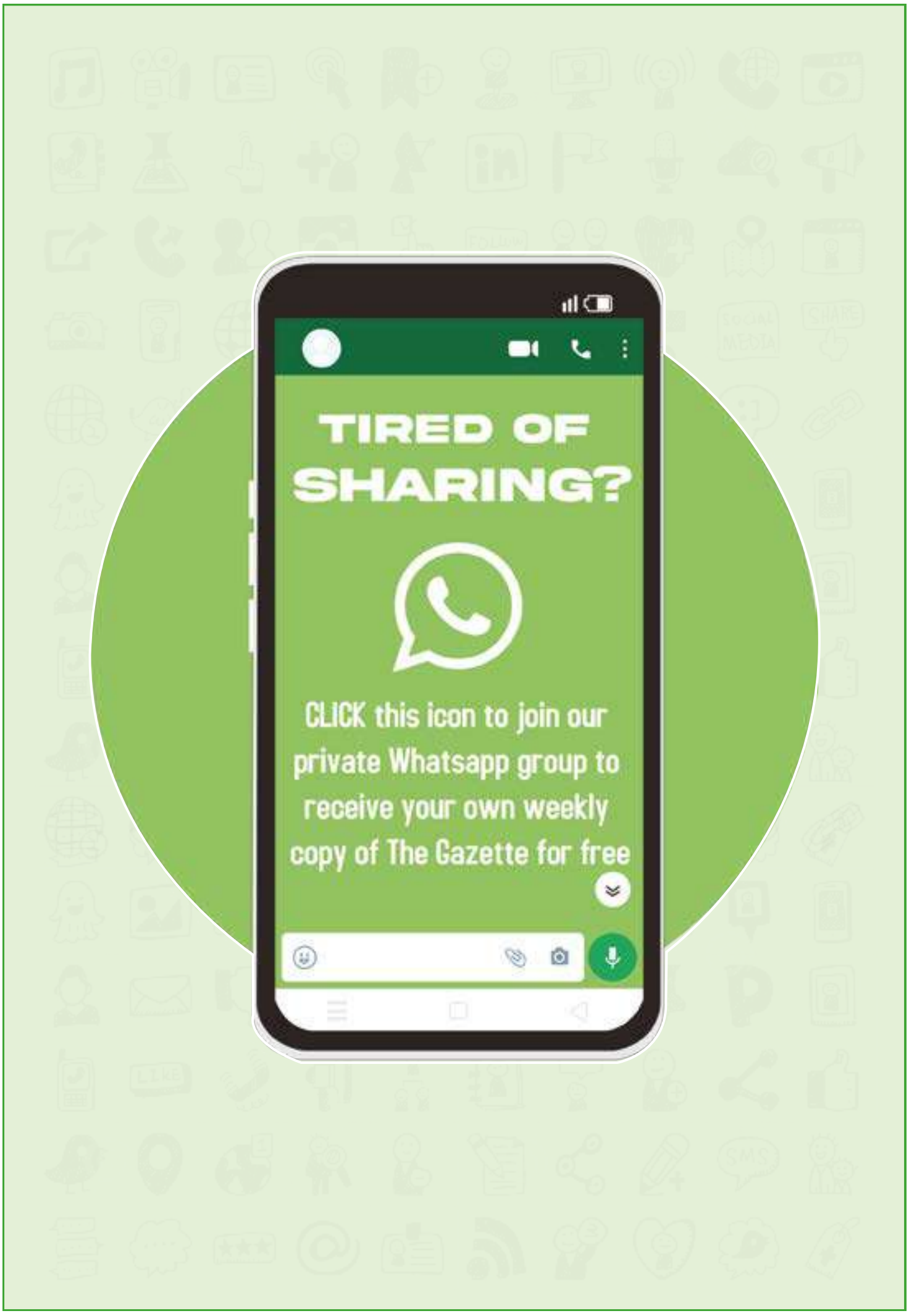
All Mombo's dishes are designed to use as much of the ingredients as possible, with the chefs constantly investigating ways to reduce food wastage. One such dish is Tondi's innovative and flavoursome banana skin chutney, served with Mombo's traditional curried dishes. Almond skins and residual pulp from traditional *madila* cheese are dehydrated to create tasty crackers for game-drive snacks.

Menu choices are also consistently designed with conservation in mind, consciously reducing use of imported food items. Achieving a balance between meat- and plant-based options directly contributes to Mombo's mission to operate with as light a footprint as possible.

Guests can look forward to many other home-grown ingredients being celebrated in their fare, including *ditloo*, a local black-eyed pea that is transformed into an appetising and nutritious Tomato and Rooibos Stew served with *morogo* spinach and delicious *papa*, the staple maize-based starch of Botswana.

The guest dining experience at Mombo is embraced by the camp's Food & Beverage team that crafts memorable moments in the most imaginative locations – from a meal under the stars in the boma to a candle-lit dinner for two in the privacy of a villa, an African braai where their private chef grills steak over glowing coals, or an artisanal pizza baked in an oven against one of the wildest backdrops in Africa.

Out-of-camp dining affords guests quality time in the bush, savouring local African ingredients. "Despite my years of experience, I love learning new skills and never miss an opportunity to try a new technique," said Tondi. "Now happily settled at Mombo, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to embrace these indigenous flavours and processes to enhance our superlative menu and food journey for our guests."





Vexed but inspired by the closure of borders and movement restrictions imposed by government to curb the spike in COVID-19 cases in 2020, a 47-year-old Motswana woman has opened a laundromat in Tsholofelo-East in-order to survive the harsh COVID-19 realities.

Resilient and Passionate SMME Laundress sets sights on expansion

MPHO MATSHEDISO

Vexed but inspired by the closure of borders and movement restrictions imposed by government to curb the spike in COVID-19 cases in 2020, a 47-year-old Motswana woman has opened a laundromat in Tsholofelo-East in-order to survive the harsh COVID-19 realities.

Mahalapye native Sohea Tshireletso who is a former teacher was forced to close her lodge called Pure Mark Guest House due to the lack of business brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and used some of the washing equipment from the lodge to open a full-time laundromat service.

Speaking in an interview with T***he Botswana Gazette*** this week Tshireletso said; "Since it is a requirement in the hospitality sector that if you own a guest house you need to have a laundry room, we realized after the closure of borders that we were going to have fewer to no customers so we moved some of the machines to Gaborone where we spend most of our time doing laundry because it would be easier to do pick and drops for the middle class of the city."

"We started advertising the business through social media and wholly got into the laundry business and learned about running the business. I started off the business washing my kids' clothes and proceeded to doing laundry for friends and to this point we wash every fabric from blankets, towels, jackets amongst others and I can confidently say all my clients clothes are safe with us," she asserted.

Tshireletso added that even though business is low they resumed business at the guest house and the two entities run concurrently. Her laundromat business employs a total of three people on full time basis and they sometimes invite casual workers when the workload is hectic; "We have one employee who does pick and drops for the laundry and two others who do the washing but we rotate them depending on the workload."

Mahalapye native Sohea Tshireletso who is a former teacher was forced to close her lodge called Pure Mark Guest House due to the lack of business brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and used some of the washing equipment from the lodge to open a full-time laundromat service.

But Tshireletso has said they have plans to expand the services they offer by engaging a seamstress and shoe repairer so that if a client has brought clothes that need tailoring or shoes that need fixing it could simply be done at their workshop.

She said they have both prepaid and postpaid monthly subscription for their clients, "After we have a relationship with a client we suggest to them that it is cheaper to use prepaid or postpaid paying options because they are cheaper and more convenient."

Tshireletso has implored the youth to be resilient and determined if they want to go into business. She has said passion also played a role in her success and that she was willing to explore other avenues like cooking food to sell and generate income to fund her start up business.

Group Drops Research Into Efficacy Of Ivermectin

- Group cites budgetary constraints and emergence of less milder variants like Omicron
- Says it will conduct research into psychological effects of COVID-19



The Botswana Ivermectin Intervention Group (BIIG) has decided to let go of a planned study on the effectiveness of Ivermectin to treat COVID-19, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

KATLEGO RAKOLA

The Botswana Ivermectin Intervention Group (BIIG) has decided to let go of a planned study on the effectiveness of Ivermectin to treat COVID-19, ***The Botswana Gazette*** has established. The research, which has been delayed for months due to pending budget approvals by the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOH), was to determine if Ivermectin can reduce mortality of COVID patients.

This was at a time when the Delta variant was on the rampage in Botswana and around the world and there were reports of Ivermectin relieving some patients in Botswana and elsewhere of COVID symptoms.

Lead researcher Dr George Mokone told The Botswana Gazette in an interview that new variants like Omicron have changed prospects of the research because the variants are milder and cause little distress to COVID patients. The study was also based on helping those with difficulty breathing but Omicron COVID patients do not face this challenge.

This means another important variable of the research, being numbers of people who could participate in the study, is not adequate. The study required that at least a thousand patients taking part to give a clear picture of the efficacy of Ivermectin in reducing harsh symptoms like difficulty in breathing.

Dr Mokone said as long as the variants are not as harsh as Delta, the study would not bring out the desired results or become as effective as when it was conceived.

This research, which was first budgeted at around P20 million, was also stifled by delays in funding. The Ivermectin Intervention Group submitted budget proposals to MOH several times, with engagements calling for reviews to the numbers, the last of which revised figures submitted at least half of the original budget.

This was late last year but the submission was not been responded to until the decision to finally drop the study. However, Dr Mokone said they shall continue with other prospective studies around COVID-19. These include a study based on adverse effects of COVID vaccines, in the form of a countrywide survey.

Dr Mokone said as long as the variants are not as harsh as Delta, the study would not bring out the desired results or become as effective as when it was conceived.

He added that in addition, the group will carry out research into psychological issues brought about by COVID-19. Because the disease has had devastating effect on the lives of many, the group wants to determine to what extent, why, how and what could be done.

The research on Ivermectin was moving to clinical trials to ascertain the effectiveness of Ivermectin in suppressing COVID-19 among patients. The medicine is currently used to treat many types of parasite infestations in animals, although it also has antiviral properties.

The Ivermectin Intervention Group had concluded that Ivermectin should be considered for treatment of COVID patients, though studies around the world on this position differ. The group believed studies that are promising point to Ivermectin having the effect of reducing mortality among COVID-19 patients.

A Call for Constitutional Review to Increase Women's Political Participation

- Women's organisations want a clause that will compel political parties to reform their constitutions to increase the number of women in political office
- Women call for either proportional representation or a hybrid of first-past-the-post and proportional representation accompanied by temporary special measures to increase women's representation
- Women's organisations want discriminatory clauses in the constitution that go back to 1966 repealed

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

An observation of Botswana's political landscape by women's pressure group Emang Basadi shows that the high number of women involved in party activities does not translate into a higher number of women assuming political leadership roles. The representation of women has been raised as an area of great concern as their representation in Parliament has increased by just 1% from 10% to 11% in 2019 and women's political representation at national level is the lowest in the SADC region.

Cheludo Butale of Emang Basadi says the current constitutional review provides a unique opportunity to find systemic solutions to women's political participation in Botswana. The Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Review of the Constitution of Botswana, established by President Mokgweetsi Masisi, is tasked with identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the Constitution, assessing its adequacy, including the promotion of equality, and making recommendations to the President by September 2022.

"The national constitution needs to be reviewed including a clause in the constitution that compels different political parties to reform their constitutions in order to increase the number of women in political office in the 2024 general elections and beyond," Butale said in an interview.

"Quota systems/affirmative action or special measures should be instituted in the constitution to improve the participation and representation of women. The electoral system of First-Past-the-Post disadvantaged women with women representation in Parliament only 11% and 18% in councils."

She says to ensure equal representation, the electoral system needs to be reviewed to consider Proportional Representation or a Hybrid of both systems while political parties should also be encouraged to review their constitutions to ensure certain percentages of candidates aspiring for political office are women.

"CEDAW **????** has been signed and ratified by the Botswana Government for over a decade," she pointed out. "There is therefore a need to domesticate it through enactment of a gender equality law while Section 15 (4) of the constitution should be repealed and the more basic provision of CEDAW incorporated. Special funding for women should be set up in addition to political party funding."

"The national constitution needs to be reviewed including a clause in the constitution that compels different political parties to reform their constitutions in order to increase the number of women in political office in the 2024 general elections and beyond," Butale.

Gender Links Botswana and SADC Liaison Director Chigedze Chinyepi said currently women across political parties are joining forces to make the case for Botswana's 55 year-old constitution to be reviewed if the country is to deliver on its commitments to gender equality. In a press statement at the close of a two-day strategy meeting convened by Gender Links, representatives of the Alliance for Progressives, the Botswana Congress Party, the Botswana Democratic Party, the Botswana National Front and the Botswana Patriotic Front said the weak provisions for women's rights in the current constitution are among the most pressing reasons for a review.

Chinyepi disclosed that Gender Links has conducted cross-generation academies with serving and aspiring women in politics over the last six months in which the participants noted that there are discriminatory practices in the country's Constitution inherited from 1966. "For example, women have raised concerns about sections of the Constitution that bar citizens born of Batswana mothers and foreign fathers from (becoming) president," she said.

"Of even greater concern is Section 33 (2b), which stipulates that citizens born out of the country by a Motswana mother and a foreign father are disqualified. This, however, does not affect those born out of the country to a foreign mother and Motswana man. The women also called for direct election of the president, as this will ensure every Motswana, including women, could contest."

During the strategy meeting, which was opened by the Minister of the Environment, Natural Resource Conservation and Tourism, Philda Kereng, who is also a member of Parliamentary Caucus on Women, delegates examined expert evidence from across the globe showing that constitutions crafted in recent times include a range of progressive measures to help attainment of gender equality targets. The delegates dissected the constitutions of Namibia (1990); South Africa (1996) and the latest Zimbabwe Constitution (2013), demonstrating how the more recent the constitution, the stronger its provisions on gender equality.

"Collectively these constitutions provide a wealth of insight into areas that need strengthening," Chinyepi said. "These include gender aware language; specificity on women's rights; elaborating on grounds for non-discrimination; security of persons including from domestic violence, bodily integrity, socio-economic rights, property, land and inheritance rights; affirmative action and

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Opposition Women's Leagues Want 50% Seats For Next Elections

- BNF and BCP women agree to raise quota of women in decision-making structures
- Women across the political spectrum want First-Past-the-Post system modified



The Botswana Congress Party Women's League (BNFWL) and the Botswana National Front Women's League (BNFWL) have resolved to demand half of parliamentary and council seat representation within the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) ahead of the 2024 general elections.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Congress Party Women's League (BNFWL) and the Botswana National Front Women's League (BNFWL) have resolved to demand half of parliamentary and council seat representation within the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) ahead of the 2024 general elections.

Even though there are tensions currently brewing between the two contracting partners, it is expected that constituency allocation will take place before the end of the year, with other opposition parties also willing to jump on board.

Newly elected BNFWL president, Dr Busang Nkoane, told The Botswana Gazette that she has no doubt that the UDC leadership will endorse all the proposed amendments that they seek to introduce into the party constitution.

"We are pushing a change in policy, which is 50% quota because currently we have 30% representation in council and parliamentary seats," said Nkoane.

She added that they want to introduce leadership training for women to position them for their seats in the political space and to build functioning women's committees in the BNF structures for the UDC.

She indicated that all the four opposition political parties, they have agreed to lobby for a policy in terms of temporary special measures of 50% quota, considering that the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development has been ratified by the government.

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More COVID Vaccines To Expire

GAZETTE REPORTER

- 29 000 vaccines have already expired and due for disposal
- A total of 6 465 224 vaccines have so far been secured
- Slow uptake of vaccine a concern at MoH
- P1bn spent on vaccine procurement only between February and March

With 29 000 doses of AstraZeneca due to be disposed of after they expired in January, more COVID-19 vaccines may have to be destroyed after they expire in a matter of days from now (April), the Chief Public Relations Officer of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoH), Dr Christopher Nyanga, has said.

"Some vaccines are nearing expiry date," Dr Nyanga told ***The Botswana Gazette.*** "The next batch expires in April. About 29 000 doses of AstraZeneca expired in January and will be safely disposed of."

He blamed vaccines reaching expiry on the reluctance of Batswana to be vaccinated. "A total of 6 465 224 vaccine doses have been secured since the process to procure vaccines started," Nyanga said. "Of this number, 77% were bought while 23% were donations."

He blamed vaccines reaching expiry on the reluctance of Batswana to be vaccinated. "A total of 6 465 224 vaccine doses have been secured since the process to procure vaccines started," Nyanga said. "Of this number, 77% were bought while 23% were donations."

He added that 2.9 million vaccine doses are currently in stock but noted that the figure can change at any time because vaccine rollout vaccines is ongoing. The government has so far spent P598, 175,354.61 in the purchase of COVID vaccines.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Minister of Health and Wellness Sethomo Lelatisitswe recently told Parliament that over P1 billion was used in the fight against COVID-19 between February 2020 and March this year and that the current balance in the COVID-19 Relief Fund stands at over P486 million.



With 29 000 doses of AstraZeneca due to be disposed of after they expired in January, more COVID-19 vaccines may have to be destroyed after they expire in a matter of days from now (April), the Chief Public Relations Officer of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoH), Dr Christopher Nyanga, has said. *Pic euractiv.com*

"These funds were used to strengthen the healthcare system," Lelatisitswe said.

MoH has raised concerns that the uptake of COVID-19 booster shots has been slow since the programme began early in January this year. According to Dr Nyanga, by 1st February this year only 39 907 people had taken their booster shots in Botswana.

"As at 1st February 2022, a total of 1 342 183 people had taken their first dose of COVID-19 vaccination, including Johnson and Johnson whose single dose is considered as full vaccination," he said, adding that MoH has therefore intensified its public education campaign to encourage people to take booster shots, given the increased advantage against COVID-19 derived from doing so.

Botswana is one of few African countries to achieve the World Health Organisation vaccination target of inoculating 10 percent of its population by the end of September. In a televised address to the nation recently, President Mokgweetsi Masisi, said despite the emergence of Omicron, the COVID situation remains stable. "To-date, all our key indicators remain stable," the President said.

"This is comforting, although it still does not warrant any complacency on our part in terms of behaviour and other attitudinal patterns towards this dreadful disease. We are actively monitoring the evolving situation in view of the new variant of concern."

Adding his voice of concern about the slow uptake of vaccination by Batswana, Masisi said "millions of pula spent on COVID-19 vaccines" would go to waste. "Some people seem hesitant to take the booster shots and some batches are about to expire in April," the President told a gathering at Molepole Prison Farm.

Out of a total population of 2.4 million, at least 73% of Botswana's adults have been fully inoculated against COVID-19.

Opposition Women's Leagues

From Page 25

"As opposition political parties, we believe that want to attain state power, we have to demonstrate that we take gender issues seriously. We will also push to have this quota and other things like the electoral system and party funding included in the constitution of Botswana," Nkoane said.

She has no doubt that through the leadership of Duma Boko, they will see more women representation in the UDC, she added.

For her part, BCPWL president Tshimologo Dingake said they have already proposed to the central committee to ensure that women are allocated an equal share of constituencies. "The bottom line is inclusion of women," Dingake said. "We are currently participating in training of potential women candidates."

She added that they believe that there should be special quotas for a start until there is a sufficient base of women candidates.

"At BCP, we propose 50% representation in every structure," Dingake said. "We have it in our draft constitution to be adopted in July. We enjoy party support on that. But we have a huge task to empower the woman candidate."

Meanwhile, women across different political parties have joined forces to make a case for Botswana's 55-year old constitution to be reviewed if the country is to deliver on its commitments to gender equality.

At the close of a two-day strategy meeting convened by Gender Links, representatives of political parties said weak provisions for women's rights in the current constitution are among the most pressing reasons for a review.

Women's representation in political office was once again raised as an area of great concern. At 11% in parliament, and 18% in councils, the academies have recognised that the First-Past-the-Post system disadvantages women and therefore called for either a switch to Proportional Representation or a hybrid of both systems accompanied by Temporary Special Measures to increase women's representation.

A Call for Constitutional Review to Increase Women's Political Participation

From Page 25

temporary special measures for increasing women's political participation.

"The meeting hosted a drafting team from all political parties; sectors and legal specialists to make the case for a constitutional review to the Commission of Inquiry well ahead of the September deadline. The Commission is currently undertaking consultations around the country and has welcomed inputs from interest groups."

Emang Basadi has highlighted that political, socio-economic and cultural barriers predominantly constrain or prevent women's participation and representation of women in the political decision-making sphere. Botswana is a patriarchal nation and as such, there is existence of unequal power relations perpetrated through the patriarchal systems that put women in a precarious position, especially when it comes to participation and representation of women in the political decision-making sphere.

The president of Emang Basadi, Theresa Mmolawa, said women are less likely than men to have resources needed to support their endeavours to become effective leaders because of their capacity and skills gaps. Additionally, more women may prefer to be involved in party activities and not in the political decision-making sphere or leadership positions due to economic reasons. The lack of an economic base for women has been a factor in their participation - or lack of - it in politics because the cost of campaigning is very high.

"They may prefer to be involved in party activities because they fear issues such as violence that affect women mostly during elections or gender-based hate speech, with the sinister aim of deterring women from presenting themselves as candidates or voting in elections," Mmolawa said. "Political violence and the social stigma that politics is a dirty game is a further stumbling block for women to enter leadership positions and prefer just to be engaged in party activities."



The European Investment Bank (EIB) has agreed to provide support to the value of EUR10 000 000 in new long-term financing for entrepreneurs and businesses across Botswana with a leading local partner Norsad Capital. *Picc: ubn.news*

European Investment Bank Provides Eur10m For Businesses Across Botswana

The scheme is aimed at strengthening private sector resilience to COVID

GAZETTE REPORTER

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has agreed to provide support to the value of EUR10 000 000 in new long-term financing for entrepreneurs and businesses across Botswana with a leading local partner Norsad Capital.

Speaking in Gaborone this week, the Head of Delegation of the European Union to Botswana and SADC, Jan Sadek, said this is to help Botswana companies impacted by COVID-19 to resuscitate and maintain their operations.

It is part of the EIB's engagement with financial partners across Africa to strengthen economic resilience to the pandemic. The new business financing will support investment in manufacturing, agriculture, services and trading companies across the country.

Sadek said the European Union is committed to helping businesses in Botswana and Africa in general, adding that the partnership with EIB and Norsad will increase access to finance for companies in Botswana.

"By helping private sector resilience, the new EUR10 000 000 financing scheme will create jobs, unlock business growth and enable Botswana companies to seize new business opportunities," he noted.

Through the scheme local businesses will be expected to strengthen their resilience to challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CEO of Norsad Finance, Kenny Nwosu, noted that companies across Botswana have been impacted by health, trade and business challenges triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He reiterated that Norsad Finance supports private sector investment across Botswana and enables corporate, business and agricultural clients to invest for the future and create economic opportunities. "The new EUR 10 million backing for companies across Botswana will unlock new private sector financing to be provided by our branches across the country to private businesses," Nwosu said.

"The close cooperation between Norsad Finance and EIB financial experts over recent months will unlock access to longer-term loans essential for businesses to grow during challenging times and ensure that Botswana benefits from the EIB's engagement to strengthen economic resilience to COVID across Africa."

The 10-year EUR10 million EIB loan to Norsad Finance will allow new financing to be provided to private businesses, notably SMMEs, across Botswana. It will allow longer average loan tenors for business loans and enable companies to better reflect the economic life of new investment.

A recent statement said the scheme will ensure that Botswana benefits from rapid EIB response to strengthen economic resilience to COVID. The statement said the new EIB–Norsad Finance cooperation represents the EIB's first support for business investment in Botswana in eight years.

The scheme is part of the EIB's increased engagement across Africa to ensure that companies can continue to access finance when faced with unprecedented health, business and trade challenges linked to COVID-19. It was approved by European Union finance ministers in April 2020 within weeks of the impact of the pandemic being recognised.

This development comes against the backdrop of the 3rd Session of the Botswana-European Union Political Dialogue in Gaborone. The Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Dr Lemogang Kwape, led the Botswana delegation at the meeting that he co-chaired with Sadek.

The meeting focused on economic and trade issues, including anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism, implementation of ERTP and the Reset Agenda, AfCFTA, EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement and the Kimberley Process Secretariat.

Only P24m remains in COVID-19 Relief Fund

- Total COVID-19 contributions amounted to P3 billion
- P1.7 billion used to strengthen healthcare

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

The government's COVID-19 Relief Fund has less than P30 million left, ***The Botswana Gazette*** has established.

While most ministries are yet to submit their actual expenditures, Parliament has heard that over P1.7 billion was used to strengthen Botswana's healthcare system between February 2020 and March this year.

The Assistant Minister of Health and Wellness, Sethomo Lelatisitswe, told the House that P462 million out of P486 million is the remaining budget for the Industry Support Facility while P24 million is the general balance of the fund.

He said as at 14 March 2022, the fund had received over P3 billion through various contributions with government's capital at over P2 billion, payroll contribution at P10.8 million, donations at P128 million and Industry Support Facility at 1.3 billion.

"Structurally the fund was administered by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development while the finance minister is responsible for management of the fund through the appointed management committee," Lelatisitswe noted.

"Structurally the fund was administered by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development while the finance minister is responsible for management of the fund through the appointed management committee," Lelatisitswe noted.

He stated that a significant portion of the funds allocated to his ministry was spent on procuring vaccines.

"P46 million was paid from the COVID-19 Relief Fund by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development as 30% upfront payment for the purchase of the Moderna vaccine on May 17, 2021," he said. "The other 30% was paid directly by the Ministry of Health and Wellness under the COVID-19 Relief Recurrent Vote, while the remaining 40% of the cost was paid by Debswana."

Lelatisitswe was answering a question from the MP for Mahalapye West, David Tshere, who had asked for an update on the amount that the government spent procuring vaccines from the COVID-19 Relief Fund thus far.

Tshere also wanted to know how much was budgeted for upgrading and capacitation of the public healthcare sector as well as the amount that the government had spent so far in the fight against COVID-19, including on Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), direct awards of tenders for other medical supplies and vaccines.

The Mahalapye West legislator wanted to know how much was held in the COVID-19 Relief Fund (balance) and when Botswana first placed its orders for vaccines, including from the COVAX Facility.

APPLICATION FOR LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of the Memorandum of Agreement of Lease **No. 178/92** dated **23rd** day of **April 1992** passed in favour of **CYNTHIA KELAEGILE CHINYOKA** in respect of the following:

CERTAIN : piece of land being Tribal Lot 960, Tlokweng;

SITUATE : at Tlokweng in the Batlokwa Tribal Territory;

MEASURING : 419m² (Four Hundred and Nineteen Square Metres);

Any person having objection to the issue of such copy is hereby required to lodge same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within three (3) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

PAUL & PARTNERS

PAUL & PARTNERS
The Courtyard, Plot 54513, unit 6
P.O. Box 885 ABG
GABORONE

Tel: +267 311 3186
Fax: + 267 311 3187

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT BROADHURST

CASE NO: CCMBR 001250/21

In the matter between:
MOTSUMI ENOCK MADISA **PLAINTIFF**
And
FAST CRETE **1st DEFENDANT**
MR NATAL **2nd DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment of the above Honorable Court the following property of the abovenamed Defendant will be sold by public auction by **DEPUTY SHERIFF D. J MOYO** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 21st APRIL 2022
TIME : 10:00am
VENUE : Broadhurst Court

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x 4 Office Desks with 7 chairs
1 x 1 Mercedes Benz mixer Truck Reg. No. B 225 BJB

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Cash or Bank Guaranteed Cheques

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 29th DAY OF MARCH 2022.

DEPUTY SHERIFF D. J MOYO
C/O MOTSOMI ENOCK MADISA
P. O. BOX 20572
GABORONE

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

CVHGB-001464-18

In the matter between:
BOTSWANA BUILDING SOCIETY **Plaintiff**
and
FREDRICK JACOBUS VILANDER **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following immovable property will be sold by public auction by **DEPUTY SHERIFF JAMES DEBRAIN MOYO** to the highest bidder as follows:-
DATE OF SALE : 10TH MAY 2022
TIME : 10.30 AM
VENUE : Plot No. 288, JWANENG
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Certain piece of land being Plot no. 288, situated at Jwaneng, Jwaneng Township, Extension 1, Unit 2, measuring 440 m2 which property is held under Deed of Transfer No. **317/15** dated **11TH** day of **FEBRAURY 2015** made in favour of **FREDRICK JACOBUS VILANDER** together with some development thereon being three bed-room house, sitting room and kitchen.

TERMS OF SALE : Subject to Conditions of Sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS THE 18TH DAY OF MARCH 2022

OSEI-OFEI SWABI & CO
Attorneys Notaries & Conveyancers

OSEI-OFEI SWABI & CO.
Plaintiff's Attorneys
First Floor, Unit 18 Kgale Mews, Gaborone International Finance Park
P O Box 403506
(Ref: DS.gno.012610)
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff J. D. Moyo Cell no.72192666

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT VILLAGE

Case No.CCMVL-000891-20

In the matter between:
FERRIS WHEELS (PTY) LTD **Plaintiff**
and
MAJATSIE MAJATSIE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property belonging to the Defendant will be sold by public auction to the highest bidder by Deputy Sheriff Tumelo Mogorosi as follows:
DATE OF SALE : Thursday 28th April 2022
TIME : 10:00 am
VENUE : Broadhurst Magistrate Court
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 2 x Samsung Printers, 1 x Office Table, 2 x Office Chairs, 1 x Coffee Table (glass), 3 x Visitors' Chairs, 1 x CPU, 1 x L-shape Sofa, 1 x Ottoman, 1 x Samsung TV, 1 x Floor Carpet, 1 x Defy Fridge (double door), 1 x Samsung Microwave

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheque(s)

DEPUTY SHERIFF TUMELO MOGOROSI
c/o KALUZI & ASSOCIATES
Plaintiff's Attorneys
The Courtyard
Plot 54513, Unit 7, Village
P.O. Box 26083
GABORONE

(Cell 72 445 567 / 77 090 903)

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

CVHGB-000899-21

In the matter between:
BOTSWANA BUILDING SOCIETY **Plaintiff**
and
EMMANUEL SAMSON **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following immovable property will be sold by public auction by **DEPUTY SHERIFF NTSHAWARELANG OOKAME** to the highest bidder as follows:-
DATE OF SALE : 11TH MAY 2022
TIME : 10.30 HRS
VENUE : Plot No. 71242, Gaborone.
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Certain piece of land being Plot no. 71242, Gaborone, situated at Gaborone Administrative, measuring 451m2 which property is held under Deed of Transfer No. **1360/2015** dated **29TH** day of **MAY 2015** made in favour of **EMMANUEL SAMSON** together with an open plan kitchen, sitting room, one fitted bedroom, combined bathroom and toilet, master ensuite, single car port and screen wall with electric fence and motorised gate.

TERMS OF SALE : Subject to Conditions of Sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS THE 18TH DAY OF MARCH 2022.

OSEI-OFEI SWABI & CO
Attorneys Notaries & Conveyancers

OSEI-OFEI SWABI & CO.
Plaintiff's Attorneys
First Floor, Unit 18 Kgale Mews, Gaborone International Finance Park
P O Box 403506
(Ref: DS.gno.014116)
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff Ntshwarelang Ookame Cell no.72879169/77435503

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

CVHGB 003704-2021

In the matter between:
MORAPEDI MOSALAKATANE **Plaintiff**
and
SEBOLELO MATLHOGONOLO MOLETE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment granted by the above Honourable Court **DEFENDANT'S** property will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff **MESHACK MOSHABI** to the highest bidder as follows:
DATE OF SALE : 29th April 2022
VENUE : Lot 9008 Oodi (Mosese)
TIME : 11:00 a.m.
PROPERTY SOLD : certain piece of land being Lot 9008, Oodi/Mosese Village, situate in the Bakgatla Tribal Area, being a ploughing field, measuring 3.1569 Hectares, held under Agreement of Grant of Lease for Business Plots (Citizens) dated the 01st day of September 2016 made in favour of SEBOLELO MATLHOGONOLO MOLETE;

TERMS OF SALE : cash or bank guaranteed cheque immediately after the sale

RESERVED PRICE : P300 000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Pula)

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 16TH DAY OF MARCH 2022

.....
DEPUTY SHERIFF MESHACK MOSHABI
c/o M K Moesi & Company
PLOT 2689, EXTENSION 9
HOSPITAL WAY
GABORONE

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

CVHGB-000431-21

In the matter between:
BOTSWANA BUILDING SOCIETY **Plaintiff**
and
TUMELO DAVIES LEKOKO **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following immovable property will be sold by public auction by **DEPUTY SHERIFF NTSHAWARELANG OOKAME** to the highest bidder as follows:-
DATE OF SALE : 12TH MAY 2022
TIME : 10.30 AM
VENUE : Tribal Lot 4779, TLOKWENG.
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Certain piece of land being Tribal Lot no. 4779, Tlokweng, situated at Batlokwa Tribal Territory, measuring 1049m2 which property is held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease **No. TL1638/2013** dated **11TH** day of **NOVEMBER 2013** made in favour of **TUMELO DAVIS LEKOKO** together with Screen wall with electric fence, sliding gate, fitted kitchen, sitting room, bath tub and toilet, one bedroom, master bedroom fitted, an unfinished building compromising of 4(four) bedroom with insuites, 1x braai area, 1x outside toilet, 1 x scullery, dinning room, sitting room, 1X TV room, 1xdouble garage, kitchen and walk-in closet, 1 visitors toilet and two x balcony /veranda

TERMS OF SALE : Subject to Conditions of Sale.
Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS THE 18TH DAY OF MARCH 2022.

OSEI-OFEI SWABI & CO
Attorneys Notaries & Conveyancers

OSEI-OFEI SWABI & CO.
Plaintiff's Attorneys
First Floor, Unit 18 Kgale Mews,
Gaborone International Finance Park
P O Box 403506
(Ref: DS.gno.011867)
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff Ntshwarelang Ookame
Cell no.72879169/77435503



Bakwadi Returns to the Dojo with a Massive performance


Bakwadi (Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's flamboyant Karateka Sensei Ofentse Bakwadi returned to the dojo with an exceptional performance after a hiatus owing to covid-19 complications. He made his first appearance at the weekend Kofukan Open tournament held at BOKA hall in Gaborone where he won gold in Individual Kata. Bakwadi has been on the sidelines for over a year and missed vital international tournaments that usually rank top karatekas across the world.

The Hayashi-Ha 5th Dan Black belt was pitted against the youngsters in the men's individual Kata and knocked out his close rivals Tlotlang Ponatshego, Boemo Ramasimong and Wamorena Metswi to win the category which he has been dominating for the longest time locally and regionally. He was also part of the team Kata which was made of Ramasimong and Vincent Magalie which also won gold. Sensei Bakwadi told ***Gazette Sport*** that he is happy with his superb start.

"The tournament was helpful to most of our local karatekas because they have also been on the sidelines owing to covid-19 and we are all rusty. I honestly believe that I still need a lot of training because competition and training are two different things and training determines the performance and I am happy to secure the win after a long break, my intention is to continue working hard so I can be in a good state of competition and on par with my international opponents. I have missed out on so many tournaments and I have dropped in rankings, and it is upon me to work hard so I recover," he said.

He is set to make his first international appearance in Nevada, USA next week at the US open tournament and he said it will be a litmus test for him ahead of the highly anticipated Africa Zone 6 Champions and the Commonwealth Games slated for this year in England. "I am busy preparing for the US open and I am wary of the threat that other karatekas pose ahead of this tournament and it will be a litmus test for me more so that the tournament is contested by top athletes who also use it as a preparatory tournament for their season. All I want is to secure gold so that I can be able to continue to inspire my students and other karatekas through my achievements," Bakwadi said

Sensei Bakwadi hinted on his retirement plans at the end of the year which he believes will be the right time for him to retreat. Bakwadi has won countless titles during his time including a gold at the Africa Championships, dominated the Zone 6, commonwealth Games and he competed at the world champions and world beach games amongst other big competitions. He urged Batswana to always come to the competitions to see him perform to his level best.

"I believe this is the year that I have to give back to my valuable followers and fellow Batswana who have been behind my back throughout my Karate journey and I want them to always come watch me perform to my level best. I will continue to do good and mentor young athletes to achieve their goals in this sport."

Meanwhile Hayashi Ha dominated the weekend's tournament winning a total of seven gold medals through Bakwasi, Centy Kgosikoma, Lethabo Sekano, Quinton Mosupiemang and Gabriel Ramasimong who dominated their respective categories. The next tournament will be held next month in Gaborone.

BOPSSA DEMANDS ANSWERS OVER RUNNING OF SCHOOL SPORT

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Primary School Sports Association (BOPSSA) has engaged government to demand answers on how school sports will be run this year following a decision to strip Ministry of Basic of Education (MOBE) from the running of school sports.

This comes after a recent decision by government that school sports will restart in May this year after three years due to budgetary constraints and outbreak of COVID-19.

BOPSSA President Busani Segweni told ***Gazette Sport*** that even though this is a good development due to the long absence of sporting activities in schools, there are issues to be ironed out with government.

He said they were recently informed that school sports will now be run by the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture Development (MYSC) thus removing them from the Ministry of Basic Education (MOBE).

"We have been informed that school sports will be returning in the second term of the academic year and we were informed that they will now be run by MYSC, so we are still having discussions with MYSC through Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC),"

"We have just started engaging MYSC through BNSC but nothing much has been upon us, so it is after these discussions that we will then revert to teachers to give them feedback," said Segweni.



He said the engagements are to seek clear answers on the way forward considering that the new controlling body being MYSC is not the employer of sports teachers.

"We want to understand how BNSC wants us to run school sports because initially before they took over we ran school sports as part of education," added Segweni.

He said they are expecting the engagements to conclude next month to enable them to visit their structures.

"We have only been informed by MOBE that MYSC will now take over everything including payment of engaged teachers."

"It is after thorough engagement that we will then go back to teachers to inform them of how the school sports will be run because they now have to understand that MYSC is not their employer," stated Segweni.

Segweni highlighted that even though there are engagements on going between concerned stakeholders, a move to reinstate school sports should be commended as sport development in schools had been suspended for a long time.

It has also been reported that insufficient budget is the main reason that led to the push out of MOBE from running school sports as expenses were growing year in and year out.

"We are expecting everything to be concluded before the start of second term because we are now approaching the end of first term and normally school sports start between May and June," said Segweni.

In the savingram dated 6th March 2020 and signed by the then Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Basic Education Bridget John, the Ministry said the decision was taken owing to budgetary constraints.

"The Ministry has been struggling to pay participation fees as its budget for sports remains at P2 million a year against an annual cost of about P60 million," John wrote.

She went on to explain that while the Ministry had managed to get funds from its training and feeding votes to pay for teachers participation in athletics in 2019, it still owed about P32 million to teachers for their participation in ball games in 2019.

In 2010, the teachers unions took a then unpopular decision to bar teachers from participating in students sports.

Survival push for Botswana's OCK pair

BONGANI MALUNGA



Kabelo Seakanyeng and Tumisang Orebonye will return to their Morrocan club Olympique Club Khouribga (OCK) for the final stretch of the season as their team is aiming to steer clear of any relegation threat. The OCK duo was recently in Botswana for the FIFA International Week after receiving call ups from Mogomotsi 'Teenage' Mpote.

Botola Pro, the Moroccan Premier League, is only 10 games away from completion with OCK aiming to retain their premier division status in their first season back in the top tier of Moroccan football.

OCK are situated in the 10th spot on the log but they are only four points clear of relegation strugglers Olympique de Safi. However, OCK has been performing well in the league with a four game unbeaten run in as many games.

Interestingly, OCK still has an outside chance of climbing up the log and challenging for a CAF Confederation Cup qualification spot as they are five points behind fourth placed Difaa El Jadidi. If OCK can go on a winning streak they can see themselves edging ever closer to the top four.

Such is the competitive nature of Botola Pro that the point differencial between the fourth placed team and the 15th placed relegation threatened team is only nine points.

Inaugural Summer Kids Marathon Gathers Momentum



GAZETTE REPORTER

The highly anticipated Botswana inaugural Children's Marathon dubbed "Summer Kids Marathon" slated for Gaborone on the 23rd of April has gathered the much-needed momentum after various stakeholders showed interest in the initiative, according to the organisers of the event, Fan'Mo Sports Agency. The event that will be held at Three Chiefs Monument in Central Business District (CBD) is expected to attract over 250 children from across the country.

The marathon is aimed at promoting health, wellness and fitness amongst children as it recognises the negative impact COVID 19 has had on children, and endeavours to provide the much needed mental and physical wellness to enable them to cope adequately. It also aims at educating children about non-communicable diseases and their risk management from an early age. In an interview with ***Gazette Sport*** recently, the event organiser Martin Fani said in line with the national Vision 2036 strategic intent of Towards Prosperity for All, the Summer Kids Marathon 2022 will also prioritise making a difference through execution of a social responsibility project, procurement, and donation of five hundred school shoes to needy children around Botswana from proceeds of the marathon.

"As we get closer to the marathon day, we are excited at the intense partnership offers coming in from the business community who are not only passionate about children, but also empathetic and compassionate. A children's activation, particularly an outdoor one, requires the highest level of safety of the children, and we are happy to confirm that Critical Emergency Care, a local company, has pledged to be there to ensure utmost safety of the children," he said.

> "I urge parents to register their children for this life changing initiative that will see underprivileged children benefit from it"

He further highlighted that children's security is equally a key element of the event, adding that they are still scouting for a partner who can provide this service. "We are confident that this will follow through over the next couple of weeks and invite potential partners in this portfolio to come through and support the delivery of the marathon. The donate a pair of shoes drive part of the initiative is also doing well with over 200 shoes already in from different partners comprising corporates and individuals," Fani added.

The marathon is divided in four age categories which include 3-4 years age group who will be doing a walkathon whereas the 5-8 years will be embarking on a 1,5km, 9-12 years will do 3km and finally the 13-15 run 5km in the company of the event's chief runner and former world champion Amantle Montsho. Fani invited the public to embrace the Summer Kids Marathon, reiterating its sustainability and impact on children's wellbeing. "I urge parents to register their children for this life changing initiative that will see underprivileged children benefit from it. Tickets are selling at the Grip Runner Store in Sebele Centre and Athletes Corner in Setlhoa Village in Gaborone with registration expected to be closed on April 15, 2022," he concluded.

Magang Promises to Restructure BVF


(Pic:Botswana Volleyball Federation, facebookpage)

GAZETTE REPORTER

Former Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC) Vice Chairperson Tsoseletso "Tsosi" Magang has vowed to change and restructure the local volleyball identity following her candidature confirmation for the Botswana Volleyball Federation (BVF) Presidency. Magang has officially submitted her name for the BVF top position that will be determined at the elective general assembly slated for Gaborone on April 9th, 2022 where the BVF affiliates are set to elect the new executive committee that will run the federation for the next four years.

Magang who previously served as the president for a term in 2007-09 faces stiff competition from the current Vice President Technical George Kootsene who also confirmed his interest but is yet to make a final decision and the youthful Yaros Volleyball Club founder Driller Sibanda. In an exclusive interview with ***Gazette Sport*** Magang said she was inspired by her firm and wide leadership background and knowledge she acquired in different boards she served in for the past 13 years.

"I had opportunity to serve in board of different organisations as a leader and the learnings that I have picked there demonstrated to me that there is a lot that we should be doing at volleyball, but we are not. I have served in Botswana Football Association (BFA), BNSC and Botswana Open University (BOU) and I have seen how the organisations are structured and run and I thought that I could come back to volleyball and put structures and processes in place so that it is easy for us to run and put volleyball to a state that it should be. I also intend to empower and develop administrators because capacity building is something that we have ignored for the very longest time and very intentional, it is not pleasing that I find myself trying to put a team that I am going to work with and finding that I don't even have a lot of choices when it comes to women because women's development has been set aside in volleyball," she said.

She further stated that she is also stimulated by her personal growth to encounter challenging moments and she is of the view that she is now in a state to lead and develop volleyball better than the previous time when she was the president. "When I was the president of volleyball at that time I was still learning because it was a norm, and it is still a norm for players to jump into leadership position without preparing and learning which is a big problem in sports. Even when I was there, I was not given much support and training on administration so now I come as a complete person, and I have seen the gaps that have been existing during my time and there are still there hence I am saying I want to assist in the growth of the sport."

"The main thing that I would like to do is to give a total strategic direction, I want to work with people who understand my vision and goals for us to advance together and I am going to ensure that they are developed in strategic leadership and management so that we are aligned. I have also realised that we have not done well in grassroots and athletes' development, and it is key to work with stakeholders such as Botswana Integrated Sports Association (BISA) and other structures. The other area that needs attention is how we run our competitions; we need proper direction to run like a competitive sport. Sponsors want to see well organised people in order to associate their brands. I am very clear on how we are going to market and communicate our sport and improve international performance," Magang explained.

Meanwhile Daniel Molaodi will step down from the position of presidency after a 13 year reign at the federation. The deadline of nominations and submission of names is March 3oth 2022.

Sport Briefs

1



Pride On the Line as Galaxy Travels Up North

After being eliminated from knockout stage contention, Jwaneng Galaxy will be aiming to pick up an elusive win when they travel to Tunisia this Friday (3pm) to face Etoile du Sahel in the CAF Champions League. With only pride to play for, the Jwaneng outfit will be on a mission to ensure that they do not finish at the bottom of their group.

2

Debswana First Division South results (round 14)

Taung Young Strikers	1	0	Black Forest
Matebejana	0	1	Matebele
Tlokweng United	0	0	Red Sparks
Mochudi Rovers	0	3	Holy Ghost
UF Santos	0	2	Mochudi Centre Chiefs

2

Debswana First Division North results (round 14)

Santa Green	1	1	Green Lovers
TAFIC SC	2	0	Maun Terrors
Sankoyo	1	0	Peacemakers
Calendar Stars	1	2	Nico United
Miscellaneous	0	0	Chadibe FC
Eleven Angels	1	1	Motlakase





Club Struggles Cost Ngele Zebras Spot

- Ngele has played one game since December at Chippa United
- He either benched or not named in matchday squads when available for selection

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's most decorated player in South African football, Mogakolodi Ngele, has been completely dropped from national team picture for the first time in his career. Ngele was left out of Mogomotsi Mpote's latest Zebras camp for the international break with more youthful and club active players selected.

In previous years the player could always count on national team minutes to soften the blow of club struggles but this time around he has not been granted that opportunity. A few would argue about his exclusion given his struggles for game time at Chippa United.

Ngele has been forced to play a peripheral role at Chippa United as he has struggled for game time under a new coach. Ngele was signed by Gavin Hunt at Chippa United in July but the coach's departure saw the player's chances diminish as he did not fit into the plans of Gavin Hunt's successor.

New coach Kurt Lentjies has frozen Ngele out of the first team picture. Lentjies has given Ngele only 45 minutes of action since December, Ngele's only game of 2022 was a Nedbank Cup tie against University of Pretoria in February.

The Chippa coach has not given Ngele any minutes in the league since December, Ngele has either been excluded from matchday squads or been an unused substitute in the last seven DSTV Premiership games.

Ngele has also produced his lowest goals and assists tally this season with a G/A tally of just two goal contributions (one goal and one assist) so far this term.

P250 000 Up For Grabs In Inaugural Mascom Charity Cup

BONGANI MALUNGA

The inaugural Mascom Charity Cup will take place this Saturday in Francistown at the Obed Itani Chilume Stadium featuring Gaborone United, Orapa United, BDF XI and Security Systems.

Winners of the tournament will walk away with P250 000 while the runners up will pocket P150 000, those who fail to progress to the final will find solace in prize money worth P90 000 for participating in the tournament.

Individual awards will also yield prize money with the Player of the Tournament set to walk away with P15 000. The top scorer will grab P8500, the top performing goalkeeper will be awarded P6000 while the Man of the Match in each game will walk away with P1500.

The day's first semifinal will be between Systems and BDF XI at 9am while the second semifinal between GU and Orapa United will take place at 12pm. The one-day tournament's final will be staged later in the day at 5pm.

The participating quartet earned their place in the tournament after garnering the most votes among eight competing teams. GU got the lion's share of the votes with 62 984 votes, they were followed by Systems with 51 027. BDF XI were ranked third with 48 596 votes while Orapa Utd booked the fourth and final spot with 44 407 votes.