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# GUNS FOR GUARDS

## POLICE BEEF UP ESCORT FOR CASH-IN-TRANSIT VEHICLES

- Soldiers, secret agents join police on escort duty
- Former general is opposed to arming private security personnel

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# Booze industry wants carousing in parking lots proscribed

- Spokesman fears gov't could be compelled to order another shutdown
- Calls on the police to help enforce COVID-19 protocols



KBL drama group demonstrating the abuse of alcohol using Chibuku. (Pic:Press Photo)

## MPHO MATSHEDISO

The president of the Botswana Beverage Association (BoBA), Peter Noke, has condemned the behaviour of the drinking public during the Independence holidays for breaking COVID-19 protocols.

"I received a lot of calls from business owners during the holidays complaining that a lot of people were parked outside their premises while they were not getting

any business and we had agreed with the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) that we would take full responsibility for enforcing COVID-19 protocols on our customers," Noke told *The Botswana Gazette* in an interview.

"We had a meeting with Minister Mmusi Kgafela before the end of state of public emergency about passing a law that prohibits people from gathering in parking lots and he said the powers to do that were vested in the COVID-19 Task

Force and the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) and that he would meet them to discuss the issue and give us feedback. To this day he has not done that."

He described the behaviour of the drinking public as unacceptable to the alcohol industry and the entertainment sector and could compel the government to impose a shutdown in the face of surging COVID-19 cases. "Through our numerous discussions with the ministry, we asked them to slowly open up

the entertainment industry," he said. "You may be aware that some of the major clubs in Gaborone did not open during the holidays. This was intended to monitor the situation and came from fear that what took place during the holidays could happen."

"I received a lot of calls from business owners during the holidays complaining that a lot of people were parked outside their premises while they were not getting any business and we had agreed with the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) that we would take full responsibility for enforcing COVID-19 protocols on our customers,"

He added that Botswana should be aware that COVID-19 is a reality far from gone and called on the police to come on board to help ensure that COVID-19 protocols are observed.

Efforts to reach Minister Kgafela proved futile as both his mobile phones went on voice mail and he had not responded to questions by the time of going to press.

At the COVID-19 Task Force, Oscar Maroba told *The Gazette*: "Your inquiry is more inclined to regulations which are under the Director of Health Services. Forward your inquiry to communications of MOHW."

The ministry's Chief Public Relations Officer, Dr Christopher Nyanga, said, "We are not aware of such."



## DINTLHA KA MALARIA

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Phepafatsa tikologo  
ya gago go itsa monang  
o o ka tsalelang  
mo go yone.**

- Latlha dithini tse di senang sepe le tsothe tse di ka emang metsi
- Katela mafuti otlhe a a ka emang metsi
- Tlhagola tikologo ka nako tsothe

# Phase Two Vaccination For 30- Year Olds Starts On Low Note

- Vaccination sites experience low turnout of 30-year olds
- Ministry attributes low turnout to Independence holidays
- Says age the youth did not want their eagerness to imbibe disrupted

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The just-ended Independence seems to have affected the Phase 2 vaccination rollout plan for the 30-year age group as vaccination sites experienced declined numbers in the first days, The Botswana Gazette has established.

This is in spite of the fact that the age group makes up the majority of the country's population. The vaccination rollout for the group started two days before the Independence holidays. Initially the Phase 2 vaccination rollout was for 45-year olds and above.

Vaccination sites have reported receiving large numbers of 45-year olds age category.

The chief spokesman of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoH), Dr Christopher Nyanga, has confirmed this development. He says advice to stay for at least a week without taking alcohol may be to blame for the low turnout of the younger people in the category.

Nyanga told The Gazette that while most Gaborone vaccination sites have been receiving up to 300 people per day, the number dropped to 90. "It is true that the ministry was experiencing low turnouts at some of its vaccination sites across the country last week," he noted.

"Most vaccination sites were vaccinating up to half their normal daily intake. In the last two days leading to the Independence holidays, the ministry was receiving up to 90 people per site per day in its densely populated places like Gaborone while on normal days they would receive up to 300 people per day."

"Since vaccination for the 30-years-and-above age group started two days before the Independence holidays, it is only logical to suspect that many people within the age group felt that taking vaccines would disrupt their alcohol intake over the long weekend because of the advice that people should stay for at least a week without taking any alcohol after vaccination."



Vaccination sites have reported receiving large numbers of 45-year olds age category.

## FNBB mourns the passing away of Moathodi Jarge Sebabole



**FNBB**

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of our colleague Moathodi Jarge Sebabole who passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021. Moathodi joined FNBB Botswana on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 where he served as the Chief Economist. Through his role, he conducted macroeconomic forecasts and analysis, and provided insights and synergy between the Bank's strategy and economic developments.

Moathodi had many notable achievements such as being appointed Chairperson of Botswana's National Transformation Strategy Team. He passionately engaged on industry developments through participation in forums such as the Botswana Investment Trade Centre, the Botswana Stock Exchange, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and Business Botswana. He also served in the UB Council and Sefalana Board among others.

He will always be remembered for his brilliance, larger than life personality, and his passion for positively impacting the community at large through the Shared Value philosophy.

Let us keep our thoughts and prayers with the Sebabole family, friends, and colleagues in this difficult time.

**May his soul rest in peace**

# Police beef up escort for cash-in-transit vehicles

- Soldiers, secret agents join police on escort duty
- Former general is opposed to arming private security personnel



(Pic:PRESS PHOTO)

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

The Botswana Police Services (BPS) is beefing up security for cash-in-transit vehicles transporting funds over P1 million, the Director Crime Intelligence, Senior Assistant Commissioner Nnuu Lesetedi, has confirmed.

“Yes, it is true we have started escorting cash-in-transit vehicles but we cannot reveal details for security reasons,” Lesetedi told *The Botswana Gazette* in an interview this week.

Impeccable sources say armed police escort squads combine with agents of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Service (DISS) and members of Botswana Defence Force (BDF) to protect cash-in-transit vehicles and their personnel.

“Members of the escorting teams are people who are highly skilled in use of fire arms. These heists have been a serious national concern,” said one source.

Although investigations are still ongoing, information reaching this publication is that former intelligence agents may be working with security guards to rob vehicles carrying cash. “We are dealing with criminals who are also highly knowledgeable in intelligence and surveillance,” said another source. “There is every possibility that people in the inside are involved.”

An employee hired as a security guard at G4S was arrested in connection with a heist that took place at Block 6 in Gaborone on 6 August 2021. A G4S vehicle carrying close to P9 million was robbed in the incident.

Meanwhile, while security companies have appealed to the government to allow their security guards to carry firearms on duty, General Puis Mokgware (rtd) says the private security sector has been seriously compromised and introduction of firearms would only make matters worse.

“If I am not mistaken, so far the country has lost 85 million pula to armed robberies,” Mokgware said. “We wonder if some of the robberies are really robberies. Imagine a robbery in a basement! It is clear that the problem is within and not outside. The private security sector has failed to regulate itself and introduce standards. In Botswana, anyone can form a security company and anyone can be employed as security personnel. We don’t even have the basic requirements. Vetting or profiling is not done.”

“The security personnel are underpaid with no risk allowance paid or insurance cover in most cases. In simple terms, they are very unhappy. It would be a serious mistake to arm private security personnel until the companies demonstrate that they are able to manage themselves. The government should review the licences of all the companies which have been affected by the robberies. Our intelligence has also failed us. One would expect them to be way ahead of the criminals.”



## Gov’t to appeal 2019 ruling decriminalising homosexuality

### LEGABIBO is unfazed

RORISANG MOGOJWE

The government is set to appeal a landmark High Court ruling that decriminalises homosexuality in Botswana. The Court of Appeal has set 12 October 2021 for the appeal case.

The High Court ruling overturned a colonial-era law that punished gay sex by up to seven years in prison, declaring it unconstitutional. The case, which had attracted international attention, was seen as a landmark decision for gay rights in Botswana and put the country among a select few African countries that uphold LGBTIQ rights.

Amnesty International had welcomed the decision as “marking an exciting new era of acceptance, which should inspire other African countries to follow suit”.

However, a month later the government of announced its intention to appeal the decision. “I have thoroughly read the 132-page-long judgment and am of the view that the High Court erred in arriving at this conclusion,” Attorney General Abraham Keetshabe said in a statement in July 2019.

With the appeal date now set, human rights advocacy group Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana (LEGABIBO) is not fazed and says it looks forward to

finally putting the matter to rest. “We are excited and happy that the date for the appeal has finally been set,” the CEO of LEGABIBO, Thato Moruti, has said.

“The LGBTIQ community is very excited and looks forward to putting the matter to rest. This is a great step in the right direction to shift and change systems, (and to) reform laws and policies to ensure that the LGBTIQ communities not only enjoy their right to be human but also enjoy legal protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.”

According to LEGABIBO, the 2019 judgment has already led to positive change in Botswana. The organization cites an Afrobarometer survey conducted shortly after the decision which they say recorded a 10 percentage point gain in tolerant attitudes towards LGBTIQ persons.

Botswana’s Five-Year Plan for Removing Human Rights-Related Barriers to Accessing HIV and Health Services (2020-2025) also noted that “the recent overturning of laws criminalizing same-sex sex removes a significant human rights barrier for gay men, men who have sex with men and other LGBT persons.”

LEGABIBO is represented by Tshiamo Rantao and supported by the Southern Africa Litigation Centre.

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# UDC warns Gov't Against Re-Introduction of SoE

- Says the move would be an extension of heightened and serious looting
- Widespread reckless behaviour have prompted calls for re-instatement of SoE

## SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) has warned the government not to re-introduce the State of Emergency (SoE) because doing so would amount to extension of heightened and serious looting.

The UDC's warning comes after calls from sections of society for a return to SoE after widespread violation of COVID-19 protocols during the Independence holidays, many of which were publicised in the press and on social media.

The last day of September marked the end of 18 months of Botswana's state of emergency that had been in force for six months at a time amid strident demands against it by the opposition.

While some sections of society are calling for a return to SOE because of fears of reckless behaviour that precipitates infection, especially by tipplers at bars and revellers at venues of entertainment, the UDC has warned the government against heeding these calls.

In a statement released by spokesman Moeti Mohwasa, the UDC says while some calls to re-introduce SoE are reasonable, another section of the public is influenced by a sense of nostalgia and that a re-introduction of SoE would be an extension of heightened and serious looting.

"It is well known that the BDP government has conceptual agility challenges," the statement says. "Its response to the pandemic has been embarrassing, uninspiring, disjointed and unconvincing. The truth is that SoE has caused so much devastation to the economy. The government failed to come up with adequate programmes to help SMMEs and the economically vulnerable during the period."

"As we had long warned, SoE was used to create a wall behind which looting took place. The pockets of the highly connected were lined. We knew that this would be the result as our country lacks independent structures that can stare down obdurate political actors and their associates who abuse state resources."

The UDC argues that past initiatives to fight COVID-19 lacked citizen involvement and there was no transparency. "It cannot be for us without us (because) at the end of the day it is about our lives," it says in the statement. "Ensuring public participation and involvement invokes by-in and responsibility on the side of the citizenry."

Meanwhile, the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crimes (DCEC) registered 69 COVID-19 related cases between April 2020 and May this year. Speaking before the Parliamentary



UDCspokesman, Moeti Mohwasa

Committee on Governance and Oversight, the head of the agency for busting corruption, Tymon Katlholo, decried the organization's lack of independence and appealed to the committee for political support for change.

"There is need for political support and political will from all spheres of power to ensure independence," Kathololo said. "Such political will and support is anchored through laws (to) give the agency extensive powers to investigate (for) effective enforcement."

The Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, declined to take questions from The Botswana Gazette while presidential affairs minister Kabo Morwaeng said he was in meetings.

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# We Do Not Owe The Mphokos Anything – Ram

- Says the Mphokos won't get another thebe from Choppies
- The Mphokos want P250m from Choppies



In 2019, Choppies paid the Mphokos US\$2, 9 million (about P31 million) to buy their shares in Choppies Supermarket Zimbabwe. The settlement was the result of nasty hostile battles between the Mphokos and Choppies headquarters in Botswana over ownership of Choppies Zimbabwe.

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LETLHOGILE MPUANG

Former Zimbabwean vice president Phelekezela Mphoko and his son Siqo-koqela will not get even a thebe from Choppies Retail Stores because the company does not owe them any money, the CEO of Choppies, Ramachandran Otapathu, has said.

“We paid them the settlement fees that they agreed to and they are no longer a part of Choppies,” Ram said in an interview. “They enjoyed their money comfortably and after two years when their money has run out, they want to get more. We will not be paying them anything.”

In 2019, Choppies paid the Mphokos US\$2, 9 million (about P31 million) to buy their shares in Choppies Supermarket Zimbabwe. The settlement was the result of nasty hostile battles between the Mphokos and Choppies headquarters in Botswana over ownership of Choppies Zimbabwe.

The father and son pair insisted they were the majority shareholders in Choppies Zimbabwe with 51 percent through their investment vehicle, Nanavac, while Choppies headquarters argued otherwise, saying that the Mphokos’ stake was only 7 percent given to them freely.

Two years later, the two parties are back in court.

Reports from Zimbabwe say the Bulawayo High Court has agreed to hear the Mphokos’ claim of US\$22.5 million against Choppies. The company’s attorney, Munyaradzi Nzarayapenga, told The Botswana Gazette yesterday that Choppies filed application for ex-

ception in August not to block the matter from reaching the court but to seek clarity on the Mphokos’ demands.

“We paid them the settlement fees that they agreed to and they are no longer a part of Choppies,” Ram said in an interview. “They enjoyed their money comfortably and after two years when their money has run out, they want to get more.

“We honestly do not understand where the US\$22.5 million comes from,” Nzarayapenga said. “The reason why we filed for exception was to understand where their demand comes from. As far as we understand, the Mphokos were paid the settlement out of Choppies and that is well documented.”

The Mphokos and their ex-lawyer fight over Choppies settlement

Meanwhile, the Mphokos are pressing ahead with their legal suit against their former lawyer, Welsman Ncube, over the US\$2.9 million paid as a settlement by Choppies in 2019. According to statements made by the Mphokos, Ncube gave them only \$517 000 and \$730 219 from the US\$2.9 million.

The matter is also before the Bulawayo High Court.

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Savings SureSave	4.65%	4.76%	100
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# The People Hold Sovereign Power - Justice Dingake

- Eminent jurist underlines need for caution and inclusivity in constitutional review
- Says each country ultimately takes path dictated by its peculiar circumstances



Justice Key Dingake

TEFO PHEAGE

Delays in starting Botswana's constitutional review process promised by President Mokgweetsi Masisi could be due to general mistrust "between the incumbents who hold the levers of power and their political adversaries and civil society and other formations", Professor Justice Key Dingake has said.

"Whenever a discussion on the issue of citizens' participation is engaged, it is important to remember that the making of a constitution is an intensely political matter that involves power dynamics in society," Dingake told a conference on citizen participation in a constitutional review last week.

"Quite often there is contestation between the incumbents who hold the levers of power and their political adversaries and civil society and other formations who may have their own views on the process and the content of the constitution making,"

According to the eminent jurist, it is important to appreciate that constitutions are primarily about political authority and power within a state; where it is located, and how it is conferred, distributed, exercised and limited among the separate organs of the state in relation to its subjects.

"There has been considerable distrust of the direct engagement of the people (and doubts about their ability to understand complex issues of the purposes, forms and structure of state power)," Dingake noted. "(This) perspective is changing with the growing recognition that the people hold sovereign power; and that consequentially, if sovereignty is indeed vested in and flows from the people, it is natural that they should determine how it should be delegated and exercised."

While there are more pragmatic reasons for popular participation, he added, the emphasis on popular sovereignty is a response to the claim to and abuse of sovereign power by numer-

ous governments in recent decades. But in the final analysis, Dingake said, each country takes a path dictated by its peculiar circumstances, power dynamics and undercurrents in its body politic.

"Each country takes a path that best suits its circumstances," he emphasized. "Occasionally, the dominant political

elite imposes a path that best serves its interests."

As calls for the constitutional review increased, the Office of the President recently expressed fears of disunity and said the process would begin at an appropriate time. At the conference, Dingake also underlined the need for caution and

inclusivity. "The process of constitution making should be designed and carried out in a way that strengthens national unity and a sense of national identity," he said.

"It will not achieve this unless it is an inclusive process in which all feel involved, not just those who have been engaged in party politics. This means that all aspects of national diversity should be acknowledged and reflected in the process, including religious and linguistic diversity."



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## MoH Consults With Magosi Over Kgotla Dress Code During Vaccination

RORISANG MOGOJWE

The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoH) is engaging with magosi to find ways to accommodate the public at dikgotla that are functioning as vaccination sites.

This follows incidents in which some women were turned away from some dikgotla after they turned up for jabs wearing pants.

The ministry's Chief Public Relations Officer, Dr. Christopher Nyanga, says

while some magosi have relaxed the dress code that bars wearing to enter dikgotla wearing pants, it may be difficult to get the rest to do so.

"We have asked for accommodation at dikgotla for use as vaccination posts because they are public spaces," Dr Nyanga said. "But it is important to note that there are some instances where the kgosi, as the head of the kgotla, may insist on enforcing the rules. We are currently engaged in talks with magosi."

He said the only practical solution in the



The ministry's Chief Public Relations Officer, Dr. Christopher Nyanga, says while some magosi have relaxed the dress code that bars wearing to enter dikgotla wearing pants, it may be difficult to get the rest to do so.



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- 2.1 The subject of the email should be: **BPOMAS/3-2021/Business Process Review and Optimisation**.
- 2.2 Payment should be done through the bank; cash shall not be accepted.
- 2.3 The detailed **Terms of Reference** will be distributed via email upon receipt of proof of payment.
- 2.4 The tender closing date is **15 October 2021**.

meantime would be for women wearing pants to avoid going to dikgotla for vaccination.

Members of the public have expressed mixed reactions to the unwritten code that proscribes the wearing of pants by women entering dikgotla. Following reports that some women have been turned away when they went to get their jabs against COVID-19, public opinion on the matter is divided. Some believe that in the middle of a health crisis priority should be on combating the scourge and not traditional rules while others see it the other way round.

**"For particular purposes of this activity, it is a vaccination site first, a kgotla second. Do not restrict access through imposition of silly rules because right now success hinges on timely access."**

One social media user who witnessed this incident at Mogoditshane lambasted government for failing to keep its promise to allow women to wear what they want. "All 3 ladies doing vaccine registration are wearing pants in the kgotla, but women seeking vaccinating wearing pants are being returned to go dress properly? What logic is this?" she queried.



Earlier reports suggest that the Mogoditshane incident was a repeat of what happened in Tlokweng previously, whereupon government then said for vaccination purposes, women should be allowed to don pants.

In an interview, one member of the public said: "For particular purposes of this activity, it is a vaccination site first, a kgotla second. Do not restrict access through imposition of silly rules because right now success hinges on timely access."

Another said to avoid being turned away, women should simply avoid a kgotla, adding: "Tota mme gone why go ko dikgotleng tsa batho lo apere marokgwe knowing full well that, that is the rule? Rather check other vaccination sites instead. Simple."

Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Eric Molale, whose ministry oversees local authorities told the *Gazette* that the debate ought to involve chiefs's input. "It is an unwritten traditional rule therefore the prerogative lies with dikgosi. If anybody has any issues or concerns they are allowed to take it up with the chiefs, ba itshekele."

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# Namibia Concludes Botswana, BDF Probe

- Chairman says preliminary findings are that Namibians are not happy with Botswana and its army
- Report to be sent to Namibia's National Council and National Assembly
- Botswana's DPP to begin own inquest in Kasane Magistrates Court



"Despite differences in locations and tribal affiliations, all communities engaged expressed major concerns about their safety, claiming continuous harassment by the Botswana Defence Force along the borderline," Likando said.

## TEFO PHEAGE

Botswana and its army will feature considerably in a report on hearings conducted by Namibia's Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs, into the security situation along the Chobe, Linyanti and Kwando rivers in Zambezi Region, the Chairman of the committee, John Likando, has said.

According to Likando, preliminary findings of his committee are that Namibians living along the frontier are not happy with the treatment they receive from Botswana and its army. "The hearings now concluded, the report will be sent to his country's National Council and National Assembly to determine the way forward," he added.

"Despite differences in locations and tribal affiliations, all communities engaged expressed major concerns about their safety, claiming continuous harassment by the Botswana Defence Force along the borderline," Likando said. "(They) demand more protection despite the recent deployment of Namibian soldiers."

The Namibian lawmaker noted that due to lack of employment opportunities in the areas, the communities rely on natural resources but this has become a source of conflict between the two countries. Other issues to be expected from the report are accusations of expansion into Namibian territory by Botswana.

According to Likando, the committee held 20 consultative meetings and also met the four traditional authorities of the affected communities, including, Mafwe, BaYei, BaSubiya and Mashi and held.

Meanwhile, the Botswana's Directorate of Public Prosecutions has registered an inquest with the Kasane Magistrates Court. The inquest, which will begin on 15 November and run for 10 day - will probe the BDF shooting of three Namibians and a Zambian killed during a BDF patrol in November last year.

The DPP has submitted court statements of witnesses to be called and copies of an album of photographs compiled by investigators.

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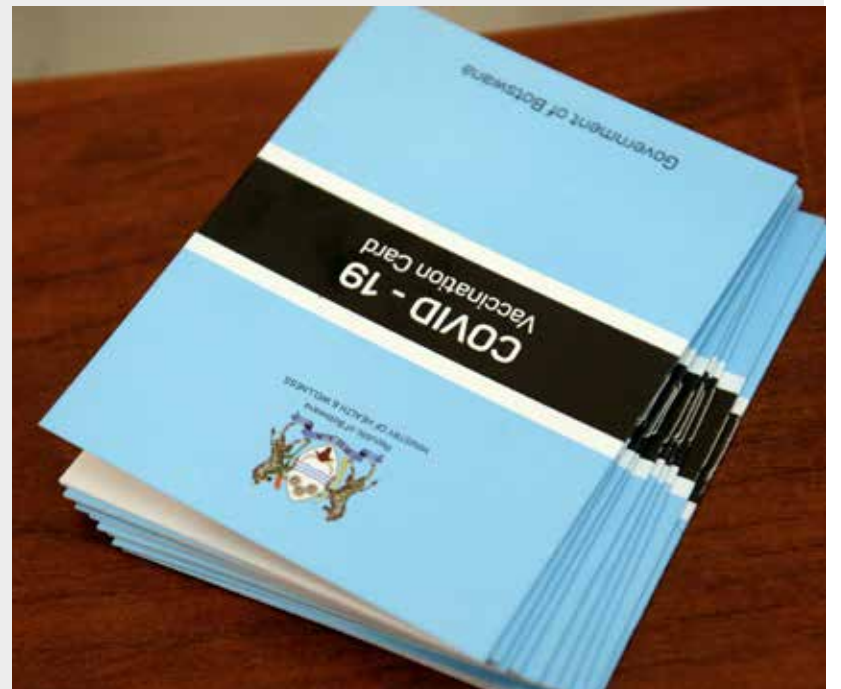
Debit Interest Rate - Prime +12%

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# Botswana Vaccines Cleared For Travel To America - MoH

- Ministry of Health debunks claims that COVID-19 vaccines used in Botswana are not FDA-approved
- Says own team recently returned from the US
- Vaccines used in Botswana have WHO and FDA approval



## REQUEST TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY- Feasibility of community led fisheries projects in Central Chobe

Qualified and experienced Botswana individual consultants or firms are requested to submit their **technical and financial proposals to conduct a robust** Feasibility study including business models for potential fisheries related livelihood options, market analyses and enabling frameworks by the **15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 1600hrs (CAT)**

This assignment is done under a Community Livelihood Development project within the Botswana component of the Zambezi-Chobe Floodplains Wildlife Dispersal Area with funding from German Corporation-KFW through the KAZA TFCA and implemented by BirdLife Botswana.

To apply for this work, Consultants should pay a **non-refundable fee** of **P200.00** to BirdLife Botswana and access Terms of Reference. To avoid frequent movements to the office (unless where not possible) it is preferred that deposit is made into BirdLife **Botswana FNB Account: Account Name: BirdLife Botswana, Account Number 57110052562**, Branch: Kgale, Gaborone with Consultant name as Reference, scan and send proof of payment to [admin@birdlifebotswana.org.bw](mailto:admin@birdlifebotswana.org.bw). Contact Ms Dikabelo Koboyatshwene for assistance at 3190540

Furthermore, due to COVID 19, protocols (minimal movements), physical submissions is discouraged (unless where not possible), consultants should send their Proposals as PDF to [admin@birdlifebotswana.org.bw](mailto:admin@birdlifebotswana.org.bw) The email subject title should read: **RFQ for Feasibility Study: Community led Fisheries Projects for Central Chobe.**

**NB\***

- Late submissions of applications will NOT be accepted
- Consultants must have experience in conducting feasibility studies
- Awarding or non-awarding of the tenders shall be the decision of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and its decision shall be final and shall not be liable to disclose any details of the tender
- The committee reserves the right to reverse, re-advertise or cancel the tender even after applications have been received with no obligation to give reasons to the bidders.
- By applying for the tender, you agree to abide by the terms and conditions set by the committee.



**TEFO PHEAGE**

The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoH) has dismissed claims that people injected with vaccines in use in Botswana are not allowed entry into the United States of America.

The claims followed several travel restrictions imposed by the US at the peak of the pandemic, some of which are currently being eased as part of efforts to re-open the world's biggest economy. Because of these claims, some Botswana have been crossing into neighbouring South Africa for vaccination.

Dismissing the rumour as baseless and the concerns being untrue, the chief spokesman of MoH, Dr Christopher Nyanga, told *The Botswana Gazette* this week: "We do not think it is true that Americans do not recognize our vaccines. Just last week, a team of Ministry of Health staff visited the US and were not denied entry."

The White House has said the final decision regarding what vaccines will be accepted for entry into the country will be made by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). According to America's top medical body, a person is considered "fully

vaccinated" against the coronavirus if they have received any jab authorized by the country's Food and Drug Administration and/or the World Health Organization (WHO).

**"We do not think it is true that Americans do not recognize our vaccines. Just last week, a team of Ministry of Health staff visited the US and were not denied entry."**

So far seven vaccines have been approved for use by the WHO. These are Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, Johnson & Johnson, Oxford-AstraZeneca, Covishield (an Oxford-AstraZeneca formulation) and China's Sinopharm and Sinovac.

The WHO has in the past warned that attempts to undermine approved vaccines could jeopardize the world's fight against the pandemic.



Assistant Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Kgotla Autlwetse

# Gov't Explains Bayeyi Omission From Ntlo Ya Dikgosi

- Minister Autlwetse says it is a matter of BaYeyi holding elections and submitting a name to gov't
- BaYeyi say gov't has been stalling since 2017
- Stand-off between BaTawana and BaYeyi on bogosi could be a factor

ity of magosi in their respective regions.

“For dikgosi to be at Ntlo ya Dikgosi, there has to be elections amongst themselves from their respective regions and the government has nothing to do with them,” Autlwetse said. “In fact, after a contest between those who wish to represent their regions in the House, a name is submitted to us. BaYeyi should understand that although they are in BaTawana territory, they are at liberty to have such elections, just like politicians.”

BaYeyi are not visitors in Botswana and have always known the procedure, he emphasised. The junior minister added that he is not sure whether BaYeyi ever

had a candidate for the Upper House but should keep on trying to have one. “You will also understand that, for instance, the North East region had Kgosi Maruje before but the region has now elected Kgosi Mosojane,” he pointed out.

Asked whether the long standing stand-off on bogosi between BaTawana and BaYeyi could be a factor, Minister Autlwetse said tensions exist where there is more than one tribe in a region. “There are tensions everywhere between tribes and it is upon those tribes to resolve their issues because it is not always advisable for the government to intervene,” he said. “The government long recognized the BaYeyi when Vice

President Slumber Tsogwane was the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development.”

But the Chairman of BaYeyi Tribal Authority, Samosenene recently said they wrote to the government on many occasions about having their own paramount chief, Kgosi Seidisa, as a member of Ntlo ya Dikgosi. “We have written to the government more than four times since 2019 and that promise has not been met,” he said. “But we will not give up.”

In 2017, a scheduled coronation of a BaYeyi paramount chief failed after BaTawana regent, Kealetile Moremi, said BaYeyi could not have a paramount chief because they are under BaTawana.

It is understood that the government is in a dilemma because recognizing BaYeyi as a tribe in their own right would carry the concomitant of creating new boundaries in order for BaYeyi to have their own territory.

This is an issue that dates back to colonial times. Bechuanaland became a British protectorate in 1885 and the British authorities subsequently recognized only eight tribes under the Chieftainship Act. These were BaRolong, BaKwena, BaNgwaketse, BaLete, BaKgatla, BaTlokwa, BaNgwato and BaTawana.

government of snubbing their paramount chief, Kgosi Seidisa, and the tribe’s desire to have him admitted to Botswana’s Upper House as a member.

According to the Assistant Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Kgotla Autlwetse, the process to elect a chief to Ntlo ya Dikgosi has always been the sole responsibility

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government has repudiated reports that it does not have any plans of welcoming Kgosi Pitoro Seidisa of BaYeyi to Ntlo ya Dikgosi.

This comes after the Chairman of Bayeyi Tribal Authority, Daniel Samosenene, accused the

## Tirelo Sechaba Participants go for Months without Allowances

- Say their failure to change bank accounts may be the problem
- Claim they heard need to change was communicated through Facebook
- Say not all of them have smartphones or Internet access
- Perm Sec yet to respond

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Poor communication by the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Culture Development (MY-ESCD) may be to blame for scores of participants in the National Service Programme going without their monthly allowances for almost three months, The Botswana Gazette has established.

The affected Tirelo Sechaba Participants (TSPs), as they are commonly known, say the beginning of October marked their third month without receiving their P700 per month allowances.

According to them, what is more frustrating is that their superiors in their respective places of work have no idea why they are not being paid or when the unbearable situation may end.

“We tried to enquire from our respective offices of work but they were also in the dark,” one TSP told The Botswana Ga-

zette. “We subsequently learnt that those who did not change their bank accounts from Absa to Stanbic may be the ones not receiving their monthly allowances. This came as a surprise for most of us because we never received any formal communication about it.”

According to the participants, further enquiries turned up shocking information that the youth ministry, which is responsible for the programme, had long communicated with them through its Facebook page about a need to move their accounts from Absa to Stanbic Bank.

The TSPs are disappointed and angry that not all of them visit the ministry’s Facebook page regularly and have not been told that they should. Besides, they said, some of them do not have smartphones or access to the Internet.

The ministry’s Permanent Secretary, Kago Ramokate, was yet to respond to Gazette enquiries at the time of going to press.



## Deposit rates as at October 2021

Type of deposit account	Nominal rates	Actual rates	Minimum opening balance (BWP)
Current	0.00% - 2.48%	0.00% - 2.51%	50
Call	0.00% - 2.47%	0.00% - 2.50%	10,000
Savings	0.00% - 3.25%	0.00% - 3.25%	100
91 days fixed deposit	0.25% - 0.25%	0.25% - 0.25%	1,000
6 months fixed deposit	1.03% - 1.20%	1.03% - 1.20%	1,000
12 months fixed deposit	1.25% - 1.75%	1.25% - 1.75%	1,000
24 months fixed deposit	1.60% - 2.30%	1.60% - 2.30%	1,000
36 months fixed deposit	1.70% - 2.50%	1.70% - 2.50%	1,000
Prime rate	5.25%		

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## OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND TOLERANCE: A NEW DAWN FOR THE LGBTIQ MOVEMENT

**T**alk of inclusion and diversity in the context of Botswana and one finds that talk is cheap. As LEGABIBO gets ready for the 12th of October 2021, the LGBTIQ community waits in anticipation of the outcome of the long-awaited decriminalization case following a ruling by the High Court in 2019 to overturn laws that criminalized homosexuality through an anonymous vote of a panel of the judges.

However, this ruling was followed with an appeal challenge by the government through the Attorney General's office "that the law should not be overturned because it reflects the values of Botswana's society, and pressed the challengers to provide evidence that those values had changed".

Two years on, the LGBTIQ community in Botswana still argues that all people have an equal right to live free from violence, persecution, discrimination and stigma, and hence the decriminalization of these laws is not only pivotal but is essential to the health and wellbeing of people who deserve the right to choose whom to love. It is therefore notable that International human rights law establishes legal obligations on governments to ensure that every person, without distinction, can enjoy these rights.

While welcoming increasing efforts to protect the rights of the LGBTIQ people, it is of great concern that across the country thousands of the LGBTIQ individuals, those perceived as LGBTIQ and their families face widespread human rights violations in a country perceived to be inclusive and pro-diversity. This is a cause for alarm – and action – and we believe that the decriminalization case will bring a form of stability and sense of belonging for the LGBTIQ people.

It is notable that failure by Botswana to uphold the human rights of LGBTIQ people and protect them against abuse such as violence and discriminatory laws and practices constitutes serious violation of international human rights law and has a far-reaching impact on society – contributing to increased vulnerability to ill health, including HIV infection and social and economic exclusion. It also puts a strain on families and communities and impacts negatively on economic growth, decent work and progress towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

This therefore requires an urgent response by everyone, including the government, Parliament, the judiciary and national human rights institutions.

Violation of the next person's liberties is a gateway to violation of yours if you keep silent and do nothing about it. The Botswana Gazette has always advocated for the promotion and protection of all human rights and believes in the freedom of the LGBTIQ community in Botswana.



# Joint Statement: Botswana Court Of Appeal Sets Hearing Date For Decriminalisation Case For 12 October 2021

**O**n 11 June 2019, a full bench of the Botswana High Court unanimously found that the criminalisation of consensual same-sex sexual activities violates the constitutional rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons to dignity, liberty, privacy and equality. This decision was appealed by the state. The appeal is set to be heard before the Botswana Court of Appeal on 12 October 2021.

In November 2017, the human rights advocacy group Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana (LEGABIBO), with support assistance from the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC), was admitted as *Amicus Curiae* (friend of the court). LEGABIBO is an LGBTIQ organisation that seeks to advance the human rights of members of the LGBTIQ community in Botswana. LEGABIBO placed evidence before the court of the negative impact that criminal laws have, including fuelling stigma, discrimination and violence against the LGBTIQ community.

The judgment of the High Court has already led to positive change in Botswana. An Afrobarometer survey conducted shortly after the High Court's decision recorded a 10-percentage-point gain in tolerant attitudes towards LGBTIQ persons. Botswana's Five-Year Plan for Removing Human Rights-Related Barriers to Accessing HIV and Health Services (2020-2025) also noted that "the recent overturning of laws criminalising same-sex sex removes a significant human rights barrier for gay men, men who have sex with men and other LGBT persons."

"We are excited and happy that the date for the appeal

has finally been set. The LGBTIQ community is very excited and look forward to put the matter to rest. This is a great step in the right direction to shift and change systems, reform laws and policies to ensure that the LGBTIQ communities not only enjoy their right to be human, but also enjoy legal protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity," LEGABIBO CEO, Thato Moruti, said.

**The judgment of the High Court has already led to positive change in Botswana. An Afrobarometer survey conducted shortly after the High Court's decision recorded a 10-percentage-point gain in tolerant attitudes towards LGBTIQ persons.**

LEGABIBO is represented by Tshiamo Rantao and supported by the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) For more information contact:

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SALC Botswana: Anna Mmolai-Chalmers +267 75334909  
SALC SA: Anneke Meerkotter +27835559770



# Free Property Transfers Trigger CGT

TAX FOUNTAIN

Disposal of investments is one aspect which attracts some tax technicalities, particularly the sale or transfer of investments such as immovable property. A profit or gain realised from such a disposal is generally exposed to tax commonly known as Capital Gains Tax. One interesting and rather peculiar aspect regarding this tax is that a gratuitously transferred property may result in a tax obligation. In essence, a property freely transferred from one person to another actually triggers tax.

Today's article seeks to examine and clarify how a property transferred for free may actually result in a tax debt. As a tax firm, we intend to demystify the technical jargon applicable to the issue at hand and enhance your understanding of tax matters.

## The principle

Firstly, it is imperative that we understand that the tax under discussion is principally triggered by a gain realised subsequent to a disposal of a property. Technically, a capital gain arises in instances where disposal proceeds exceed the cost of the property and any allowable deductions enshrined in the Act.

If we now turn to a property that has been freely transferred to another party, it might seem plausible to disregard the Capital Gains Tax as it may appear that the property was not sold since the transaction would not involve transfer of money. However, the Act equates a gratuitous transfer with an actual sale. This mystery is embedded in the term 'disposal' as defined by the Act.

## Enter tax

The Act defines the term "disposal" to include transactions that involve gratuitous transfer of property. The Act states that disposal includes "any transaction which has the effect of transferring any immovable property". Simply put, if you give your relative or a friend a piece of land or a building, it is construed as a disposal. The golden question that would obviously arise from such a construal is, how can someone pay tax when they did not even receive a thebe?

The disposal value of a property transferred for free is technically construed to be the prevailing market value at the date of transfer. Consequently, any arising capital gain will be determined based on the said market value and a deduction of the respective cost of acquiring the asset. Accordingly, where the property in question was also acquired for free, e.g. by way of inheritance or as a gift, the deductible cost will be the equivalence of the market value of the property on the day the property was acquired.

On the other hand, a disposal of a principal private residence by an individual which was owned for at least five years is exempt from Capital Gains Tax. For avoidance of doubt, a principal private residence technically refers to a person's sole or main residential house.

## Conclusion

A transfer of property is by no means different from an actual sale as it equally triggers Capital Gains Tax in the hands of the transferor. In essence, the tax laws

have no regard for property freebies save for a person's principal private residence owned for at least five years.

The team at Tax Fountain, your go-to tax consultants, hopes that you found this article useful. Should you require further assistance or to join our free tax WhatsApp group, please contact us using the details below. **Disclaimer: This is a general analysis and tax advice is recommended if critical decisions linked to this article have to be made. Contact us on info@taxfountain.co.bw or 311 6269/+267 760 910 79.**



Today's article seeks to examine and clarify how a property transferred for free may actually result in a tax debt. Pic: Pexels.com



## DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES

The Competition and Consumer Authority (CCA) was established by the Competition Act of 2018 and Consumer Protection Act. The review resulted in the transfer of the function of the Consumer Protection office to the new Authority and hence the new name. The Authority is the primary enforcement agency for Competition Law and Policy, as well as, Consumer Protection. The Authority wishes to attract professionals with a sound understanding of business dynamics, who are driven by a passion to deliver outstanding service.

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### The Job

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

- Participating in the development of policies and strategies which provide innovative information technology and business solutions, best practice Human Resources interventions and systems, as well as, fiducious Financial Accounting to enable the organisation to deliver its mandate.
- Advising the CEO, Management and Board on matters of policy and strategic implementation of financial, human resources, procurement and information technology, as well as, providing strategic guidance regarding the implications and actions in the other departments that may impact financially on the CCA.
- Overseeing the development and implementation of financial management and accounting systems and procedures to ensure the accurate recording of all financial transactions and the timely maintenance and preparation of the CCA's accounts and financial statements in accordance with statutory regulatory requirements, international standards and corporate best practice.
- Overseeing the human resources function within the CCA, including implementing policies, advising management on industrial relations, maintaining accurate staff records, participating in the recruitment and selection of staff and coordinating training for the developmental needs of staff members and remuneration.
- Directing the procurement strategy and monitoring adherence to policies and procedures in alignment with Public Service requirements.
- Leading the development and implementation of a knowledge management policy, strategy and system, as well as, advising on good practice approaches, methods, and tools to enhance knowledge management.

### The Person

The right candidate will possess the following:

- A Degree in Business Administration, or related field with proven experience in financial and administrative matters, human resources, records management and a sound understanding of IT matters.
- Minimum of ten (10) years' post qualification experience, three (3) of which should be at a management level in one of either Finance, Human Resources, or Information Technology.
- A Master's Degree, or an internationally recognised relevant professional qualification would be an added advantage.
- A strong background of management of multifunctional departments/divisions including finance, human resources, information technology, records management and procurement.

### Competencies

The right candidate must possess the following competencies:

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- Leadership and management.
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For enquiries: contact Tsholofelo/Bame/Phatsimo on 3975917/ 39 15503



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# Should America Fall, Africa Should Be The Next Land Of The Free

"We should write our history books to prove that we did have a past and that it was just as worth writing and learning about as any others." Sir Seretse Khama



K. GABRIEL RASENGWATSHE

Political eschatology is divided into two with its extreme points, either Religious or Scientific. The further you go right, the more religious fundamentalist things become. Same for the left – the furthest you go, the more scientific demagoguery is pushed.

Having studied a bit of history, particularly the history of contemporary European wars, I have come to appreci-

ate that at any point you hear these two ends, clearly, on the world stage, know that drums of war long sounded. This is how war is started. Throughout history, this is how all great wars start. Get one man (man here denoting both sexes) to be offended by a deity so much that he will develop a machine - what the Greeks called Deus ex Machina - to replace the deity and get another man to oppose him in the name of a deity and you have a self-fulfilling prophecy.

It is an eternal war that has not abated since the beginning of wars. Every time Science thinks it has achieved something remarkable, Religion comes about and challenges its authority over matter. And all the wailing you hear is people; gnashing their teeth, freaking out from fear of Armageddon, the war to end all wars, as has been prophesied.

And here we are. At the Rubicon - some would say. Western values are being dismantled - or should I say, tested to the limit – in front of our eyes. Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom are holding by a whisker and the United States of America are split in half. At this point, let us just forget about New Zealand. Commonwealth countries in Africa are either compromised or they are playing dead, hoping that history will not notice. You cannot miss it. Literally!

When you listen closely to the rubble rousing, it is becoming distinct that Science is at war with God - another word for deity. And just like that, the population of the world is wailing, gnashing their teeth, smitten by the delusion of their fear of the inevitable Armageddon. Science is celebrating a remarkable feat of having produced what it calls a vaccine (Deus ex Machina) within a record time of less than a year when ordinarily it would have taken not less than a decade to develop one.

To fully stamp its authority on this moment, Science is mandating an apartheid of sorts between those 'vaccinated' and those who are not. Those who are 'vaccinated' will enjoy special privileges that those who are not will not be able to access unless they produce a 'green pass' that is issued by Science. By all counts, Science has done well.

My great grandfathers fought in the great wars of the world, my father told me. I was barely a teenager but those stories he would say he heard from his father were told with such vivid imagination that I could smell the gun-powder. As I grew, I got to know more about the history of Botswana's participation in wars around the

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# The Next Land Of The Free

From Page 14

world. For the record, war is beastly. But the heroics of our forefathers should not ever be forgotten, lest we forget those of the ones currently in active duty in Mozambique and those in reconnaissance missions in other parts of the world. Generally we do not care about the achievements of the Botswana Defence Force because we are not built that way. They are soldiers, then what, is our attitude. But our forefathers have been counted amongst liberators from tyranny. At least if you go by the official story.

Generally we do not care about the achievements of the Botswana Defence Force because we are not built that way.

The last great wars were about technological supremacy after the splitting of the atom. We all know what eventually happened. And because we know how it happened, it is safe to say the war for quantum computing supremacy has already begun. Estimated to be worth ten times more valuable than the digital economy, bio-technology has inevitably sparked a war like never seen before. I am not the one saying it. It is the political eschatology that is proclaiming it. The furthest end of the left is pushing for mandatory vaccinations as a condition to simply exist and the furthest end of the right is calling the mandates an abomination that tampers man's deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in the name of trans-humanism.

Despite the heavy censorship and propagated agendas by both sides, when you listen closely to what is being said in media, what is happening boils down to this. Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia are but fallen while some Red States (the way they call Republican controlled States) in the United States have drawn a line the size of the Grand Canyon between God and Science. It is literally at a point where a civil war will break out any time or the stage for a world war will be set.

You pick. But the fall of America will be the fall of much more than a near perfect empire. It will also be the fall of liberty, pursuit of happiness and freedom of individual thought. It will be the fall of the bastion of free men - a land of opportunity for many chasing treasures of the world as much as a land of refuge for the weary without a home for validation. I do not know how much it will take to either crush this spirit or to defend it. However, from history, it is clear that there is ever a need for a land of the free because man does not do well with Science. Neither does he with Religion. The carnage is clear and requires no debate. The fall of the West should make Africans accept that they will have to become the new land of the free. It may be an idea that



President Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi officiates the sending off of Botswana Defence Force (BDF) troops for the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) mission in Mozambique on 26 July 2021 at the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport. (Metlha Ngubevana/PRESS PHOTO)

seems farfetched, but what is the alternative for the largely youthful population of the continent that has just come of age and is at the brink of the best time yet?

The silence of our leaders on what is happening to Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America should not be a reflection of the mental state of the youth in Africa. If anything, it should be confirmation that when you stand for nothing, you will always fall for anything. We have come too far to go back to the dark ages.

\*K. Gabriel Rasengwatshe is the Convener of Action for Jobs but writes here in his personal capacity. He is a strategist, multi-dimension speaker and an author with a published title, "We Need An Economic Cooling," which is out on sale.



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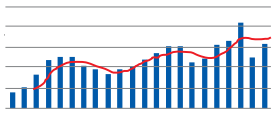


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**GAZETTE REPORTER**

The Botswana Stock Exchange's key revenue stream of exchange traded funds (ETFs) have realised a decline in turnover thus far in 2021, amounting to P70.9 million compared to P98.7 million generated during the same period in 2020, says the BSE in its latest report.

The report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 during which ETFs traded involved 408,345 units.

New Funds and New Plat ETF prices gained 12.8 percent and 12.9 percent respectively while NewGold ETF prices have declined by a 3.6 percent so far in 2021.

But there has been a positive note in the bond market performance, says the report. The value of bonds traded during the period under review was P1.7 billion compared to P834.2 million traded during same period in 2020.

As at end of August 2021, the market capitalisation of the listed bonds on the BSE stood at P22.4 billion.

"Six local companies contributed 64.0 percent to total equity turnover or P259.3 million in monetary terms while local individuals contributed 6.9 percent or P27.9 million in monetary terms during the period under review," says the BSE report reflecting on investor contribution to equity turnover.

"Foreign companies contributed 23.0 percent or P93.2 million to the total equity turnover while foreign individuals and brokers contributed 6.0 percent (P24.5 million) and 0.1 percent (P0.2 million) to equity turnover respectively."

In terms of share price performance of the 30 listed companies, 14 depreciated, 10 appreciated, while 6 experienced a no share price change.

The top three traded companies during the period under review were Letshego (P73.5 million), FNBB (P57.8 million) and Sefalana (P53.7 million).

"The total turnover from these three companies accounted for 45.7 percent of total equity turnover, with the leading counter, Letshego, accounting for 18.1 percent of total equity turnover," says the report. "In comparison to the same period in 2020, the top three traded companies accounted for 51.9 percent of total equity turnover with the leading counter, Letshego, accounting for 25.4 percent (P122.7 million) of total equity turnover."

The BSE says in the period under review, the Domestic Company Index (DCI) depreciated by 2.0 percent in comparison to the decrease of 5.9 percent during the same period in 2020. The Domestic Company Total Return Index (DCTRI) appreciated by a 1.6 percent in comparison to the decrease of 2.4 percent in the corresponding period in 2020.

On the other hand, the Foreign Company Index (FCI) appreciated by 0.1 percent on a year to date basis in 2021 compared to a decline of 0.8 percent over the same period in 2020.



Letshego Holding Limited Group Chief Executive officer, AAndrew Fening Okai. (Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

# Letshego Leads The Pack In Equity Turnover

- But ETFs decline from P98.7m in 2020 to P70.9m year to date
- But bonds traded up from P834.2m to P1.7bn

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## BOTSWANA LIFE MONTHLY UNIT PRICES

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INVESTMENT FUND	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21
Mompoti Life Fund	12.43	12.54	12.48	12.68	12.76	12.89
Mompoti Retirement Annuity Fund	57.09	57.59	57.39	58.22	58.53	59.16
Mompoti Educator Fund	14.87	15.00	14.95	15.17	15.25	15.41
Mompoti Offshore Fund	3.30	3.37	3.31	3.40	3.46	3.49
Ex-IGI Fund	44.49	44.12	44.27	44.25	43.36	43.54
Khumo 2016 Preservation Fund	11.96	11.97	12.00	12.02	12.04	12.07
Shariah Model Portfolio Fund	1.00	1.04	1.05	1.04	1.08	1.09
Balanced Life Fund	14.04	14.21	14.16	14.43	14.56	14.75
Balanced Retirement Fund	64.65	65.44	65.30	66.44	66.93	67.82
Moderate Life Fund	16.81	17.01	16.98	17.28	17.40	17.63
Growth Offshore Fund	3.89	3.99	3.93	4.05	4.13	4.18

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



# Internet Subscriptions Grow

- Total subscriptions up by 6.7% in Q1 2021
- BOCRA attributes growth to COVID-19

**GAZETTE REPORTER**

The latest Information and Communication Stats Brief Q2 2021 shows that Internet subscriptions grew by 6.7 percent in the second quarter of 2021, a publication of Statistics Botswana has reported.

Mobile Internet subscriptions and Internet subscriptions also recorded increases of 6.9 percent and 0.5 percent respectively while fixed subscriptions increased by 3.4 percent in the period under review.

Fixed Internet subscriptions increased from 49,757 in Q1 2021 to 51,466 in the current quarter.

“The total Internet subscriptions (i.e. the mobile Internet and the fixed Internet subscriptions) decreased by 3.2 percent in Q2 2021, from 2,323,120 recorded in Q1 2021 to 2,249,137. Mobile internet subscriptions declined from 2,273,363 in Q1 2021 to 2,197,671 in Q2 2021, thus registering a decrease of a 3.3 percent,” says the report

According to Statistician General Dr Burton Mguni, fixed telephone line subscriptions declined from 139,930 registered in Q1 2021 to 134,498 in Q2, a decrease of 3.9 percent.

“The subscriptions on mobile cellular telephones on the other hand increased. They rose from a 3,876,773 registered in Q1 2021 to 3,911,833 in Q2 2021, thus increasing by a 0.9 percent. The Internet subscriptions, as did the fixed telephone subscriptions, decreased in Q2 2021. They went down by a 3.2 percent in Q2 2021, from 2,323,120 in Q1 2021 to the 2,249,137,” said Dr Mguni.

In Q2 2021, fixed telephone to mobile telephone domestic calls traffic went up by 5.7 percent while mobile telephone to fixed telephone domestic calls traffic decreased by 5.3 percent.

“Outgoing international

calls from fixed telephones increased by 2.8 percent, while those from mobile telephones went down by 3.6 percent,” Dr Mguni noted. “The contribution of the Postal and Communications Services sector to the economy stood at 2.7 percent of Gross Domestic Product at current prices in Q1 2021. The sector’s value added at the current prices amounted to P1, 275.7 million.”

Meanwhile, the 2020 annual report of Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) indicated a significant growth in Internet subscriptions (Broadband Facts and Figures).

“The growth in the residential subscriptions is attributable to the customers who were working remotely due to extreme social distancing as prescribed by the COVID-19 protocols and as such businesses had to connect their employees for business continuity,” the report said.

Fixed wireless subscriptions by businesses increased by 32% from 2,500 in June 2019 to 3,292 in June 2020, BOCRA noted.

The number of mobile broadband subscriptions also increased by 16.3 percent (284,812) from 1,752,547 in March 2019 to 2,037,359 in March 2020 with more increase expected beyond 2021.

“The significant increase in the uptake of mobile broadband is attributable to several reasons, including ownership of more than one SIM card by consumers to enjoy different mobile offers by operators, improved affordability due to recent price reductions, reduced movement during extreme social distancing leading to extensive use of electronic platforms to apply for permits,” said BOCRA.

Post-paid mobile broadband traffic has increased from 1.2 billion Megabytes in March 2016 to 3.3 billion Megabytes in March 2020



Fixed Internet subscriptions increased from 49,757 in Q1 2021 to 51,466 in the current quarter.

## Interest Rates for October 2021



**FNB**

### First National Bank Savings and Investments Rates

The following standard Savings and Investment rates will apply

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates(%)	Actual Interest Rates(%)	Minimum Opening Balance
	(Lowest - Highest)	(Lowest - Highest)	(Pula)
Current (Individual)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	0.025% to 0.025%	0.025% to 0.025%	1,000.00
Savings (Poloko)	0.10% to 0.75%	0.10% to 0.75%	500.00
Flexi Fixed (3 Months)	1.50%	1.51%	100.00
Flexi Fixed (6 Months)	2.50%	2.53%	100.00
Flexi Fixed (12 Months)	3.15%	3.20%	100.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.75%	0.75%	1,000.00
6 Months	1.25% to 1.30%	1.26% to 1.31%	1,000.00
12 Months	1.30% to 1.90%	1.31% to 1.92%	1,000.00
24 Months	2.00% to 2.25%	2.02% to 2.27%	1,000.00
Over 24 Months	3.37%	3.42%	1,000.00
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# Cresta Not Spared By COVID-19 Headwinds

Records a loss before tax of P34.1 million in H1 2021

GAZETTE REPORTER

Results for Cresta Marakanelo Limited for the six months that ended 30 June 2021 show that headwinds occasioned by COVID-19 chapped business at Botswana's leading hotel group considerably.

During the six months to June 2021, the government continued to implement a raft of measures imposed in December 2020 to try and curb the spread of COVID-19. These measures, which include restrictions on inter-zonal travel, bans on alcohol sales and limited numbers of conferencing guests, have had a direct effect of reducing the level of activity in hotels.

While the first quarter performance at Botswana's leading hotel group Cresta was low because of the seasonality of the business, business was further slowed by COVID-induced low travel sentiment and pandemic mitigation controls in place, Group Chairman Moatlhodi Lekaukau has observed.

"The second quarter saw a rise in the performance of the business when compared to the first quarter, contributing 60 percent of the revenue generated for the six months ended 30 June 2021," he says in the Group's H1 2021 financials released recently.

According to Lekaukau, Cresta has nevertheless generated some wins. "The Group's six months loss before taxation of P34.1 million was P8.4 million lower than same period last year which reported a loss of P42.5 million," he states. "The main drivers for the reduction in the loss are the cost reduction measures implemented, some of which will be continued in the long term, even after the pandemic has been contained."

Cresta's revenue for the period under review is P96.5 million, 4 percent (P3.3 million) higher than that of the

"The second quarter saw a rise in the performance of the business when compared to the first quarter, contributing 60 percent of the revenue generated for the six months ended 30 June 2021."

Cresta Marakanelo Limited Group Chairman Moatlhodi Lekaukau

same period last year. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) achieved during the period was P2.2 million, an improvement on the prior year's loss incurred of P2.5 million.

**"The Group has been strategic and continues to focus on cost containment to ensure survival of the business through this difficult pandemic season."**

"The reduced market base has seen a surge in price wars in the industry, a variable which further puts pressure on the revenues of the business," Lekaukau says. "The Group has been strategic and continues to focus

on cost containment to ensure survival of the business through this difficult pandemic season."

During the half year, P11.7 million (2020: P25.8 million) was utilised in operating activities, primarily due to the subdued revenues. "Net cash utilised in investing activities amounted to P2.5 million (2020: P14.4 million)," states Lekaukau.

"The reduction in cash outflow on investing activities was because of the capital expenditure freeze. With regards to financing activities, P15.2 million (2020: P4.1 million) was utilised, split between bank loan repayments of P3.7 million (2020: P1.5 million) and leasing hotel properties P11.5 million (2020: P11.6 million).

The Chairman notes in the results that Cresta staff members agreed to salary cuts implemented on a sliding scale beginning in July 2021. "This measure will enhance the business's cash preservation efforts," he says.

Cresta Hotels is one of Southern Africa's leading hotel management groups, operating business and resort hotels in Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia.

## Botswana's Security Environment is Changing – G4S

- Alarm business down
- G4S aims to "remain agile"

GAZETTE REPORTER

Leading security firm G4S Botswana is currently investing in infrastructure and solutions to deal with the significantly changing security environment in Botswana, this publication has established.

According to G4S Chairperson Gaone Macholo and Managing Director Mothusi Molokomme, the country is seeing a sharp increase in armed and aggravated crimes.

"We remain agile and are investing in our infrastructure, solutions and people to ensure that we are appropriately equipped to safeguard our customers and communities," says Macholo and Molokomme in the company's financial results for the half-year (H1) ended 30 June 2021.

"We are taking the time to ensure that our current service offerings remain state-of-the-art and relevant in our current environment."

The results show that in H1 2021, G4S Botswana revenue declined by 4.9 percent year-on-year from P99.9 million in 2020 to P95.2 million in the year under review. According to Macholo and Molokomme, the decrease in revenue is attributable mainly to revenue losses in the security company's alarms business as well as a sustained drought in large non-portfolio pure technology sales.

"Revenue from discontinued operations declined by 18.5 percent, continuing the unwinding of the business following the implementation of the Trade Act in June 2020,"



they state.

The company's gross profit declined by 20.2 percent year-on-year which Macholo and Molokomme say is due to increased cost of operations, specifically in respect of fuel and fleet maintenance costs. G4S did not receive COVID-19 wage subsidy relief in 2021 (P8.8m 2020), hence profit for the period declined significantly.

"Upon exclusion of this abnormal item, normalised profit for the period decreased by 4.3 percent, driven by the reduction in revenue and offset by cost control initiatives

as well as positive movements in bad debt collections for the period," Macholo and Molokomme wrote in the report.

Meanwhile, the company's concern about the changing security environment comes as no surprise as G4S itself has recently been rocked by a spate of heists. Its transit vehicle carrying close to P9 million was robbed at Block 6 in Gaborone on 6 August 2021. Another G4S cash-in-transit van was robbed at gunpoint earlier last month at Game City Mall in Gaborone where the robbers made off with an undisclosed amount of cash.

# COVID-19 Blamed for Decline in Botswana-SA Trade

Four commercial border posts documented 9,8 billion pieces of goods in 2019 but 6,5 billion pieces of goods in 2020



Botswana was the second exporter (after eSwatini) to South Africa, recording 27 percent (999 million pieces of goods) of its total import volumes (3,7 billion pieces of goods), transported by road. Pic Pexels.com

lion to Botswana and imported about R11,2 billion from Botswana equalling a trade surplus of R84,1 billion. "In 2020, South Africa's exports to Botswana valued about R74 billion which was 22 percent lower than the exports of 2019," the report shows.

**According to the report, the measures led to a need to limit travelling and freight movements to the essential goods and essential workers.**

"The value of South Africa's imports in 2020 declined 35 percent to R7,3 billion from R11,2 billion in 2019. Consequently, South Africa enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R66,6 billion although it experienced 21 percent decrease from 2019 (R84,1 billion)."

## GAZETTE REPORTER

The decline of inter-trade between South Africa and Botswana in 2020 was mainly due to restrictive measures imposed by the two countries in efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, a report released recently by South Africa's Cross-Border Road Transport Agency says.

According to the report, the measures led to a need to limit travelling and freight movements to the essential goods and essential workers.

"Ultimately, the national lockdowns led to long delays in the movement of the most essential goods at Botswana's border posts due to required COVID-19 testing by the truck drivers and truck crews for COVID-19 before crossing the border, long delays of up to five days before the truckers (could be) cleared to deliver goods in Botswana, or transit through the country, partially due to reduced business hours at the border posts and the need for trucks to be disinfected in some instances," the report says.

South Africa's total volumes exported to Botswana through four commercial border posts documented about 9,8 billion pieces of goods in 2019. However, in 2020 exports documented about 6,5 billion

pieces of goods, a decline of 34 percent. The report says the highest decline in export values were realised in April 2020 compared to April 2019, with negative 71 percent. All the succeeding months to December 2020 also recorded a decrease.

The report notes that in 2020, Botswana emerged as South Africa's major trading partner, listing the highest trade value of 29 percent (R81,3 billion) from South Africa's total trade value of R278,9 billion at some commercial border posts in southern Africa.

Botswana was the second exporter (after eSwatini) to South Africa, recording 27 percent (999 million pieces of goods) of its total import volumes (3,7 billion pieces of goods), transported by road.

Grobler's Bridge and Ramatlabama border post administered about 9 percent (349 million and 329 million pieces of goods, separately) of South Africa's total trade volumes imported from all neighbouring countries, making it the highest in handling South Africa's imports compared to other commercial border posts of Botswana in 2020.

In 2019, South Africa had an exceptionally healthy trade balance with Botswana since it exported around R95,3 bil-

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Botswana Open University (BOU) requires suitably qualified and duty conscious persons for the above Positions as detailed below:

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The successful candidates will be expected to:

- Enroll JC business subjects' students to Moodle platform.
- Monitor enrolment, retention, pass rates and progression for the three business subjects enrolled on the Moodle ePortal.
- Write scripts and help design videos and demos for the business subjects
- Use customer feedback and content analytics to inform BOU's future training investments and day-to-day improvements
- Envision and drive experiments to test out new ideas in the College of Open Schooling
- Track student and tutor Log-ins and follow up assignment submission tracking and follow up examination registration tracking and follow up results tracking and follow up re-registration tracking and OER downloads
- Submit monthly reports to the subject specialist
- Work directly with the business subject specialist in generating data to inform eLearning practice at the College of Open Schooling
- Do any other duty assigned by the Department and adhere to the timelines set out by the subject specialist.

#### Qualification & Experience:

- A Diploma in Instructional Design and Educational Technology
- Knowledge of Moodle Learning Management system is a prerequisite.
- Development & facilitation of online courses is an added advantage

#### Competencies:

- Must be computer literate and be able to produce quality work within set deadlines.
- Track record of working with educational establishments

#### Remuneration:

BOU offers a competitive remuneration package for the qualified/competent candidate

#### The following are to be attached:

Interested persons who meet the above stated requirements should only email their applications together with copies of their Curriculum Vitae, relevant certified copies of certificates identification document and Omang. Two recent references should accompany the application.

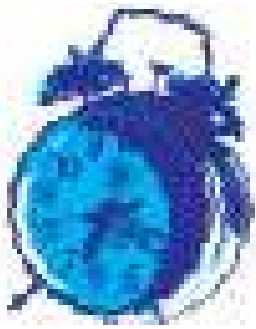
Application should be addressed to the office stated below and email to [recruitment@staff.bou.ac.bw](mailto:recruitment@staff.bou.ac.bw)

Director, Human Resources  
Botswana Open University  
Private Bag BO 187  
Bontleng, Gaborone  
Tel: 3181470

**NB: Only short listed candidates will be responded to.**

**Closing date: 15th October 2021**

[www.bou.ac.bw](http://www.bou.ac.bw)



pic credit (pexels.com)

# Chronicles of the first gigs after shutdown

As most people still fretted over the Delta variant, revellers at entertainment spaces and chilling sessions partied as if COVID was less trouble than the common flu, prompting a mightily troubled Vee Mampezy to take to social media about the need to become more responsible. Staff Writer GOS-EGO MOTSUMI reports

The performance industry has made a welcome return as the country moved out of the State of Emergency (SoE) on Botswana Day, September 30.

Creatives moved swiftly to take advantage, with some artists staging music shows immediately after the end of the SoE to welcome the new normal of co-existing with the virus. Odirile “Vee Mampezy” Sento, Franco Lesokwane and Maxy Sedumedi were among the first to stage gigs after 18 long months of no activity in the performance industry.

But staging live events was a step into the unknown and the expectation was that the crowd of fans would stand in socially distanced sections in compulsory face masks when events returned. Promoters and bar and night club owners had promised that those who dared to remove their face coverings would immediately attract the attention of vigilant security guards. This implied that when an artist arrived on stage, they would face the difficult task of providing much-needed normality in the strangest of settings.

However, Botswana were in a festive mood, more so that it was the Independence Day holidays and they flocked festivals, bars and other chilling spots a day after the restrictions were relaxed. Revellers were crammed up in venues with neither social distancing nor face masks in sight even though the population is not fully vaccinated. The scene resembled that of live events pre COVID-19.

Acknowledging that the reopening was a step into the unknown, kwaito-kwasa king Vee Mampezy took to social media to comment on how the situation that could potentially spike COVID-19 infections. “As someone

who has recovered from COVID-19, I am uncomfortable to see people overcrowding and putting their lives at risk,” he said in his live feed on his Facebook page.

“While we are happy to be returning to the stage as artists, we are also not irresponsible and we care. We should all take responsibility and control the situation. I stopped mid-performance to ask people to wear masks and encouraged them to sanitise but my words fell on deaf ears.”

This could mean that cancellation of live performance may follow. In his national address when the country was exiting the SoE, President Mokgweetsi Masisi warned that should the numbers spiral out of control, the country will be forced to re-instate COVID-19 restrictions.

While interacting with his concerned fans in his Facebook live feed on the possible solutions to help the country’s economy to bounce back while keeping everyone safe, Vee Mampezy suggested that people should take the jab even though it was not a cure.

“What happened raised a lot of eyebrows and sparked a conversation that is forcing us to deal with the situation,” he said. “We have all lost loved ones due to this virus and I want people to stop the blame game and take responsibility.”

“Carry a small sanitiser to use wherever you are, wear your mask and keep the distance. I might decide to stop performing but people will continue to gather elsewhere so we need solutions.”

For their part the Botswana Beverage Association has condemned reckless behaviour displayed by some alcohol consumers over the Independence Day Holidays.

“We strongly urge the relevant law enforcement agencies to enforce the law... We remind all that the end of SoE is not a license to flout COVID protocols and the privilege to consume alcohol can be taken away at any time,” the chairperson of the association, Peter Noke said in a statement on Monday.

## MALARIA TIPS...

**Prevent Malaria. Keep your surroundings clean to eliminate mosquito breeding places.**

- Dispose off empty containers and tins that can collect water
- Fill holes and openings that can collect water
- Clear grasses around the house

# Makhadzi ruffles a few feathers as headliner

Promoter Seagile says he is merely responding to popular demand

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Merely a few days after the re-opening of the performance industry, promoters have angered some local artists by headlining with a foreign act. One particular show that has exasperated Botswana artists is “The People’s Festival” that will headline Limpopo dance musician Makhadzi at Molapo Piazza on 22 October.

The artists’ bone of contention is that they should not be overlooked in preference for foreigners after 18 long months of abjection dejection when their means of earning a living was effectively outlawed. “It is disappointing that the minute the industry re-opens, promoters look outside when we have the right talent right here at home,” one told *Time Out*. “But it is their funds and they can do what they want.”

But the promoter behind “The People’s Festival,” the outspoken president of the Botswana Entertainment Promoters Association (BEPA) Gilbert Seagile, is unfazed by the criticism, saying he is only responding to popular demand. “As promoters who are in business and not social responsibility, we observe the trends and our customer’s demands,” Seagile says. “Makhadzi’s demand was



Makhadzi, Pic: styleyou7.com

created by radio and that is who our people want on the stage.”

“Makhadzi is the only headlining act and

99 percent of the lineup is made up of our local artists. We have already confirmed some of our artists who have been put-

ting in the work and are in demand. They are La Timmy, Team Distant, Eskimos among many others.”

The objection of local artists aside, Makhadzi (real name Ndivhudzannyi Ralivhona) has proved that she is a force to be reckoned with, release of her much awaited studio album, “African Queen,” in September to wit. The album features some of the biggest powerhouses in popular music genres, including Botswana’s Odirile Vee Mampeszy Sento.

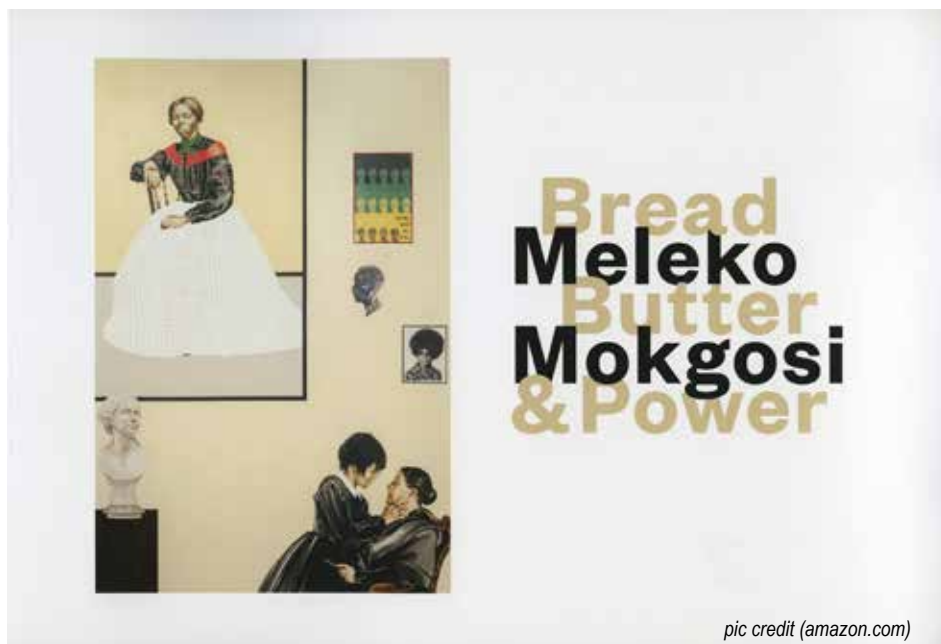
If the 25-year old queen of Limpopo dance music is not trending on social media for her ‘zany’ moves, she is putting in the work making music that resonates with her fans. She is branded the most streamed female artist on Apple Music for 2021 for her last album, “Khokhova,” which is still on the charts.

But that does not take away from the fact that for several years now, local artists have been fighting what seems to be a losing battle to become headline acts in major music festivals. As a result, some artists had struck out to create their own shows until the Coronavirus brought the industry to a grinding halt last year.

The trend may continue because after the industry re-opened over the weekend, some artists went on to create their own music shows. One such artist is Franco Lesokwane who launched his latest single, “Motho Yo Ke Ofe,” at his farm in Kumakwane last weekend.

## US-based Motswana Artist sells Painting for a whopping P8m

- The art installation addresses themes of feminism, gendered division of labour and the place of women in the nation state
- The eight-chapter project ‘Democratic Intuition’ (2013–2019) is one of Mokgosi’s longest-running series
- Bakwena of Thapong: “This is inspirational and it goes to prove that there is a future in the creative industries”



pic credit (amazon.com)

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

New York-based Motswana artist, Meleko Mokgosi, recently proved that there is a future in the arts when he sold a monumental painting for a whopping \$750 000 (P8 million approx) at the Art Basel in Basel.

Titled “Bread, Butter, and Power

(2018),” Mokgosi’s painting attracted collectors’ interest at the fair and was subsequently acquired by an anonymous American collector. “This is inspirational and it goes to prove that there is a future in the creative industries,” said the Coordinator of Thapong Visual Arts Centre, Reginald Bakwena, in an interview.

“As artists, let us push ourselves to pro-

duce quality that collectors will find hard to ignore. Let us network with Mokgosi, follow his work and let it be our sample and reference. He is surviving off his talent and we can all do it.”

Mokgosi’s episodic “Bread, Butter, and Power” installation consists of 21 large scale paintings that interrogate the theme of feminism in the context of southern Africa and consider the consequences of dividing labour practices by gender. The eight-chapter project titled “Democratic Intuition” (2013–2019) is one of Mokgosi’s longest-running series. It seeks to explore ideas about the many ways that democratic concepts influence lives, love and relationships.

The artist’s approach to storytelling through the form of history painting allows viewers to compare what is seen in the paintings to the realities of inequality and gendered labour division from their experience. This approach also inspires people to think expansively about politics, power structures and the role of history in the creation of the current nations of southern Africa.

Said Bakwena: “I have been following Mokgosi’s work. He is a skillful artist who understands what he is doing. In the end, what makes a painting successful is that its composition and subject matter or concept all work harmoniously to deliver a unified, quality and well executed artwork that is pleasant to the viewer. I urge artists to master their craft because collectors also look for quality craftsmanship. We also need to take advantage of the digital space to showcase our work to the world.”

According to a press statement released by the artist, the several paintings in the installation picture intimate scenes

of men and women in interior spaces of their homes that re-act their lived experiences. In one, for example, a young woman sits casually on a comfortable chair in an airy, well-appointed room. Her leisurely pose raises questions about the labour expected of women according to their socioeconomic positions.

Other canvases venture outdoors to portray groups of school children and market stands. These explore ideas about the varied standing of women across the social fabric of southern Africa, the sacrifices made by women, and the failure of national governments to value their hard work.

According to the press statement, Mokgosi lends his critical voice to the experiences of young African artists of his generation, born since the euphoria of the 1960s independence movements. In adopting a historian’s approach by drawing on extensive research and theoretical grounding, he provides new perspectives on the transition from the colonial era through to Botswana’s independence, and interrogates the current moment as it relates to the rippling ramifications of the past.

This is what the artist himself says: “I think historical specifics are crucial because I am grappling with the epistemological effects of colonialism in southern Africa. So it is urgent, I believe, to parse out how history has been legitimised, what dominant histories have been left out, and more importantly, how to trace untracked histories and bring them to the fore because these are all histories that matter.”

Mokgosi is a contemporary artist and educator whose projects subvert and challenge colonial and post-colonial frameworks in order to offer more nuanced narratives of southern Africa’s history and the present. He received his BA from Williams College in 2007 and participated in the Whitney Museum of American Art’s Independent Study programme that same year.

He then received his MFA from the Interdisciplinary Studio Programme at the University of California, Los Angeles in 2011 and was an Artist in Residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem from 2011 to 2012. His work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally.

# Down to Sensational 16: Miss Botswana makes the big Chop



Miss Botswana 2021 fashion show in Gaborone on 2nd October 2021. (Pic:PRESS PHOTO)

- Judges will have the unenviable task of choosing the best out of a bevy of 16 beauties
- Local fashion takes centre stage at Miss Botswana Fashion Show

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Miss Botswana is a step closer to unearthing and crowning the new reigning queen after announcement of the Top 16 finalists vying for the coveted crown at a well organised and glamorous Miss Botswana Fashion Show in Gaborone over the weekend.

This followed weeks of intense workshops on public speaking, character building, monetising personal brands as well winning and staying on top of the game for the bevy of beauties.

“It was not easy coming up with those 16 names,” said chief judge Thebe Mogapi at the show. “It was a struggle because the 30 ladies were on top of their game. However, it’s been a journey with them, I personally interacted and interviewed the young ladies and am pretty confident that from the top 16 someone is going to bring back the Miss World crown because this is what it is all about.”

Apart from unearthing the country’s next jewel, local fashion took centre stage during the night, with viewers gushing over the creative designs displayed by the contestants on the runway. Running under the theme “Avant-Garde,” six local designers showcased their innovation and passion to drive Botswana forward through their sartorial flair, even amid a pandemic.

First to take to the stage was Mumsy Oremeng of Versatile Creations. Her goal is to create clothing that communicates and her designs celebrated the spirit of African opulence, ethnicity and patriotism. Gomotsegang Dipuo of Ser Consolado showcased a collection titled “All Over The Place,” which is a compilation of avant-garde ideas that crossed the designer’s mind from Beyonce-inspired body suit to the little black dress with a dash of colour to honour the spring-summer season.

With her fashion experience of two decades, Grace Sekotlo of 9six Clothing prides herself in providing high quality and international standard designs. Le Queer De Pamela has showcased at various fashion shows such as Heart of the City Carnival, World Intellectual Property Day Exhibitor. She has been an assistant fashion producer and an assistant coordinator at the Fashion X fashion show and the President’s Day respectively.

Tlamo Mosinyi of Bondphill brought his show-stopping designs after showcasing the hugely popular “KHOIUrbanite” Sands Collection at Masa Fashion Show recently. His mission is to shift fashion from a traditionally conservative culture to a bold and daring nature. Mosinyi’s brand believes in empowering both men and women into positivity, progression and an uncompromising style.

Closing off the fashion show were Butterfly Couture designs that specialize in custom-made women’s clothing, bridal wear and bespoke wedding gowns. The brand has showcased at The Grand Palm 2018 Wedding Expo and Masa Fashion Show in 2019.

Judges for Miss Botswana have revealed that Botswana can look forward to a very exciting finale slated for 29 October where they will have to endure the extremely difficult task of choosing Miss Botswana 2021. The new Miss Botswana will represent the country at the 70<sup>th</sup> edition of Miss World in Puerto Rico in December. Alongside the crown will come a new Mercedes Benz C200, courtesy of Magari Land.

## Miss Botswana Top 16 finalists

Bogolo Pillar  
Palesa Motsepe  
Dabilo Moses  
Michelle Bagoleng  
Tshepo Nthaga  
Matshelo Rankowa  
Marang Makhoana  
Palesa Molefe

Oratile Baleti  
Lindie Motswaeng  
Britney Maje  
Teto Sefanyetso  
Kaone Kgasa  
Babedi Isaka  
Nathi Jersey  
Thanolo Keutlwile



TENDER  
PROCEDURES

TENDER NOTICE AND  
INVITATION TO TENDER

### Tender Ref No. BVI/ENG/09/2021

**A Works Contract for the Construction and Completion of a New Blending and Filling Laboratory Building at Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited in Gaborone**

Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited (BVI) hereby invites companies with relevant experience to tender for the provision of **WORKS CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION & COMPLETION OF A NEW BLENDING AND FILLING LABORATORY BUILDING AT BVI IN GABORONE.**

The Procurement Method is Open Domestic Bidding

Tenderers who are domiciled in Botswana shall, in order to be considered for the award of the contract, be registered with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB) in the following categories;

**CODE 01 – Building Construction Works and Maintenance; Sub-Code 01 – Building Construction; Grade E.**

Tender documents shall be available for collection during working hours from (0730 hours to 12:30 hours and from 14:00 hours to 1600 hours) with effect from **11th October 2021**. Tender documents may be collected from the Procurement & Supplies Department of the Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited at addresses, Plot 6385/90, Lejara Road Broadhurst Industrial. Tel; +267 398 6700/36

The Invitation to Tender (ITT) document may be purchased at the BVI Accounts office by interested contractors for a non-refundable and non-transferable fee of **P500.00 (Five Hundred Pula)** VAT inclusive. Youth owned companies shall pay a non-refundable and non-transferable fee of **P250.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Pula)** VAT inclusive, upon submission of National Identity Document (Omang). Payment must be made in the form of cash, bank transfer or bank guaranteed cheque to the following BVI Bank Account:

**Account Name : Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited**  
**Bank Name : ABSA Bank Botswana Limited**  
**Account Number : 3072742**  
**Branch Number : 290267 (Corporate)**

Pre-Tender Estimate for the Project is **P30,588,721.81**

There will be a Compulsory site/clarification meeting with the Procuring Entity at **Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited, on 18th October 2021, 10:00 Hours - 12:30 Hours.**

Queries or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed in writing not later than seven (7) days before the tender closing date to KP Narola Architects, Tel: +267 392 2663, Fax: +267 316 3532, Email: karu@kpnarola-architect.com.

The closing date and time for receipt of sealed tender offers is **8th November 2021 at 10:00 Hours**. The sealed tender offers shall be opened immediately after the closing time. **Late tender offers shall not be accepted.**

**BVI Standardised Conditions of Tender for Works apply to this procurement, for which all applicable Tender Data is contained in the tender documents.**



# Yoga Relief for Tech Neck

"Living two days without a smart phone is like surviving unarmed in a combat zone." ~ MedCrave

BONOLO PHALADZE\*

According to Ergonomics Trends, the prevalence of neck pain globally is hard to ignore, with numerous studies showing that up to 75 percent of the population will experience neck pain sometime in their lives.

Yes, tech neck is a thing! It is a new name for an old issue. It is the term used to describe neck pain and possible damage sustained from constantly looking down at a mobile phone, tablet, or other wireless device for an extended period of time. As a result of this uncomfortable position of the head, shoulder and neck muscles have to deal with that increased weight burden.

The known long-term consequences may include neck discomfort, neck pain, stiffness and headaches, which may get worse over time, with severe cases leading to a need for surgery.

A recent study by researchers at Baylor University in the US found that college students spend an average of nine hours a day on their smart phones. Female students spend 10 hours a day on the device while male students spend almost eight hours. Adults, on the other hand, spend on average four hours a day on their smartphones.

It is not surprising that tech neck, also known as text neck, has become a global epidemic of modern era.

## How yoga combats tech neck

The first yogis came thousands of years before the smartphone, yet sometimes yoga feels like it was invented as an antidote to technology. Yoga is an ancient practice that keeps on giving. It helps combat tech neck in two ways:

**Asana** (physical practice): can bring your head and spine back into alignment. The spine resumes its natural curvature and your ears align over your shoulders. This optimal postural alignment leads to less strain on the intervertebral discs. Asana practice also strengthens the muscles of your neck and back, which allows you to maintain a more healthy posture on a daily basis.

**Pratyahara** (sensory withdrawal): On a deeper level, yoga cultivates bodily awareness. When you practice pratyahara, you draw your attention inside your body. You notice physical sensations as they arise, and observe them as they fall away. In so doing, you train yourself to be more attuned to how your body feels from moment to moment.

Pratyahara combats our knee jerk reaction to stimuli and in its place we start to act with intention and awareness. You will start to notice when you've been staring at your phone too long and your chin begins to drop. This goes a long way toward avoiding the physical pain that results from poor posture.

To learn more about the benefits of yoga visit our website [www.yowunnyoga.com](http://www.yowunnyoga.com) or check free online yoga classes at Yowunn Yoga on YouTube.

*Bonolo Phaladze\* is a registered yoga teacher (RYT200) with Yoga Alliance, a global governing body for yoga teachers. She is the Founder & Teacher Lead at Yowunn Yoga Studio in Gaborone.*

## THE PASSING OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY TEAM - MR MOATLHODI SEBABOLE.



Moatlhodi Sebabole, (Pic:botsreal.com)

The government of Botswana is saddened by the passing of Mr Moatlhodi Sebabole, a Motswana Economist who was appointed by His Excellency, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi in 2019 to lead the National Transformation Strategy Team (NTST), to which the National Strategy Office serves as Secretariat. He passed away on the 3rd of October 2021 after a short illness at the young age of 34.

As Chairperson of the NTST, Mr Sebabole and his Team recognised the commitment of the transformation strategy, to leave no one behind in the implementation of Vision 2036, and to unlock the tremendous potential of human and financial resources of the country.

The appointment of the NTST, as well as the chairpersonship thereof Mr Sebabole, was inspired by the vision for Botswana to overcome the middle-income trap of nearly two decades and the desired outcome of the country propelling to high-income status and being a knowledge-based economy. The intent is to transform the country so that there is tangible and measurable prosperity for all.

Mr Sebabole had carved a name for himself in academia and the Industry of Finance and Economics. He was acknowledged by peers and the government of Botswana for his achievements and as a role model for youth empowerment. In recognition of these excellent attributes, Mr Sebabole was appointed by President Masisi to lead a 16 member team of capable men and women from both government and the Private Sector to develop a National Transformation strategy for Botswana; a strategy that would become the single reference document in the delivery of Botswana's Vision 2036. The appointment was thus, in recognition of his wealth of experience and achievements, as well as an endeavor

to empower the youth of the country to take on leadership positions.

Mr Sebabole served this country and others in several capacities, among which were in risk management, corporate finance and product development, Stock Exchange, market intelligence and analysis. He had also applied himself in academia as a lecturer in finance at the University of Botswana and the University of Essex. He worked for FNB Botswana as a market strategist and at the time of his unfortunate demise, he was Chief Economist responsible for the bank's market intelligence and analysis.

Mr Sebabole was described by his peers as a competent visionary, a sincere and humble individual who was hardworking and committed to the development of Botswana. Among his accolades, he received the 50 Young Botswana Change-makers award under the Leadership & Business track in 2016 (awards by Mail & Guardian Africa in collaboration with GabzFM to commemorate Botswana's 50 years of independence). Mr Sebabole completed the 2017 Mandela-Washington fellowship at Case Western Reserve University at Cleveland, Ohio (US) under the public management track – focusing on health, urban planning, biotechnology, banking and policy development.

He sat on the University of Botswana Council as well as the University's audit committee. He holds an MSc in Finance & Investment from the University of Essex and a Bachelor of Finance from UB.

The passing away of Mr Moatlhodi Sebabole is thus, a true loss to the nation of Botswana. The government of Botswana extends its condolences to the bereaved family and expresses its gratitude for the outstanding national service rendered by their beloved son.

**May His Soul Rest in Peace!!**

# Local Volleyball Star lands Lucrative Deal in Israel

- No sooner had Sikuku arrived than he emerged Most Valuable Player in a tournament
- Says he aims to gain the necessary experience to help the national team back home
- "I want to play alongside the best in the" universe

## GAZETTE REPORTER

**B**otswana men's volleyball national team player, Igobe Sikuku, has traced his way back to the Middle East where he was crowned Most Valuable Player (MPV) when the ink on his lucrative deal with Israel's top club, Hapoel Jerusalem was barely dry.

This comes after his short stint in a professional setup at Al Sahel Sporting Club in Kuwait before Sikuku returned home early last year due to COVID-19 setbacks.

The former Yaros Volleyball Club swift opposite hitter left the Kuwait club in December 2020 when his contract was also disrupted by measures to combat COVID-19 that led to suspension of sporting activities across the world.

He is already in Jerusalem where he landed on 26 August and spent two weeks in mandatory isolation before joining the rest of his teammates at the clubhouse in September. Upon his arrival at training, he was put among other trialists from various countries across the world. In the highly com-

petitive environment, Sikuku impressed Hapoel authorities and soon earned himself a one-year contract with an option to renew it.

In an exclusive interview with *Gazette Sports* recently, Sikuku described himself as happy to have earned a deal in a professional setup, especially after spending almost one-and-a-half years without playing or training due to COVID-19 restrictions in Botswana.

"I am very happy with my move to Israel because I have wanted to play in a professional setup for a long period of time," he said. "I aim to gain the necessary experience to help the national team back home improve their rankings and qualify for big tournaments."

"I have signed with a big club dominated by national team players. There are only two African players, me and a player from Cameroon, and they are happy with our performance so far. I look forward to getting frequent game time this side."

Sikuku made his debut for Hapoel Jerusalem last weekend in a two-day local tournament that pitted all of Israel's 16 elite teams and was crowned



Igobe Sikuku

the Most Valuable Player (MVP) after his impressive performance that led to his team scooping a silver medal on the day. "The tournament was really tough and was a good test for most of us," he said. "I used the chance that I was given and made sure that I did my best to impress my coaches."

"I played all games but it was not easy to outplay those players who, unlike me who left Botswana without even hitting a ball since the league ended in 2018, have been active all along. I am going to continue to do my best in order to attract more interest from scouts from across the world because I want to play alongside the best players

in the universe."

Sikuku joins other Botswana volleyball stars in the Diaspora such as Gaoleseletswe Lizzy Gasekgonwe and Tshiamo Chakalisa who are plying their trade in Rwanda. His performance is nothing short of a feat because Botswana has been inactive in volleyball for almost three years after the end of an eight-year long Mascom sponsorship in 2018.

The country has dropped drastically in African rankings as a result, especially the women's national team that was once ranked number 5 on the continent.

## MARUMO J IN THE INDUSTRIAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE

In the matter between  
**BOTSWANA RAILWAY ORGANIZATION** APPLICANT  
and  
**KEPALETSWE NKOGA** RESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL COURT CASE NO: IC -255 / 11

### NOTICE OF SALE OF EXECUTION

**BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT** pursuant to the judgement granted by the Honourable Court the following movable property hereunder of the Defendants will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Onkemetse Medupe to the Highest bidder as follows:

**DATE OF SALE** : 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
**TIME OF SALE** : 1030hrs  
**PLACE OF SALE** : Mahalapye Police Station and Mahalapye Bus Rank

**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD** : Asset Code – 1901000012 Whirlpool Fridge – SNL, Asset Code – 1901000013 Furnisher for CCE, Asset Code – 1901000008 – Quantum 5 Drawer A4 Container, Asset Code, Assets No. 1901000088 Cabinets Wagon Shop, Foreman Asset No. 1901000097 Cabinets Carnage, Wagon insp. Code No. 1901000093 Book Case 3, Tier – Carriage way Asset Code. 1907000139, Computer Network Cabling, Asset 1902000141 – HP Laser Jet 2300, Printer Asset 1902000142 – HP Laser 2300N Printer, No. 190200043 HP Laser Jet Printer 2300N Printer, Code Asset 1902000185 Printing Machine, Asset 1902000247 – DC and data store, Servers Asset 1902000247 D.C. and data, Store servers 190 1 GBE 196 Heavy Duty Copier / Printer, Asset Code No. 1700 MAG 003 Industrial, Wet Vacuum Clear 1901000096, Cabin Components, Foreman, 19010000100, Book Case – Mechanical Foreman, 19010000202 Bar Fridge 1901000152, Chairs Security, 190100152 Cabinet Security, 19010000157 – Cabinet Parcels Cabinets, Senior Tecit D/P – No.1901000109 Asset Code, 1901000111 – Chairs Eject Engineer Assets Code No, 1901000115 Chairs Regional R/S Engineer Asset , Code No. 1901000120 Cabinets Secretary R/S, Asset Code 190100010 Panasonic CTV, Asset No. 19014BE233- Multi - Decoder (ubeg/nse MoisuA002 – Defy, Microwave Asset M0200001 Photo Copier, For 2 CE Office Asset Code 190200002, Printer (W/01/-04-11) Asset – 190200003, 4 personal computers. Ref. W, 1902000005 Adding Machines ex – NRZ – Asset, Code – 1902000006. Type Writers Ext. NRZ, Asset 190200029 – Standby Generator, Asset 1902000030 – Revenue Accounting, System Asset 1902000032 Photo Copier, Asset 1902000034 Computer Cabling at headquartes, No. 1902000039 Impact Software for Finance, Asset Code. 1902000040 Computers, Code. 1902000042 – Computers, Asset code 1902000043 Computers impact, Software No. 1902000017-14 Printers, 1902000019 – 36 Personal Computers, Asset – 1902000050 headquartes Computers, Asset – 1902000052 Administration Sharp Sd sob, No. 1902000053. Finance Sharp SF 1020 Copier, 1902000057 – email/internet fire server, **Locomotive Train No. 315.**

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

**DATED AT GABORONE THIS 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2021**

**McErick Attorneys**  
(Plaintiff's Attorneys)  
Plot 760667, Fairscap Precinct  
Fairgrounds Office Park  
P.O. Box 612, AAH, MASA  
GABORONE  
+267 3165472 / 72553210

**McERICK**  
ATTORNEYS

## APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST TITLE DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed of Transfer **No. 11/67** registered on the **27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1967** made in favour of the Late **JACOB WILLIAM JOHNSON** in respect of the following properties:

- 1. CERTAIN** : piece of land being Lot 981, Francistown; (formerly Lot No. 29 Satellite Township)  
**SITUATE** : in the Tati District of Botswana;  
**MEASURING** : 1467m<sup>2</sup> (One Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Seven Square Metres);
- 2. CERTAIN** : piece of land being Lot 982, Francistown; (formerly Lot No. 30 Satellite Township)  
**SITUATE** : in the Tati District of Botswana;  
**MEASURING** : 1487m<sup>2</sup> (One Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Seven Square Metres);

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

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.**

**M. MMOHE ATTORNEYS**  
Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street  
Minestone  
P.O. Box 1860, FRANCISTOWN  
Tel:2441616



DITLHOKWE (Pic: news24)

# Ngele, Ditlhokwe share the spoils

- Crucial points dropped by Ditlhokwe's Supersport United
- Ngele's Chippa need to clear the laggard section of the log

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's DStv Premiership duo, Mogakolodi Ngele and Thatayaone Ditlhokwe, played to a goalless draw as their clubs Chippa United and Supersport United locked horns over weekend. Ditlhokwe was in the starting lineup for Supersport while Ngele made a second half appearance for Chippa, replacing Thokozani Sekotlong in the 46th minute.

So far Ngele has missed only one game this season, the 2-1 setback from Stellenbosch FC last month while Ditlhokwe has played in all six league games for his club so far.

While a draw seemed a fair result for both teams, it could also be classified as a missed opportunity for Supersport United who are chasing league leaders Mamelodi Sundowns. Ditlhokwe's club missed an opportunity to close the gap on Sundowns as they dropped two crucial points. Sundowns are now four points ahead of Supersport after six rounds of league action.

Chippa were also in need of maximum points as they are only three points ahead of bottom placed TS Galaxy. Ngele's club was coming off the back of two successive league defeats that saw them drop to 13th spot on the log.

Ngele and Ditlhokwe will be back in club action on October 16 when Chippa faces Soweto giants Kaizer Chiefs and Supersport goes into combat against Baroka FC.

## SPORTSBRIEFS

With Bongani Malunga

1



## BOTSWANA DUO COMBINES TO SECURE DRAW FOR OCK

Botswana's Morocco-based duo Kabelo Seakanyeng and Tumisang Orebonye combined to help secure a point for Olympique Club Khouribga (OCK) against Difaa Hassani this past Saturday. OCK drew 2-2 against Hassani with Seakanyeng finding the net in the second half to take the lead in the match. Seakanyeng's goal was set up by Orebonye who registered his first assist of the season. OCK were eventually pegged back as the game ended in a stalemate.

2

## BOKA APPOINTS KARABO SAMUEL

The Botswana Karate Association (BOKA) has appointed Karabo Samuel as Botswana's national team manager. Samuel's appointment was made by BOKA's national executive committee last week. He will begin his tenure this weekend. "The national team is scheduled to start training on the 9th of October. All short-listed can contact him," said BOKA president Tshepo Bathai.

**TIRED OF SHARING?**



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Ralebala during the briefing. (Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

# BFL CHAIRMAN RESIGNS

- Gilika appointed as his interim replacement
- League to start on 22 October

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Chairman of Botswana Football League, Aryl Ralebala, resigned from this week," *Gazette Sport* has established. According to an official statement, Ralebala is to be replaced by Njabulo Gilika as interim chairman.

Ralebala's resignation comes when the BFL is on the cusp of finalising a deal with a new league title sponsor. The BFL says they are at contract signing stage and are about to announce the new sponsor. A new television deal "well on time before the start of the 2021/2022 season" with the league set to officially return on 22 October.

Football enthusiasts will surely be elated that the BFL has finally set a date for the resumption of local league action, bringing to an end a 19-month wait.

Previously known as the Botswana Premier League, the BFL gained autonomy when Ralebala was appointed by its shareholders in a landmark development last April that would have seen him lead a new era of football in Botswana but for his resignation.

A few months ago, Ralebala announced a new transformation strategy that would help clubs transition from societies to become professional entities run as privately owned businesses. The key driving force behind the strategy was to ensure transparency and accountability for clubs that have struggled to transform into professional entities and adhere to club licensing requirements.

However, he will now be on the periphery as another chairman will take over and oversee the project. The BFL has officially confirmed his resignation in a media release that also names the interim placement of Njabulo Gilika as the new chairman.

"The BFL Board voted Mr Njabulo Gilika as an interim Chairman until (a) Special Meeting of Shareholders which will be scheduled in terms of the Companies Act Cop 42:01. The league preparations are going on and the season for 2021/2022 is scheduled to start on 22 October 2021," reads the statement signed by BFL Chief Executive, Solomon Ramochotlhwane.

NEW

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