



INVESTIGATION IS OIL JUST ANOTHER PIPE DREAM?

Botswana's oil mining ambitions are questioned as experts assert there is none to drill in the Okavango.

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Tsodilo Hills, a UNESCO World heritage Site. Photo by Jürgen Ritterbach

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Investigation : Is Oil Just Another Pipe Dream? (P1)

According to sources, the Botswana Government through its Ministry of Minerals and Energy and newly established Botswana Oil Limited is considering a partnership with Reconnaissance Energy Africa (ReconAfrica) through its subsidiary Reconnaissance Energy Botswana by purchasing part of the exploration lease held by the mining company in the Tsodilo area of Ngamiland.

Who are ReconAfrica?

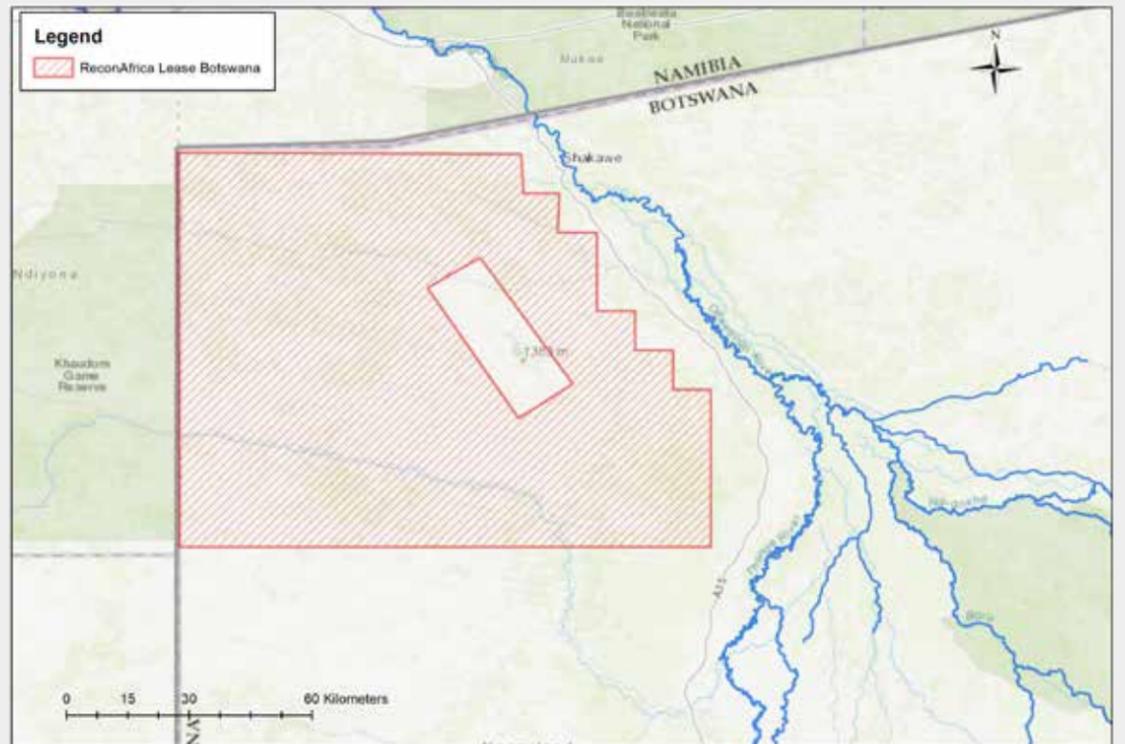
ReconAfrica, a Canadian oil company, acquired a petroleum exploration license in Namibia in 2019, and another license in Botswana in 2020. The combined lease areas cover over 35,000km² of land in the Okavango River Basin. In Namibia, where state owned oil company Namcor owns 10% of the exploration license, ReconAfrica drilled two test wells in 2021 amid accusations of environmental mismanagement, social repression, and corruption. While ReconAfrica have not commenced operations in Botswana, the company is committed to exploration activities within the country in 2022 as part of the terms of their license.

According to Botswana's Ministry of Minerals and Energy, "ReconAfrican has a Pros-

pecting License in Botswana and there has been limited activity on that prospecting license hence no competent person resource statement has been produced on the tenement. It's worth reflecting that the deposit in question straddles Namibian and Botswana Territories. Most exploration has been on the Namibian side than Botswana."

Is There Oil in Botswana?

Currently, there are no studies that would indicate the presence of hydrocarbon reserves in the Tsodilo lease area. The ReconAfrica lease area in the Kavango province borders their Tsodilo lease area in Ngamiland, and the company stipulates that data derived from their test wells in Namibia indicates that the collective lease holds at least 31 billion barrels of crude oil equivalent. "Botswana Oil Limited (BOL)



Recon Artwork

is aware of the exploration by ReconAfrica. In good time, the Company, may explore what possibilities exist for partnership and to what level. BOL's mandate is to ensure security of supply and it is in order that BOL, as the National Oil Company, should participate in projects of this nature should they prove to be economically viable," the ministry said when responding to a questionnaire. **Conflicting Data** However, some geological experts claim that the data presented by ReconAfrica from their Namibian wells has been misinterpreted and potentially

misleading.

Matt Totten, Jr., is a petroleum geologist who lives in Namibia and did oil and gas exploration in Texas and the Gulf of Mexico while working for British Petroleum (BP). Totten has examined all data released by the company, as well as the publicly available gravity, magnetic, seismic and well data across north-central and northeastern Namibia and doubts that ReconAfrica has found recoverable oil. In an interview, he explains that there's "limited to no source rock present, without which commercial quantities of oil and gas cannot exist." Totten is not involved in the ReconAfrica project.

Following his role as Exploration Manager Africa for De Beers Africa, a geologist named Mike de Wit worked as COO and President of Tsodilo Resources between 2009-2019, a company investigating economically recoverable reserves of minerals in Northwestern Botswana. In a discussion, de Wit asserts that he found no evidence of oil and gas in the region following ten years of research and onsite geological studies conducted in the Tsodilo licence areas. Furthermore, he claims that there are only small and very thin remnants of Owambo Basin equivalent formations in Northwest Botswana but that there was no evidence of any hydrocarbons in these small leftovers and that the existence of oil and gas in northern Botswana is extremely unlikely.

Unwanted Attention.

Despite Governments non-committal position on ReconAfrica's activities in Botswana, the prospect of oil mining in a UNESCO World Heritage Site has attracted attention. A global campaign called #SaveTheOkavango has sparked international condemnation of ReconAfrica, along with the

governments of Botswana and Namibia, over the effects of oil drilling on ecosystems and local communities in the Okavango River Basin.

ReconAfrica, a Canadian oil company, acquired a petroleum exploration license in Namibia in 2019, and another license in Botswana in 2020.

The campaign has been supported by notable activists that include Forest Whittaker and Ziggy Marley. ReconAfrica is also currently embroiled in a class action lawsuit in the US where plaintiffs from the Eastern District of New York claim that the 1,600% increase in ReconAfrica stock prices over the past 12 months is based on a concerted campaign of paid stock promotion and opaque press releases aimed at unsophisticated investors. In Part 2 of our investigation to be released next week, we unpack whether ReconAfrica is an investment scam.

In Part 2 of our investigation, we unpack ReconAfrica's mining past where it has emerged that the company is currently embroiled in a class action lawsuit in the US where plaintiffs from the Eastern District of New York claim that the 1,600% increase in RECO stock prices over the past 12 months is based on a concerted campaign of paid stock promotion and opaque press releases aimed at unsophisticated investors.

INTEREST RATE CHANGE

Following the 0.51% increase in the Monetary Policy Rate as announced by the Bank of Botswana following the Monetary Policy Committee meeting held on the 28th April 2022, Access Bank Botswana hereby notifies the public and its customers that its Prime Lending Rate has increased from 5.25% to 5.76% with effect from 29th April 2022. Consequently, all Prime Linked products will be adjusted accordingly.



more than banking

NPF CASE COULD SPELL MORE TROUBLE FOR STATE?

- Several related cases before the courts could have died with the primary case
- Court of Appeal says there was no illegality or criminality in NPF saga

GAZETTE REPORTER

About six matters before the courts are remnants of the National Petroleum Fund case which was recently thrown out by the court, leaving the state battered amid calls it should withdraw related pending cases before the courts.

Nevertheless, the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) says they are still analysing the Court of Appeal ruling and will make a decision on the way forward soon.

The Court of Appeal threw out the state's final bid to recover some of the 'missing' funds in the P230 million belonging to the national treasury. The apex court ruled that there was no evidence to suggest illegality.

Following the ruling, legal experts say the developments were not only a big blow to the state but may have paralyzed many of its cases emanating from this one, especially those relating to alleged criminality and unlawfulness alleged by the state.

Asked what the recent ruling means to them and their other pending cases, the DPP director Stephen Tiroyakgosi said they were still looking into the extent to which the recent ruling has affected such cases and will take it from there.

About six cases before the courts emanated from the NPF which the state says was embezzled

"We are studying and analysing the Court of Appeal ruling and it is only thereafter that we will decide on the way forward," Tiroyakgosi said. "At this point, I cannot say we will withdraw the pending cases or not."

Commenting on the developments, former Minister Sadique Kebonang said the DPP knows that the cases have been rendered moot, adding: "What they choose to do with that fact is entirely up to them."

About six cases before the courts emanated from the NPF which the state says was embezzled. The cases involved Kebonang twins, Bakang Seretse and the Israeli firm Dignia Systems. The company is suing the state for millions of pula.

Others implicated in the case have also vowed to sue the state for defamation once the cases have been settled by the courts.



Bakang Seretse (Pic: MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

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www.bac.ac.bw



PRESS RELEASE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RATIONALISATION OF GOVERNMENT PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES - PRIVATISATION OF BOTSWANA ACCOUNTANCY COLLEGE

On the 21st April 2022, the President of the Republic of Botswana His Excellency Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi announced the Government's position on the rationalisation of Government portfolio responsibilities. During the announcement, it was revealed that among other initiatives, the Botswana Accountancy College (BAC) would be privatised as a value add to private sector growth.

BAC is engaging relevant authorities on the modalities of the privatization process. It is our understanding that this is the beginning of a journey which will see the transformation of our institution. Privatisation can be a lengthy process, and BAC is committed to support this exercise by having a clear stakeholder engagement process to ensure that proper due diligence is done. Implementation structures will also be set up to facilitate this exercise.

In the meantime, BAC continues to operate as normal. In the interim, no aspects of the College services to students or the public are affected, and the teaching and learning interests of all students are assured and protected. BAC commits to promote and protect all students and guarantee their uninterrupted learning until the completion of their learning qualifications.

The College wishes to inform the public that the sponsorship of students is based on the Education and Training Provider certification and accreditation of qualifications and programme status and not the ownership arrangement of the institution. BAC is a Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) certified and accredited Education Training and Provider (ETP) with accredited qualifications and programs.

As such given the quality of education that BAC is providing, the goodwill of the BAC brand built over its twenty-five years of existence and the diversity of programs that BAC is looking to provide, the annual allocation of students by the various sponsors is expected to increase year on year.

About Botswana Accountancy College

Botswana Accountancy College is a Public Institution established in 1996 with two campuses in Gaborone and Francistown. Over the past twenty-five years, BAC evolved from being an accounting school to a premium business school providing a diverse portfolio of globally recognized undergraduate, postgraduate, and professional programmes in partnership with internationally recognised universities and professional bodies. BAC is a BQA certified and accredited Education Training and Provider (ETP). BAC boasts more than thirteen thousand graduates across various disciplines who are making an impact through various professions and industries in economies locally, regionally, and internationally.

Celebrating Twenty-Five Years of Transforming Lives.

For more information about BAC visit www.bac.ac.bw.

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"If they want to kill us, let them start with me!" - Brigadier Iphemele Kgokgothwane

Bangwato tribesmen threaten to disrupt any kgotla meeting convened by cabinet ministers in retaliation for the government's ban on gatherings and the suspension of Bamangwato regent Kgosi Sediegeng Kgamane.

Disrupting the kgotla meetings convened by the cabinet ministers according to different speakers would send a clear message to the government that denying them an opportunity to use the village kgotla was a regrettable mistake



INVITATION TO TENDER

The Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) invites tenders from reputable companies incorporated in the Republic of Botswana and registered with PPADB for the following.

TENDER NO.	TITLE	PPADB CODE/S
1. Tender No. BOBS 02/2022	LEASING OF BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS CAFETERIA	Tenderers must be registered with PPADB Code: 101 - Hotel and Catering (Restaurant) services, Sub Code 03 – Canteen and catering services
2. Tender No. BOBS 03/2022	LEASING OF BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS MECHANICAL ENGINEERING WORKSHOP	Tenderers must be registered with PPADB Code: 08 – Mechanical engineering Works, Sub Code 10, general fabrication, and machine shop services

Tender documents with full details and specifications are available at a non-refundable fee of BWP350.00 from:

The Purchasing Officer
Botswana Bureau of Standards
GABORONE
Office No. F5
Tel 3903200 Fax 3903120

Payment by cash can be made between 8:30am -12:30pm and 14:00 -16:00pm from Mondays to Fridays at the Cashier's office or through the BOBS bank account. Banking details are as follows:

Account name : Botswana Bureau of Standards
Bank : Standard Chartered Bank
Account No : 0100155024400
Branch Code : 662167
Branch : Mall
Swift Code : SCHBBWGXXX
Account currency : BWP

For bank deposits, kindly reference the Company name and Tender number.

Botswana Bureau of Standards has a swiping machine

CONDITIONS:

- The tenders are reserved for **100% Botswana Citizen owned companies only.**
- Youth owned companies shall purchase the tender documents at half the price as per Presidential Directive CAB 14(B) 2015. Youth company owners should be 35years or below and shall submit proof of such
- Bidders must be registered with **PPADB**
- Tenders submitted electronically will not be accepted.
- Compulsory Site Visit – bidders are invited for a compulsory visit at BOBS Head office, Plot 55745, Airport Road, Block 8, Gaborone on the **24th May 2022 at 10:30 am.**

The tenders must be clearly marked **and** delivered to:

The Managing Director
Botswana Bureau of Standards
Private Bag BO48
GABORONE.
Plot 55745, Airport Road, Block 8, Gaborone.

The tenders shall close for submission on **01st June 2022, at 10.00hrs.**

Kindly note that opening of tenders will be on the **01st June 2022 at 10:00am** in BOBS Tender Room in the presence of bidders who wish to attend.

All enquiries must be addressed to: tenders@bobstandards.bw

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Kgosi Sediegeng Kgamane was suspended by the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Kgotla Autlwtse for allegedly convening a kgotla meeting whose purpose was unrelated to the performance of his official duties. "Therefore pending enquiry into this matter, I have decided to suspend you from the performance of your duties with immediate effect," read the suspension letter from Autlwtse stated.

The ultimatum was issued at the last kgotla meeting on the last week which was dispersed by the police. Disrupting the kgotla meetings convened by the cabinet ministers according to different speakers would send a clear message to the government that denying them an opportunity to use the village kgotla was a regrettable mistake.

"Therefore pending enquiry into this matter, I have decided to suspend you from the performance of your duties with immediate effect,"

Joining the voices of fellow tribesmen, retired Brigadier Iphemele Kgokgothwane said, "This government is undermining us and this has to stop. If I, and you cannot die the government will continue undermining us. I am tired of being undermined and I sacrifice myself. If there is anyone who wants to kill us, let them start with me."

Botswana Police Service (BPS) Spokesperson Dipheko Motube said he is aware of the threats but was not in a position comment.

DISS goes after Katlholo in missing weapons case

- DISS seal DG office and DG staffer's office
- Katlholo on official trip in Rwanda
- "They want to push him out" - sources

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

The Directorate on Intelligence and Security Services (DISS) investigations on the alleged missing state weapons case implicating former president Ian Khama and Issac Kgosi are now said to be targeting some officers of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) including Director General Tymon Katlholo, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

Yesterday (Tuesday), DISS agents locked up DCEC officers in their facility for close to an hour. Two offices were reportedly to be sealed belonging to the Director General and his staff officer pending further investigations.

DIS Spokesperson Edward Robert confirmed these developments last night.

"Investigations on possible violation of the country's national security led us to the offices of the DCEC where a decision to close and seal off the office of the Director General pending entry and search for evidence was taken. Since this

Continues to page12



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO PARTICIPATE AT THE COMMONWEALTH BUSINESS FORUM 2022

THEME: DELIVERING A COMMON FUTURE –
CONNECTING, INNOVATING, TRANSFORMING
21 – 23 JUNE 2022, KIGALI, RWANDA

The Commonwealth Business Forum 2022 (CBF 2022), which is part of the official Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) programme, will be held from 21 – 23 June 2022 at the Kigali Conference and Exhibition Village (KCEV) in Kigali, Rwanda. CBF 2022 will be the first and largest in-person gathering for Governments and Business across the Commonwealth since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Forum is hosted as a partnership between the Government of Rwanda and the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC). It will bring together up to 1000 participants, including Heads of State and Government, business leaders, innovators across several sectors, global thought leaders and the Youth.

The Commonwealth Business Forum experience has been designed to provide different ways to create meaningful connections, exchange knowledge, contribute to impactful dialogue and consume information.

- 14 Interactive plenary and parallel sessions
- 3 Sector specific mixers
- 3 Thought leadership roundtables
- 3 Field visits and mixers
- Dedicated meeting lounges

Who is attending the Commonwealth Business Forum?

- Heads of State and Government
- Ministers and senior government officials
- Eminent leaders of global and regional development institutions
- Captains of Industry and Board level business leaders
- Innovators across all sectors
- Impact investors
- Venture capitalists and angel investors
- Champions of Youth entrepreneurship
- Champions of Gender inclusion and equality
- Champions of climate change and sustainability
- Representatives of Trade organisations

Why you need to be at this year's Commonwealth Business Forum

- Meet and connect with like-minded experts and practitioners
- Contribute to and shape policy, programme and partnership agendas
- Join new business communities across the commonwealth and thrive
- Discover new markets and opportunities across the Commonwealth

Sectors of Focus for Botswana Companies wishing to Participate at the CBF 2022

- Manufacturing
- Agriculture and Agro-processing
- Tourism and Hospitality
- Mining and Mineral Beneficiation
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- Financial and Business Services

BITC therefore invites interested Botswana-based companies to provide the following information to register for the Business Forum on or before 23rd May 2022:

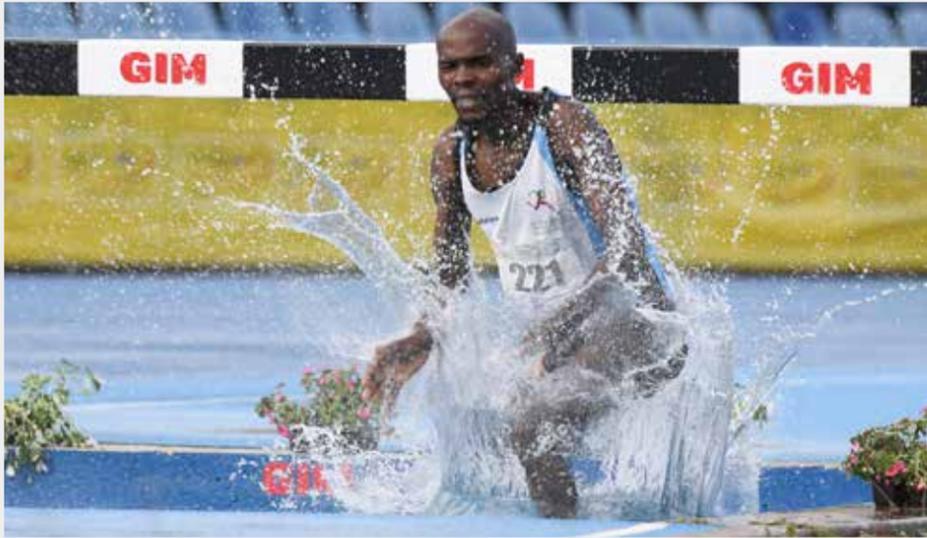
1. Company Name and Brief Profile of the Company
2. Specific expectations and areas of interest (i.e. nature of business partnerships/products/services for export etc.)
3. Details of company representatives participating in the Forum.

Fees for Attending the Commonwealth Business Forum

\$450 Per international delegate

\$350 Per international delegate in a group of five or more

Please kindly note that interested parties will fund their own travel and accommodation costs for this mission. For a more detailed programme of the event and any other important information pertaining to travel, accommodation, health (Covid protocols) related to this mission, as well as registration for the event, please kindly contact **Mr Dipopego Julius Tshoko** at Email: tshekod@bitc.co.bw or **363 3345** (direct office line).



Athletes competing in steeplechase during the Gaborone International Meet (GIM2022) at the National Stadium in Gaborone on 30 April 2022. (Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

District Councils, Union millions Diverted for Personal Gain

- Bluthorn directors could have used money to enrich themselves
- District councils may not recover their invested millions

TEFO PHEAGE

Former directors of liquidated Bluthorn Fund Managers (BFM) could have used funds obtained from various district councils and unions for investment for their own personal gain, a report by liquidator Kopanang Thekiso has concluded.

The total amount that was 'invested' by district councils, unions, land boards and individuals across the country is believed to be more than P250million. Thekiso's report indicates that approximately P51 million sourced from BFM is not represented by assets in other members of the Group (BFM).

However, given the dearth of accounting records, it is not readily apparent how these funds have been represented. Whichever way, these funds have not resulted in establishment of an asset in the Group, the report says.

Searching through management accounts and bank statements for transaction annotations and similar values I have determined by assets have been settled in favour of directors and related parties totaling BWP 9, 900,000.00," said Thekiso.

The total amount that was 'invested' by district councils, unions, land boards and individuals across the country is believed to be more than P250million.

Thekiso said it was highly probable that that this value was understated as annotations on the bank statements could be misleading or absent adding that "payments for benefit of directors and related parties could be made to third parties with no apparent link to them."

He said in addition, given the disclosure by the entrepreneurs funded by the Group as to the manner in which they were influenced and in some cases, controlled by the management of the Group, it was likely that funds borrowed by these entities from "the Group (BFM) could have been applied in making payments to or on behalf of directors and related parties of the Group."

He said the directors may have acted without the necessary degree of care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances and not in the best interests of the entity as required of them by the Companies Act.

Thekiso said one of the directors, Tiyedzi Kamodi had also instructed Nyamambi Attorneys through her company IOU Botswana to assist in collecting about P20 million of small accounts. He said he had been working with them to follow up on this.

Thekiso said apart from the P20 million debt handed over to Nyamambi Attorneys to pursue, there is another P28 million of trade debtors who are in process of being contacted. "I intend to engage an outsource debt collection service to assist in the follow up as we continue to rebuild the files," said Thekiso.

He said a web of companies which

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THANK YOU NOTE

The Expo 2020 Dubai came to a close on the 31st March 2022. For the past six months, Botswana showcased her culture, innovation, mineral wealth, cuisine and tourism to the world. We invited the world to Botswana, showed them the opportunities and created new partnerships.

#AReKopaneng
#Expo2020

Botswana's participation in this global spectacle could not have been possible without the coming together of all the stakeholders and sponsors. The coming together of minds and resources allowed for Botswana to put together a great showing at the Expo 2020 Dubai. The organizing team and I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who heeded the call for support and ensuring that Botswana is well represented.

Re leboga go menagane betsho. Le kamoso!

KELETSOSITSE OLEBILE
COMMISSIONER GENERAL

Thank You

SPONSORS:



BURS wins P72m Tax Bill appeal against Prevailing Securities

CoA says High Court had limited powers to set aside BURS's tax re-assessment of Prevailing Securities



The Court of Appeal(CoA) has upheld a decision of the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) to slap Prevailing Securities with a tax bill of over P72 million.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Court of Appeal(CoA) has upheld a decision of the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) to slap Prevailing Securities with a tax bill of over P72 million.

In a judgement released last Friday, a panel of three CoA judges, Isaac Lesetedi, Fritz Brand and Lot Moroka, overturned High Court Judge Michael Leburu's ruling that BURS was irrational and unreasonable to slap the security company with the tax bill.

Justice Leburu was of the view has concluded that BURS had acted in bad faith by imposing a re-assessment and penalties solely on the basis of bank statements of the company.

Reversing the judgement, the CoA said that the High Court had limited powers to set aside the re-assessment. The ruling advised that the Board of Adjudicators, which is independent and appointed by the Minister of Finance, is the competent authority for dealing with tax assessment appeals.

BURS investigations had discovered that P72,420,714.39 was deposited into Prevailing Security (Pty) Ltd bank accounts between 2013 and 2018. Also in question was the turnover declared by the company over the same period for Value Added Tax pegged at P19,600,974.00 and turnover declared by the company directors for income tax as P34,822,056.00.

Following Justice Leburu's

judgement, BURS filed for appeal, arguing that the High Court had ignored evidence which indicated that the company had received more income than what it declared to BURS in submitted returns.

BURS investigations had discovered that P72,420,714.39 was deposited into Prevailing Security (Pty) Ltd bank accounts between 2013 and 2018.

BURS's lawyer Kealeboga Tshane said the appeal ought to succeed because the investigation by BURS had clearly shown that the company did not declare all the income deposited into its bank accounts for the years 2013 to 2018, subsequently arriving at an understated taxable income.

In its defence, Prevailing Securities had submitted that BURS had erred in the company's tax assessment by interpreting deposits made into Prevailing Securities' bank accounts as income.

Prevailing Securities is owned by entrepreneur and pastor Shadrack Baaitse. The company's business activities include provision of security guard services, installation of closed circuit television and cash-in-transit services. Baaitse is an associate of former president Ian Khama.

District Councils From Page 6

was put together by the promoters of the Group include certain companies which came to PEB and BPS (part of large groups of companies established by one of the Directors of BFM Eune Engelbrecht and other directors), looking for financial assistance. These companies were then adopted as part of the Group, the report shows.

"These companies were mostly financed for seemingly longer-term, high risk, green field type projects often with little or no capital being provided by the entrepreneurs and had significantly larger outstanding balances on the schedule of debts and the reconstructed loan book," said Thekiso.

Thekiso established that more than P101 million is outstanding from these companies. "All of these companies make up the top 10 of the outstanding balances to the group," Thekiso explained.

MONETARY POLICY RATE (MoPR) ADJUSTMENT

Dear Valued Customers,

Following the Bank of Botswana Monetary Policy Committee decision to increase the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) by 51 basis points to 1.65% from the prevailing 1.14% yield on the 7-day Bank of Botswana Certificate, Stanbic Bank Botswana has increased the Prime Lending Rate by 51 basis points from 5.25% to 5.76% effective 29 April 2022.

Thank you.



Stanbic Bank **IT CAN BE...**

VACANCY

Commercial Motors, a subsidiary of the Sefalana Group of companies and Motor Dealership TATA, MAN and HONDA, has an opportunity for the following post. The positions are tenable at Commercial Motors, Broadhurst Industrial, Gaborone.

Position : Workshop Relationship Manager

Responsibilities

- Supervise on repairs of MAN, TATA and HONDA vehicle models
- Supervise a team of Technicians, Foreman and Service Advisors
- Render technical advise to Technicians and Assistants
- Ensure adherence to quality control standards on vehicle maintenance
- Maintain customer relations and key accounts
- Manage work in progress, work flow and job planning on daily basis
- Manage After Sales queries
- Reach monthly targets and maintain budgets
- Do OEM reports and departmental reports

Desired Experience, Qualification and Education

- An ambitious and dynamic person of sound technical & diagnostic knowledge, with a proven track record is sought. The applicant must be very serious about " first time right" standards and must have a vast experience as a qualified Auto / Diesel Mechanic / Electrical Technician
- Should have working knowledge of MANCATS or similar diagnostic tools
- Customer oriented and good communication skills
- Should be able to assist with vehicle handovers and driver training
- Minimum of 5 years' work experience in a Management position
- Experience and qualifications on brands such as TATA and, or MAN will be an added advantage
- Must be experienced and have working knowledge in Microsoft Office products
- Must have heavy duty drivers' license

Interested individuals should submit their application letters, CV, certified copies of identity, driver's license and academic certificates to:

Dealer Principal
Commercial Motors Pty Ltd
P O Box 2276, Gaborone
Plot 5664 Kubu Road, Broadhurst Industrial, Gaborone
Tel: 3952652

ONLY SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED
Closing Date: 23rd May 2022

Association of Consulting Engineers Botswana

Engineers Botswana

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Module 4

FIDIC Contracts Management & Administration
(30th May– 2nd June 2022)

Module 2

Management Claims and Resolution of Disputes
(20th June– 23rd June 2022)

2 CPD POINTS

The course is presented by FIDIC trainer Dr Sebastian Hok who is highly qualified and experienced in the use of FIDIC documents and is BQA accredited. The CPD Points are credited by BIE. FIDIC is the International Federation of Consulting Engineers. Its members are national associations of consulting engineers.

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info@aceb.org.bw | admin@aceb.org.bw



ACEB

BIE

BPC Loses P7 Million To Vandalism

KATLEGO RAKOLA

Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) has raised concerns about theft and vandalism to its infrastructure. As the country continues to experience unplanned power cuts, an increasing number of these are a direct result of cable theft, the highest occurrences taking place in the central region.

Marketing and Communications Manager Dineo Seleke told The Botswana Gazette that 25 cases have been reported this past financial year, with the central leading registering the most at 15.

“The Corporation has lost about P7 000 000 to vandalism and theft in the previous financial year. This is mostly on the theft of cables, earthing tapes and others,” said Seleke.

“Vandalism of our infrastructure is also very unsafe to the perpetrators themselves as well as our teams. Damaged lines, often left exposed by the thieves are a deadly hazard,” said Seleke.

Seleke requested that the general public report incidents of vandalism to ensure the stability of the power supply.



The Botswana National Front is encouraging its members and other citizens to attend proceedings in large numbers when the Court of Appeal (COA) delivers its ruling on the late Pitseng Gaoberekwe burial case this week, the Publicity Secretary of the BNF, Justin Hunyepa has said.

BNF to picket COA ahead of CKGR Burial Court Ruling

Urges members and other citizens to come in large numbers

MPHO MATSHEDISO

The Botswana National Front is encouraging its members and other citizens to attend proceedings in large numbers when the Court of Appeal (COA) delivers its ruling on the late Pitseng Gaoberekwe burial case this week, the Publicity Secretary of the BNF, Justin Hunyepa has said.

“We are mobilising citizens to stand with BaSarwa,” Hunyepa told The Botswana Gazette in an interview. “Even on Labour Day, we lobbied the Botswana Federation of Trade Unions and the Botswana Federation of Public, Private and Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) to help protect and defend BaSarwa. People are being buried everywhere where they want. Some are buried in their homes, kraals and farms.”

Lecturer in Public Administration and Politics at the University of Botswana, Mokaloba Mokaloba, said the issue of Gaoberekwe’s burial inside the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) or should not be made political.

However, now that the matter is before the courts, the question is whether the law is against the cultural ethics and rights of BaSarwa. “It is more about finding an amicable solution to the problem and allowing for the old man to be buried inside the CKGR,” Mokaloba said.

Gaoberekwe was born and raised at the CKGR but moved out of the park towards the end of his life in order to be close to his children and health amenities. When he passed away last December, authorities would not allow his body back into the park to be buried. His family has been fighting since for the right to bury their father in the CKGR as his birthplace and in accordance with his dying wishes.

Gaoberekwe’s burial case may have reignited long standing tensions between BaSarwa and the government. In 2006, they were involved in a legal tussle with the government and won after they argued that they were illegally removed from their ancestral land within the CKGR.

International human rights group, especially Survival International, had contended that the manner in which BaSarwa were removed from the park violated international human rights norms.



Legae English Medium School 'Legae, A Home Away from Home'

Legae English Medium School is inviting applications for the following position to start in 2023

VICE PRINCIPAL / DEPUTY (ACADEMICS)

REQUIREMENTS:

- Diploma / HND in Education, Bachelor degree preferred
- Teaching qualification of not less than 10 (ten) years
- Experience as a senior administrator in International English medium schools
- Minimum 4 years' experience as a Vice-Principal/Deputy preferably of an international school
- **Must be experienced and highly knowledgeable with the Cambridge Primary curriculum (or other international-level curriculum), Cambridge Primary being preferred**
- Experience in setting up/managing online learning platforms and engagement with global educational institutions for curriculum development
- Prior Legae experience preferred

Be prepared to work with the school's Ethos and Policies.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and criminal records.

Please forward Letter of Application, CV, Certified copies of certificates and names of 2 (two) referees to:

The Managing Director,
Legae English Medium School,
PO Box 641 Gaborone, Botswana.

Email: legae@legaeinvestors.com

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 20 May 2022





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VACANCY

Francistown Knitters would like to invite suitably qualified innovative, results oriented and self driven individuals to apply for the position of **CLOTHING FASHION DESIGNER** preferably Botswana Citizens. The position is tenable in Francistown.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB

The ideal candidate will be responsible for operating computerized knitting machines, Automated Knitting Machines, Designing patterns, Cutting, Grading and staff training.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- At least a minimum of a Certificate in Design and Pattern making or Computerized Knitting Machine Operations Certificate or Fashion Pleating and Cutting certificate in textile or related field.
- Be able to work under pressure and be capable of interpreting information, with a competent level of problem solving ability and solution focused.
- High level of accuracy and the

ability to keep detailed notes and records.

- Candidates should have a minimum of five (5) years experience as a clothing fashion designer from reputable organization.

RENUMERATION

Francistown Knitters will offer a competitive salary which is commensurate with experience to the successful candidate.

Only candidates who meet the above requirements need apply with copies of certified certificates, Identity Card and comprehensive curriculum vitae addressed to:

**Human Resources Manager
Francistown Knitters,
P.O. Box 339,
Francistown
Email: hr@francistownknitters.co.bw**

**ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES
WILL BE RESPONDED TO:**

Closing date: 11th May 2022

New Era College Rewards Its Athletic Champions



New Era College of Arts Science and Technology was excited to host an appreciation ceremony in honor of its best ever performing group of student athletes to participate at the BOTESSA Athletics Championships.

New Era College of Arts Science and Technology was excited to host an appreciation ceremony in honor of its best ever performing group of student athletes to participate at the BOTESSA Athletics Championships.

The appreciation ceremony was held at the College grounds in Block 8 in the presence of members from the senior management team as well as delegates from BOTESSA as well as the Botswana Athletics Association. The objective of the ceremony was to appreciate the brilliant efforts of the students who triumphed against all odds in the challenging COVID 19 conditions of training where in some instances they had to go months without having access to the track.

Giving his remarks on the day, Director of Student Affairs, Mr Bogosi Monyamane shared that, "New Era College shares a common vision with BOTESSA and BAA, which is developing athletics by enhancing and promoting healthy, fair competitions in pursuit of excellence in sports and wellness."

The auspicious event was also graced by the presence of the CEO of New Era College, Professor Amos Thapisa who outlined some key steps the College has taken to ensure the success of its students learning and living life. Giving his words of encouragement to students, the professor explained that, "In order for us to succeed as an institution of higher education, our fears and negative effects from Covid 19 must be overcome in order to continue with our teaching and sporting activities."

The College has made significant investments in the development of Botswana athletes as has been evidenced through their partnership with the Ghodrati Foundation to award Sports Scholarships to excelling sports stars so that they have an alternative option of a career path once their sporting careers are over. To date the College has invested over 1 million pula towards ensuring that young Botswana athletes have access to quality education.

BOTESSA was represented on the day by their President, Mr Keorapetse Setlhare who was overjoyed by the amazing support New Era College continues to give its sports stars. He said, "New Era College is one of the few institutions that really goes out of their way to support its students and I am encouraging other institutions to follow suit. The efforts made in supporting these students will be felt in years to come when they represent Botswana at the global stage."

The College completed the games with six gold medals, one silver and one bronze medal and finished second in the overall medals standing out of 63 institutions across the country.

When giving his testimony, Moabi Keitse, who obtained a gold medal in the men's 200m, stated that, "We would really like to appreciate everyone who made this achievement possible and hope to make you all proud and make a name for both the College and the country as being sporting centers of excellence."

In his closing remarks, Managing Director of New Era College Mr Danesh Sobhani said, "We are very proud of our students and hope that we will equally have academic success from them as well as sporting success."

The College completed the games with six gold medals, one silver and one bronze medal and finished second in the overall medals standing out of 63 institutions across the country. The College is proud of its sports stars and aims to create a pipeline of high performing athletes for both the College and National teams.



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VACANCY: PLANT MANAGER

Asphalt Botswana is a company that provides superior quality civil engineering services to create maximum value for our clients, staff, owners and the community. We produce and supply asphalt concrete, and offer the design, production and laying of asphalt concrete for a wide variety of surfacing purposes.

We are on a journey to greater heights, and require a highly experienced and knowledgeable Plant Manager to join our team. The purpose of the role is to plan, direct, coordinate and manage the Earthmoving Equipment Function across multiple sites on a day to day basis.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Ensuring the implementation of an effective Plant Maintenance Management strategy to drive operational excellence.
- Ensuring that equipment availability of at least 90% for all equipment on site
- Developing and monitoring key equipment initiatives and driving key input and output performance indicators that drive equipment performance.
- Assisting with business growth objectives.
- Driving the optimal utilisation of equipment at the operations and optimisation of the fleet of equipment as a whole.
- Facilitating a Continuous Improvement process within the various teams across operations.
- Driving financial optimization and efficiency
- Ensuring adherence to the SHEQ policies and promoting a strong safety culture.

The ideal candidate would fit the below profile:

QUALIFICATION:

A degree/diploma in Mechanical Engineering.

EXPERIENCE:

- 10 years' experience as a Plant Manager in the construction and/or open cast mining is essential, and responsible for at least 300 items of earthmoving and associated equipment.
- Experience in supplier management, component management, quality control, life cycle costing, maintenance strategies, condition monitoring and maintenance information systems.

SKILLS & COMPETENCIES:

- Tactical decision making & negotiation skills
- Strong business and financial acumen including budgeting and accounting skills
- Stress Tolerance
- Relationship building & People management skills
- Planning and organising for achievement of business goals
- Demonstrate a positive attitude towards challenges
- Driving business results
- Gaining agreement on all levels
- Managing criticism and maintain momentum
- Recognize opportunities for change and be a change agent

INTERESTED PARTIES WHO MEET THE ABOVE CRITERIA SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION TO;
bernice@asphalt.co.bw by no later than **24th May 2022**.



Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) and PPC cement embarked in a partnership to enhance entrepreneurship through SME training and mentorship programme.

LEA/ PPC Collaborates For Entrepreneurship Development

Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) and PPC cement embarked on a partnership to enhance entrepreneurship through SME training and mentorship programme.

Speaking at the completion of the training workshop/ graduation in Gaborone last week Friday, LEA, Head-Capacity development, Mompoti Baiphethi, indicated that this record keeping training is one of their many SME development training programmes. He said that this programme is expected to run for a period of a year

to capacitate SMEs across Botswana. At least 20 participants attended this workshop both physically and virtually as a pilot and participants are expected to increase on the next installment.

Baiphethi emphasized the importance of record keeping as a management function and cited that it is crucial to understand how the funds are utilized wisely for smooth running of the business. "What is most exhilarating about this workshop is that we are very innovative and have incorporated virtual training which makes it easier for people to participate from wherever they are which is convenient to even attend remotely at their different business locations"

Baiphethi highlighted that government is doing everything in its power to diversify the economy through enterprise development by creating an enabling environment for doing business. He said the recent introduction of the citizen inclusion act and revised PPADB act is a way to reach that mandate and as LEA. "It is important to capacitate SMEs for them to be able to grow and become larger entities and this can only be achieved through such partnerships with the private companies. As LEA, we are excited for this collaboration to empower SMEs for them to take advantage of opportunities availed by the government to growth the private sector," Baiphethi said. He appealed to network service providers to improve their internet connectivity as connectivity is one of their biggest challenges for smooth delivery of training.

As LEA, we are excited for this collaboration to empower SMEs for them to take advantage of opportunities availed by the government to growth the private sector," Baiphethi said.

According to PPC Sales manager, Cliff Alfred, they have a responsibility to forge partnerships to ensure economic growth through facilitation and support of local enterprises. "We have partnered with LEA to equip and empower our SMEs with management, entrepreneurial and marketing skills which will be instrumental in their business growth." Alfred denoted their confidence working with such a reputable organization like LEA which is known for developing SMEs into competitive entities which is also aligned to their mandate. "I believe that there can't be sustainable growth unless there's growth in the mind, by feeding our local enterprises with knowledge we are opening their eyes for external business opportunities and enhance their abilities. This will translate into many benefits such as job creation and standard of living is improved to secure a better future for Botswana". In conclusion, he encouraged SMEs to utilize these opportunities and also appealed to other private organizations to join hands to support the government initiatives for economic growth.

This 5 day training workshop was concluded by handing over of certificate of successful completion and the next workshop is expected soon.



ADDENDUM 1 – AMMENDMENT OF TENDER AND EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE

BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION

TENDER No. BHC 001-2022/23

PROVISION OF OFFICE CLEANING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AT VARIOUS BHC OFFICES ON A THREE- YEAR CONTRACT

1. The Botswana Housing Corporation informs prospective bidders of the removal of 'Provision of refuse collection for Lot B and C' (Item 13.10 of the tender document) from this tender.
2. Furthermore the 'Provision of SHE bins and air freshner spray' (Item 13.11 of the tender document) has been removed from the tender.
3. There is no requirement of portable water, mobile toilets or toilet paper for this tender.
4. Pages 15-20 are repititive but the contents of the repeating pages are different.
5. The tender closing has been extended to **Thursday 12th May 2022 at 0900hrs.**
6. All else remain the same.

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"We Can Survive Without Khama" - BPF Youth

- BPF youth say Khama's influence cannot be diminished
- Asserts allegations against Khama are fabricated

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) will remain relevant and survive in its strongholds in the buildup to the next general elections without involvement of former President Ian Khama, the youth league of the party has said.

This follows Khama's apparent hesitation to return home from South Africa where he has been living since last year.

The Publicity Secretary of BPFYL, Amogelang Mokwena, told The Botswana Gazette in a telephone interview that although Khama's influence has been considerable and "very instrumental" to the party and the opposition bloc in general, his absence has not diminished his impact on Botswana politics.

"The survival of the BPF is not solely dependent on his influence as the party continues to grow even in his absence," Mokwena said. "It has been evident during our ongoing regional youth conferences that people want to associate with the BPF. We are welcoming new members across the country."

"The survival of the BPF is not solely dependent on his influence as the party continues to grow even in his absence," Mokwena said. "It has been evident during our ongoing regional youth conferences that people want to associate with the BPF. We are welcoming new members across the country."

He added that the centre of attraction to the BPF is the party's sound leadership, principles, ideas and democratic setting. "The BPF maintains relevance in the Central District," Mokwena asserted.

"Khama's influence has cemented its foundation in the district and his influence can never be uprooted. Even so, the BPF is a political organisation, and like any other party it will employ all the neces-

To Page 21



President Mokgweetsi Masisi has once again repeated his commitment to reviving the Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC) to Botswana Federation of Public, Private and Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) and Botswana Federation of Trade Unions (BFTU).

Masisi Iterates His Commitment To Resuscitating Bargaining Council

- Encourages unions to participate in his Reset Agenda
- Congratulates BOFEPUSU, BFTU on working together: "Keep it up, comrade!"
- But leaked memo could cast a shadow of pessimism over salary negotiations

GAZETTE REPORTER

President Mokgweetsi Masisi has once again repeated his commitment to reviving the Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC) to Botswana Federation of Public, Private and Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) and Botswana Federation of Trade Unions (BFTU).

The President said this in his virtual keynote address to the unions during their commemoration of Labour Day in Maun over the weekend. This also came at a time when the government and the unions have just commenced public service salary negotiations for the 2022/2023 financial year.

President Masisi made a similar commitment to BOFEPUSU and BFTU in the lead-up to the 2019 general elections. In his Labour Day address last Sunday, he said that the recently rationalised priorities in the President's Reset Agenda carry renewed hope for workers in Botswana.

"Let me also recognise the training that was re-

cently organised by the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) in conjunction with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to capacitate ... negotiation skills to facilitate social dialogue," he said. "Such empowerment will go a long way in facilitating social and economic development of this country."

President Masisi added that this year's theme of "Empowering Workers and Strengthening Social Dialogue for Real Economic Recovery and Transformation in the Workplace" resonates well with the principle of consultation, noting that the culture of Botswana is anchored in consultation.

"The consultation concept, which also forms part of the core pillars of labour relations, has trickled down to all spheres of development of this country," he said noting that this year's commemoration of Labour Day marks the third consecutive year "of our existence with the COVID-19 pandemic" that has rendered it impossible to physically congregate to commemorate this important day.

To Page 21

TENDER NOTICE

Botswana Development Corporation Limited invites proposals from capable Citizen Owned firms to provide proposals for the below tender: Bidders must be duly registered with Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB) and Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA).



Tender Reference Number	Tender Name	PPADB Code	Tender Closing Date
RFP006/2021	Supply and Installation of Back-up generator for Building 1A, Building 1B and Building 3.	Proof of registration with PPADB for Code 02 (Electrical) Sub Code 01 (General Installations) and Sub Code 05 (Power Generating Systems)	27th May 2022

Bidders will be emailed a link from which to download the tender documents after paying a non-refundable fee of P560.00 from 08:00hrs to 1530hrs on weekdays with effect from **3rd May 2022**. The tender will be closing for selling on the **12th of May 2022 at 1500hrs**. Youth registered companies are entitled to pay 50% of the purchase price subject to the provision of proof of 100% youth ownership.

For more information on the invitation kindly visit: BDC Social media pages
Facebook: Botswana Development Corporation Twitter: @BDCLimited Website: www.bdc.bw

Botswana Development Corporation
Fairscaple Precinct, Plot 70667 | Fairgrounds Office Park
P/Bag 160, Gaborone
Tel: +267 365 1300 | Fax: +267 390 3194



(Pic: Tymon Kattholo)

DISS goes after Kattholo in missing weapons case

from page 5

is a fresh matter, I am not in a position to comment further. However, the public can rest assured that the DISS will ensure that all due processes of the law are followed," he responded.

Whilst investigative details currently remain sketchy, sources close to developments reveal that Kattholo and his staff officer are facing allegations

of attempting to destroy evidence into the Khama and Kgosi missing guns case. Khama, Kgosi, suspended Police Commissioner Keabetswe Makgophe and Deputy Permanent Secretary Bruno Paledi are facing a combined 54 charges which are in violation of the Arms and Ammunition Act of 2018.

Nonetheless, other sources have interpreted the latest move by the DIS as a strategy to push him out by some influential individuals in government. Kattholo replaced Brigadier Joseph Mathambo as the head of the DCEC in August 2020. His contract is set to expire next year April. It alleged that he might resign as soon as he sets his foot in the country this week.

Nonetheless, other sources have interpreted the latest move by the DIS as a strategy to push him out by some influential individuals in government. Kattholo replaced Brigadier Joseph Mathambo as the head of the DCEC in August 2020

Furthermore, the relations between the DIS and the DCEC are also said to have become sour. Kattholo, just like his predecessor, Mathambo refused to back the DIS led Butterfly case citing lack of evidence. Information sharing between the two agencies has not been the smoothest. There have also been reports that the DCEC has an ongoing probe into Magosi's possible ties with certain Chinese contractors.

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Generally, tax compliance refers to the adherence of tax laws including timeous remittance of tax. Accordingly, non-compliance of the said laws results in prejudice to the national fiscus which will ultimately derail government's endeavours. Consequently, to curb non-compliance with tax laws, the taxman is empowered to levy penalties and interest on taxpayers in breach of the tax laws. In this regard, it is imperative that business operators understand that the authority bestowed on the taxman may cripple business operations if exercised to its limit. As a matter of fact, the taxman can place chains on one's business if caught on the wrong side of the law, particularly Value Added Tax (VAT) registered business operators.

As alluded to above, non-compliance with tax laws is a serious offence which may cost you money and business reputation. Accordingly, a habitual offender to the provisions of the VAT Act may attract the full wrath of the taxman which may lead to the closure of business operations. Some of the major offences that may lead the taxman to close down your business includes, incorrect issuance of tax invoices, submission of fabricated VAT returns and non-payment of tax. Primarily, such practices are regarded as tax evasion schemes that are intentionally crafted to prejudice tax revenue. Essentially, where BURS ascertains that a taxpayer is in breach of the tax law by way of tax evasion schemes and the taxpayer is not forthcoming to regularise his tax affairs, a court order is obtained, and they proceed to shut down the business.

Literally, the taxman is empowered by the law to use reasonable force to ensure that the offender's business is closed down including putting chains, locks, fencing etc. Accordingly, it is vital that taxpayers endeavour to operate within the parameters of the tax laws to avoid drastic measures that may cripple business operations.

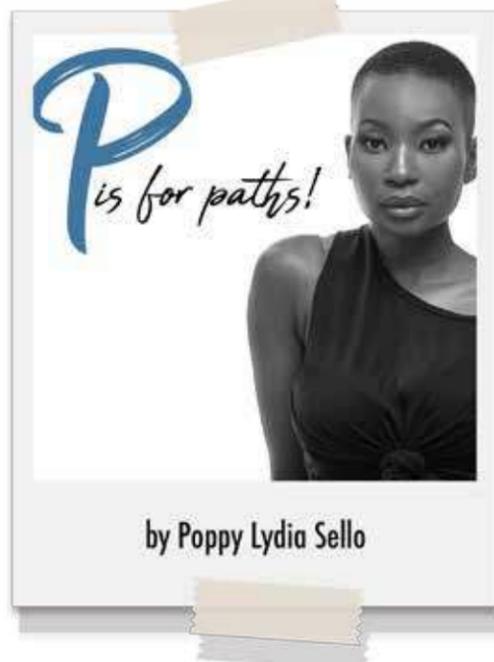
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Alcohol beverages are a perfect example of this. During the lockdown in 2020, people bought alcohol regardless of how ridiculously high the price was. It wasn't because of its scarcity but loyalty to the brand.

7 Bs of a Brand (Part 3) – Brand Equity



The value a customer places on a brand is defined as brand equity. Consumers are more than willing to pay premium prices or go extra lengths to make a purchase primarily because of this. Furthermore, an organisation with a high brand equity attracts the right talent and investors.

Brand equity is created as people become more aware of a brand and become more personally attached to it. This is ultimately what organisations hope to achieve and because brand equity grows over time and is based on customer interactions with a brand, marketers must develop detailed strategies to drive brand equity.

Long-term customer loyalty or charging a price premium over a no-name product can be used to determine brand equity. Alcohol beverages are a perfect example of this. During the lockdown in 2020, people bought alcohol regardless of how ridiculously high the price was. It wasn't because of its scarcity but loyalty to the brand.

Customers purchase extended product lines from brand brands. People who buy electronic gadgets from the same supplier (Apple and Samsung users are excellent examples), new products are perceived just as favourably, and, finally, brand equity directly affects stock price, market share and so on.

There are clear benefits to establishing brand equity but it takes a significant amount of work and research to build and maintain this status. It all starts with conducting research into a target audience's values and needs, as well as

identifying what makes your brand unique.

Once in place, organisations should then:

1. Create lasting impressions – Using exceptional customer service to shape customers' perceptions and opinions of the brand.
2. Forge brand loyalty – Deploying customer retention strategies.
3. Establish brand awareness – Ensuring that customers know the brand's products and services through various communication touch points, e.g. social media presence, CSR projects and sponsorships.
4. Maintain positive brand perception - Customers who have a warm feeling toward a product are more likely to become loyal customers. Additionally, positive feelings such as excitement, fun, peer approval, security, trust and self-respect can be attributes that strengthen the brand.
5. Clear brand messaging - Making the components that represent the brand is always recognisable to customers by communicating what the brand means and stands for. Marketers must ensure that brand campaigns run for a longer period of time for consumers to register messages and connect them to branded products.
6. Consistency - Be consistent once the brand has been established. Using consistent typefaces and style guides is part of this by creating brand templates, guidelines, and CSI manuals which everyone in the organisation must adhere to.

Marketers must take the lead by taking steps to build and consistently measure brand equity to increase sales and prestige – both of which are required for a brand to be truly successful and improve its equity.

These steps are critical because brand equity is based on the idea that a recognised brand that is well-established and reputable outperforms a generic equivalent. It is based on customer perception: customers are more likely to purchase a product that they recognise and trust.

Marketers must take the lead by taking steps to build and consistently measure brand equity to increase sales and prestige – both of which are required for a brand to be truly successful and improve its equity.



World Press Freedom Day: Journalism under Digital Siege

Whether in the context of COVID-19 or during war and conflict, reliable information is more than necessary: it is vital. Journalists play an essential role in providing this information. They assess, investigate and disseminate facts, ensuring people can make informed decisions. Journalism is therefore a public good, which we must defend and support as such. Yet even as the United Nations marks the 10th anniversary of its Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which UNESCO is proud to lead, journalists are facing a fast-evolving environment. As our newest World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development report shows, more than five in six people around the world live in a country that experienced a decline in press freedom over the past five years. Some 400 journalists were killed during the same period just for doing their jobs. Digital technologies are further revolutionizing this landscape. They have permitted unprecedented exchanges of information, supporting journalism across borders. We can now see what happens in any corner of the world, at any time. But these opportunities come with new challenges. The advent of online platforms has called into question the economic viability of independent and pluralistic media, upending existing value chains and business models. The digital era has also put media workers and their sources at greater risk of being targeted, harassed and attacked – for instance, due to data retention, spyware and digital surveillance. Expressions of hatred against journalists have spiralled, affecting women journalists in particular. Our research shows that more than seven out of ten women reporters surveyed have experienced online violence. And as few of these technologies are regulated transparently and with accountability, perpetrators of violence operate with impunity, often without leaving a trace. This must end. Technological advances need to be underpinned by respect for the freedom, privacy and safety of journalists. Social media networks must especially do more to tackle rampant disinformation and hate speech, while protecting freedom of expression. UNESCO is firmly committed to these goals. To rise to emerging challenges, UNESCO supported the adoption of a new Windhoek Declaration for Information as a Public Good in the digital age, thirty years after the first, at last year's World Press Freedom Conference in Namibia.

Since then, UNESCO has been implementing the Declaration by promoting new transparency principles for online platforms, undertaking research into sustainable media business models and putting a new focus on media and information literacy in education systems. But we all must do more to address the risks and seize the opportunities of the digital age. On this World Press Freedom Day, I invite Member States, technology companies, the media community, as well as the rest of civil society to come together to develop a new digital configuration – one that protects both journalism and journalists.

MISA

Statement Of Botswana Mine Workers Union On World Day On Safety And Health In The Workplace

“Act Together to Build a Positive Safety and Health Culture”.



Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU) joins the international community in commemorating the World Day on Safety and Health in the Workplace. This year's celebration is held under the theme “Act Together to Build a Positive Safety and Health Culture”.

Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU) joins the international community in commemorating the World Day on Safety and Health in the Workplace. This year's celebration is held under the theme “Act Together to Build a Positive Safety and Health Culture”.

Mining is generally a hazardous trade and as such the highest standards of health and safety are observed in every mining operation, whether large or small scale. In Botswana, safety and health measures are regulated by the Mines, Quarries, Works and Machinery Act (Cap 44:02). The MQWM Act sought to codify some provisions of ILO

The Department of Mines does not have a mining health and safety scorecard against which it monitors the industry's adherence to international occupational health and safety standards.

Convention 176 – Safety and Health in Mines.

Article 7 (a) of the Convention, imposes an obligation on employers to “Ensure the monitoring, assessment and regular inspection of the working environment to identify the various hazards to which the workers may be exposed and to assess their level of exposure”. Article 13 (b) equally empowers workers to request information from the employer where there is cause for concern on safety

grounds and can cause an inspection or investigations to be conducted by a competent authority.

ILO Convention 176 makes compliance with occupational health and safety standards a joint responsibility of both workers and employers. Similarly, Section 5 of the MQWM Act establishes a Mines, Quarries and Safety Committee whose functions are, among other things, to advise the minister on the supervision to be exercised over mines and anything likely to affect the safety, health or welfare of mineworkers.

It is common cause that in Botswana, the mining sector monitors and regulates its own health and safety compliance. The Department of Mines does not have a mining health and safety scorecard against which it monitors the industry's adherence to international occupational health and safety standards. Mine health and safety data are generated and reported by the industry to the government.

This significantly casts doubt on the quality of data generated by the Department of Mines in the absence of an approved Code of Practice that would provide a good basis for demonstrating best industry practice as has been used as a starting point by many nations. Botswana does not have an overarching Occupational Safety and Health Policy as per ILO Convention 155.

Coal, gold, copper, manganese, uranium and cobalt are some of the strategic commodities mined in Botswana. Each one of these commodities produces by-products during processing, some of which can be detrimental to the health of workers. As we commemorate this day, it is imperative that all key stakeholders in the mining sector do all that is necessary to develop a positive health and safety culture, one that is built on social dialogue, transparency and respect for human rights.

Statement Of Botswana Mine Workers Union On World Day On Safety And Health In The Workplace



BURS Can Lock Your Business



Generally, tax compliance refers to the adherence of tax laws including timeous remittance of tax. Accordingly, non-compliance of the said laws results in prejudice to the national fiscus which will ultimately derail government's endeavours. Consequently, to curb non-compliance with tax laws, the taxman is empowered to levy penalties and interest on taxpayers in breach of the tax laws. In this regard, it is imperative that business operators understand that the authority bestowed on the taxman may cripple business operations if exercised to its limit. As a matter of fact, the taxman can place chains on one's business if caught on the wrong side of the law, particularly Value Added Tax (VAT) registered business operators.

As alluded to above, non-compliance with tax laws is a serious offence which may cost you money and business reputation. Accordingly, a habitual offender to the provisions of the VAT Act may attract the full wrath of the taxman which may lead to the closure of business operations. Some of the major offences that may lead the taxman to close down your business includes, incorrect issuance of tax invoices, submission of fabricated VAT returns and non-payment of tax. Primarily, such practices are regarded as tax evasion schemes that are intentionally crafted to prejudice tax revenue. Essentially, where BURS ascertains that a taxpayer is in breach of the tax law by way of tax evasion schemes and the taxpayer is not forthcoming to regularise his tax affairs, a court order is obtained, and they proceed to shut down the business.

Literally, the taxman is empowered by the law to use reasonable force to ensure that the offender's business is closed down including putting chains, locks, fencing etc. Accordingly, it is vital that taxpayers endeavour to operate within the parameters of the tax laws to avoid drastic measures that may cripple business operations.

This article is of a general nature and is not meant to address particular matters of any person. Please contact us on +267 71815836 +267 3939435 or jhore@aupracontax.co.bw for tax consulting or to join our free Tax WhatsApp group or to know about our 9 Tax e-books.

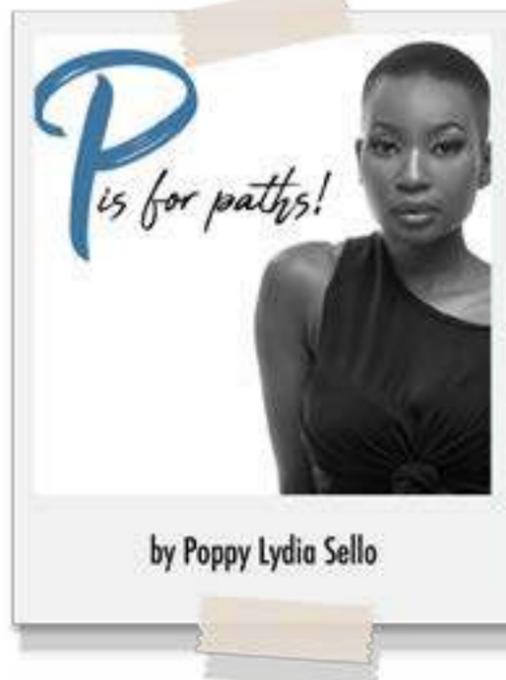
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Brand equity is created as people become more aware of a brand and become more personally attached to it. This is ultimately what organisations hope to achieve and because brand equity grows over time and is based on customer interactions with a brand, marketers must develop detailed strategies to drive brand equity. Photo Credit: Mascom

7 Bs of a Brand (Part 3) – Brand Equity



The value a customer places on a brand is defined as brand equity. Consumers are more than willing to pay premium prices or go extra lengths to make a purchase primarily because of this. Furthermore, an organisation with a high brand equity attracts the right talent and investors.

Brand equity is created as people become more aware of a brand and become more personally attached to it. This is ultimately what organisations hope to achieve and because brand equity grows over time and is based on customer interactions with a brand, marketers must develop detailed strategies to drive brand equity.

Long-term customer loyalty or charging a price premium over a no-name product can be used to determine brand equity. Alcohol beverages are a perfect example of this. During the lockdown in 2020, people bought alcohol regardless of how ridiculously high the price was. It wasn't because of its scarcity but loyalty to the brand.

Customers purchase extended product lines from brand brands. People who buy electronic gadgets from the same supplier (Apple and Samsung users are excellent examples), new products are perceived just as favourably, and, finally, brand equity directly affects stock price, market share and so on.

There are clear benefits to establishing brand equity but it takes a significant amount of work and research to build and maintain this status. It all starts with conducting research into a target audience's values and needs, as well as

identifying what makes your brand unique.

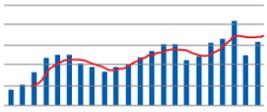
Once in place, organisations should then:

1. Create lasting impressions – Using exceptional customer service to shape customers' perceptions and opinions of the brand.
2. Forge brand loyalty – Deploying customer retention strategies.
3. Establish brand awareness – Ensuring that customers know the brand's products and services through various communication touch points, e.g. social media presence, CSR projects and sponsorships.
4. Maintain positive brand perception - Customers who have a warm feeling toward a product are more likely to become loyal customers. Additionally, positive feelings such as excitement, fun, peer approval, security, trust and self-respect can be attributes that strengthen the brand.
5. Clear brand messaging - Making the components that represent the brand is always recognisable to customers by communicating what the brand means and stands for. Marketers must ensure that brand campaigns run for a longer period of time for consumers to register messages and connect them to branded products.
6. Consistency - Be consistent once the brand has been established. Using consistent typefaces and style guides is part of this by creating brand templates, guidelines, and CSI manuals which everyone in the organisation must adhere to.

Marketers must take the lead by taking steps to build and consistently measure brand equity to increase sales and prestige – both of which are required for a brand to be truly successful and improve its equity.

These steps are critical because brand equity is based on the idea that a recognised brand that is well-established and reputable outperforms a generic equivalent. It is based on customer perception: customers are more likely to purchase a product that they recognise and trust.

Marketers must take the lead by taking steps to build and consistently measure brand equity to increase sales and prestige – both of which are required for a brand to be truly successful and improve its equity.



Rentals amassed by Turnstar Holdings Limited, operators of the glamorous Game City Mall in Gaborone, increased by P21.3 million during the year that ended 31 January 2022, the Group Chairman Patrick Balopi and Managing Director Gulaam Abdoola have announced. Photo Turnstar Holdings

Turnstar Rental Revenue Up By P21.3m

Botswana portfolio enjoys a 99% occupancy rate

GAZETTE REPORTER

Rentals amassed by Turnstar Holdings Limited, operators of the glamorous Game City Mall in Gaborone, increased by P21.3 million during the year that ended 31 January 2022, the Group Chairman Patrick Balopi and Managing Director Gulaam Abdoola have announced.

Turnstar Holdings is a property loan stock company that has been listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange since 2002. The company holds eight properties in Botswana, four in Tanzania and one in Dubai inclusive of premium retail shopping centres, multi-residential estates and office buildings.

According to Balopi and Abdoola, the company has collected rental income amounting to P266.5 million in the year that ended 31 December 2022 compared to P245.2 million in the prior year.

Balopi and Abdoola noted that the Botswana property portfolio, which enjoys an occupancy rate of approximately 99 percent, recorded a P12.4m (8.7 per-

cent) increase in rental revenues compared to the prior year. They two said the Botswana properties also recorded a substantial fair value gain.

Some of Turnstar properties in Botswana are Game City Mall in Gaborone, Supa Save Mall in Mogoditshane and Nzano Mall in Francistown.

The company holds eight properties in Botswana, four in Tanzania and one in Dubai inclusive of premium retail shopping centres, multi-residential estates and office buildings.

Regarding the company properties in Tanzania, Balopi and Abdoola noted that the retail mall continued to operate at optimum capacity whereas conference centre income re-

corded encouraging income growth.

“The vacancies in the commercial office space reduced marginally,” they said in the Group’s financial results for the year ended 31 January 2022. “Overall, the Tanzanian subsidiary recorded growth in revenues and profits due to improved trading conditions.”

They said the Dubai property recorded a P 72.6m impairment charge in fair value from the prior year reporting date.

The Turnstar Group’s profit before taxation for the year ended 31 January 2022 increased by 40 percent (P32.5 million) January 2021 to P 114.3 million in the year under review.

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INVESTMENT FUND	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22
Mompati Life Fund	13.14	13.23	13.47	13.14	13.04	13.07
Mompati Retirement Annuity Fund	60.29	60.73	61.87	60.40	59.94	60.05
Mompati Educator Fund	15.71	15.81	16.10	15.73	15.63	15.67
Mompati Offshore Fund	3.57	3.58	3.68	3.52	3.45	3.44
Ex-IGI Fund	43.94	44.26	43.43	43.95	44.10	44.20
Khumo 2016 Preservation Fund	12.12	12.15	12.18	12.21	12.24	12.27
Shariah Model Portfolio Fund	1.11	1.12	1.19	1.21	1.27	1.32
Balanced Life Fund	15.10	15.24	15.56	15.21	15.11	15.17
Balanced Retirement Fund	69.46	70.11	71.7	70.08	69.63	69.91
Moderate Life Fund	18.06	18.22	18.63	18.22	18.12	18.21
Growth Offshore Fund	4.30	4.32	4.46	4.26	4.19	4.19

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

Debswana, Botswana Oil Enter Into P8bn Strategic Partnership

Agreement to benefit citizen-owned fuel companies



Leading diamond mining company Debswana Diamond Company and Botswana Oil Limited (BOL) have entered into a five-year strategic partnership valued at P8 billion. According to Debswana, the partnership is aimed at capacitating citizen-owned companies in the fuel supply value chain. Photo Credit Botswana Oil

GAZETTE REPORTER

Leading diamond mining company Debswana Diamond Company and Botswana Oil Limited (BOL) have entered into a five-year strategic partnership valued at P8 billion. According to Debswana, the partnership is aimed at capacitating citizen-owned companies in the fuel supply value chain.

“Through the agreement, BOL will play the facilitatory role of handholding and assisting emerging citizen-owned fuel supply and fuel transportation companies to supply Debswana’s Jwaneng and Orapa Letlhakane Damtshaa (OLDM) mines with diesel and petrol for their operations,” says Debswana in a statement. “This is part of Debswana’s Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme, which seeks to accelerate citizen participation in its supply chain.”

The agreement is also aimed at ensuring security of sup-

ply for Debswana operations, which are a mainstay of the Botswana economy. “Debswana procures approximately a 100 million litres of fuel per annum,” says the statement.

“As part of their mandate to facilitate citizen participation in the petroleum sector, BOL will under the agreement be obliged to transfer skills to citizen suppliers and transporters during the contract period and ensure delivery of competent and skilled citizen suppliers and transport companies upon completion of the agreement.”

The five-year partnership will also create opportunities for support services along the oil value chain such as trucks staging, truck stops, tyre services, wash bays, truck service, maintenance jobs and other related support activities for Botswana.

Said Debswana Acting Managing Director, Lynette Armstrong, commenting on the partnership: “This is a huge milestone for Debswana, especially for our ‘One Dream, One Team (ODOT)’ 2024 strategy which is very

intentional about citizen participation. I am also proud to say that with this major step forward, we are well underway to realising our strategic ambitions under the Debswana Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP).

“Through the agreement, BOL will play the facilitatory role of handholding and assisting emerging citizen-owned fuel supply and fuel transportation companies to supply Debswana’s Jwaneng and Orapa Letlhakane Damtshaa (OLDM) mines with diesel and petrol for their operations,” says Debswana in a statement.

“The programme has two breakthrough outcomes on creating and delivering shared citizen spend value of BWP20 billion and 20 000 jobs by 2024. This deal therefore forms part of the 2021 CEEP key breakthrough actions which include the continued localisation of Debswana’s long term contracts, the development of citizen participation in the supply and transportation of fuel, and delivering on a transformational plan that creates opportunities for citizen ownership participation in the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) sector.”

Commenting on the partnership, the CEO of Botswana Oil, Meshack Tshekedi, noted: “For Botswana Oil Limited, this is a thrilling development that brings to life the third prong of the company’s mandate which emphasises the meaningful facilitation of citizens in the oil and gas industry through BOL’s CEE programme.

“Through this collaboration, BOL will play a facilitatory role by handholding citizen companies which will be selected to participate in the Debswana’s fuel value chain. As an anchor partner, BOL will shoulder the responsibility for the development of the citizen suppliers and ensure business continuity to Debswana’s operations.”

The project is scheduled to commence in August 2022 with BOL, through citizen-owned oil companies, expected to deliver their first consignment to Debswana on the 1st August 2022.

Tlou Energy Receives P58m Funding From BPOPF

Funds secured for construction of transmission line to connect Tlou’s Lesedi to BPC grid

GAZETTE REPORTER

Power generation company developing clean energy solutions for Botswana and the sub-Saharan region, Tlou Energy, has received \$5 million (approximately P58 million) funding from Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF), *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

According to the company’s Managing Director (MD), Anthony Gilby, the BPOPF funding, which Tlou received in the first quarter of 2022 (between 1st January and 31st March), will be used to finance construction of transmission line infrastructure to connect Tlou’s Lesedi Project to the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) grid.

BPOPF is the biggest pension fund in Botswana and the largest shareholder in Tlou.

Gilby says to connect to the national power grid, a 100km transmission line needs to be built to connect the Lesedi Power Project to the existing BPC grid.

“During the quarter, the transmission line construction contractor and owners’ engineer were engaged, and work on this project commenced,” he notes in Tlou’s operational report for the first quarter of 2022 released recently. “The timeline for the completion is approximately 15 months. All going to the plan, the company is looking at selling first power to the grid in 2023.”

Located approximately 100km from Botswana’s electricity grid, Lesedi is currently Tlou’s main project and its licences cover an area of approximately 3,800 km² and consists of four prospecting licences (PL) and a production licence.

Gilby says electricity generated at the Lesedi 10MW gas fired power facility will be sold under a Power Purchase Agreement with BPC. Once in full production, 10MW of generation will provide annual revenue of approximately \$10 million. Furthermore, Gilby notes that Tlou is planning the development of a hydrogen and solid carbon project at Lesedi alongside a gas-to-power development.

“The company’s hydrogen technology partner, Synergen Met, a specialist in plasma torch and pyrolysis technology, is designing and building a prototype unit for shipment to Lesedi,” he says. “In advance of shipment, the plasma torch will be tested and configured to optimise hydrogen and solid carbon production.”

He states that the use of plasma technology production will be a first for the sub-Saharan Africa and could be advantageous for the production of low emission, clean energy across the region as well as in the related fields of waste-to-energy and waste disposal.

Listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange, the Australian Securities Exchange and London’s AIM market, Tlou is developing energy solutions for Botswana and

sub-Saharan Africa through gas-fired-power, solar power and hydrogen projects to alleviate some of the chronic power shortages in the region.

According to the company’s Managing Director (MD), Anthony Gilby, the BPOPF funding, which Tlou received in the first quarter of 2022 (between 1st January and 31st March), will be used to finance construction of transmission line infrastructure to connect Tlou’s Lesedi Project to the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) grid.

Tlou holds 100 percent ownership in Lesedi, which is the company’s most advanced gas project in Botswana.

SADC Flex Muscle To Stop Public Finance Management Ills



Southern Africa Development Committee Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) is seeking to help its member countries nip corruption, fraud, nepotism and cronyism rampant in public finance management (PFM) across the bloc through a Model Law.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Southern Africa Development Committee Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) is seeking to help its member countries nip corruption, fraud, nepotism and cronyism rampant in public finance management (PFM) across the bloc through a Model Law.

The Model Law is designed to assist the member states in reforming and modernizing their laws on public finance management.

With a draft document of the PFM Model Law, SADC PF Secretariat is soliciting inputs from various parliamentary committees across the region, especially public accounts committees, as the region intends to move towards modern ways of managing national fiscal management, plugging out different ills affecting the public purse.

SADC PF, Secretary General, Boemo Sekgoma said the bloc has been home to a number of alleged corruption issues which could have been better handled or monitored if parliaments had the necessary oversight powers.

“Sometimes, although parliament does have the constitutional prerogative to monitor PFM processes, the same is not used since there is no express provision to that effect in the standing orders or in any other law,” said Sekgoma.

Sekgoma said the SADC PF Secretariat was motivated to craft a harmonious regional response to guide national parliaments in monitoring of public fund processes by a need to consolidate PFM provisions.

The development of the Model Law is expected to be the winning formula for economic development to flourish across SADC and to heighten GDP per capita, according to Sekgoma.

“It is known that the foundations of economic development, and democratisation within SADC are indeed a corruption-free environment with the necessary checks and balances in place,” she said.

Sekgoma is upbeat that should all SADC national parliaments parliament be able to monitor PFM processes in all transparency and without hindrances, the regional bloc will progressively thrive and attain unprecedented economic prosperity.

“The SADC region has the potential to generate immense wealth which should trickle down to the SADC citizenry with the support of targeted Parliamentary initiatives on PFM.”

Sharing her sentiments, Zambia’s finance minister, Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane said the Model

Law will help tackle the issue of corruption in the bloc and other challenges on public finance.

“It’s an excellent piece of work, as the region makes continuous efforts to improve things,” said Dr. Musokotwane.

“I encourage the SADC PF forum to continue with this kind of work of making model laws,” he added.

He emphasized that though each country in the region has legislations governing public finance, the member countries should strive to improve the laws.

“Public finance should involve participation of all state organs to provide balance,” said Musokotwane.

“Sometimes, although parliament does have the constitutional prerogative to monitor PFM processes, the same is not used since there is no express provision to that effect in the standing orders or in any other law,” said Sekgoma.

He bemoaned that most governments still have centralized public finance administration.

“The decentralization of budget is key, the ministers of finance should empower local governments to manage spending and expenditure.”

Leader of Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando bringing it to the local scenario said there is always a problem of oversight in Botswana in the sense that when the backbenches from the ruling party act in unison with the executive it renders parliamentary oversight irrelevant.

“The desire is to make sure that we do have appropriate up to date legislation and that the model law will be an important tool for Botswana to reflect on what we have versus what happens in the most ideal situations,” said Saleshando.

SADC PF is developing a Public Finance Management Model Law, the first of its kind, intended to serve as a landmark regional benchmark to consolidate the oversight powers of SADC parliaments over various processes of public finance



Botswana’s overarching development challenge is slow economic transformation with limited economic diversification that is negatively impacting progress towards the country achieving high-income status by 2036, the Managing Director of Absa Bank Botswana, Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane, has said.

Low Economic Transformation Is Botswana’s Overarching Development Challenge - Absa MD

Says Absa supports SMMEs and agriculture as crucial bases of Botswana’s sustainable growth

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana’s overarching development challenge is slow economic transformation with limited economic diversification that is negatively impacting progress towards the country achieving high-income status by 2036, the Managing Director of Absa Bank Botswana, Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane, has said.

She was speaking at this year’s Absa Economic Forum in Gaborone recently. The annual event brought government officials, business executives and thought leaders under one roof to share perspectives on the state of the economy and the business landscape. This year’s event was held under the theme “Accelerating Transformative Investments in Botswana.”

Pheko-Mogashane said it is imperative for Botswana to attract quality and sustainable private sector investment if the country should reach its envisaged growth target. “The Government of Botswana has made notable strides in its efforts to increase the country’s investment appeal locally and beyond the domestic market,” she noted.

“Botswana has developed an Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) to support the restoration of economic activity and incomes, facilitate economic growth, accelerate economic transformation and build the resilience of the economy.”

Pheko-Moshagane said Absa has aligned its strategy to support the government’s diversification agenda and continues to support SMMEs and the agriculture sector as crucial bases of Botswana’s transformation and sustainable growth. “We face a great challenge before us, and we all have a role to play,” she said. “Accelerating transformative investment in Botswana requires strong partnerships and collaborations between the Government and the private sector.”

Speaking at the same event, the Minister of Entrepreneurship, Karabo Gare, said instruments that seek to promote effective participation of targeted citizens in the economic growth and development of the country like the Economic Inclusion Bill will significantly contribute to the growth of the government’s partnership with the private sector.

“This forum could not have come at a better time than this one as it allows us, both the private sector and the government, to introspect and come up with ways of enabling Botswana to invest in competitive businesses,” Minister Gare said.

He noted that the government is continuing to make notable strides in providing a conducive investment climate through sound macro-economic policies, legal and regulatory frameworks, and strong economic and political institutions that promote Botswana as a safe and desirable investment destination.



Mpho Sebina on Star-studded Lineup of MTN Bushfire

Fela Kuti's son Seun Kuti and his Egypt 80 band to headline festival what is a veritable worldwide lineup



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Soulful songbird Mpho Sebina is gearing up to join dozens of other African artists on stage at the highly-anticipated MTN Bushfire Festival.

Sebina was announced among the first batch of music stars who will not only entertain but use their art as a powerful form of creative expression from 27 to 29 May 2022 in Eswatini.

At the first in-person MTN Bushfire festival since cancellation of live events for control of the COVID-19 pandemic, the "Dinaledi" hitmaker will join Seun Kuti and Egypt 80 a 14-piece band who are this year's headline act. Seun is the youngest son of Nigerian Afrobeat legend Fela Kuti.

MTN Bushfire organiser,



Karla Smit said MTN Bushfire's line-up has always embraced the eccentric and unearthed the eclectic.

"Music, dance, spoken word – all forms of creative expression engage and enlighten us with powerful

messages and memorable performances. In true MTN Bushfire style, the line-up this year features a wholesome and family-friendly mix of pan-African and international artists from across different genres."

Music enthusiasts are in for a treat with Eswatini's very own Sands and his partner The One Who Sings, better known to many as Zolani Mahola of Freshlyground also featuring on the star-studded lineup. The world-renowned Ndlovu Youth Choir, will join top South African acts Nasty C, The Kiffness, Blk Jks, Sun-EL Musician, DBN Gogo, and Msaki as some of the artists billed to perform.

"Joining this amazing range of artists from further afield will be Aurus, a visually and sonically compelling act steeped in the unusual combination of Creole and English

lyrics from Reunion Island, Blindsmyth from Germany who crosses between deep electronic soundscapes and experimental pop music, Bnnyhunna, a Netherlands based multi-disciplinary and visionary artist who has Ghanaian roots, and Eritrea-born vocalist Rimon who has built her name on emotive songwriting and a rich vocal style, blending elements of hip-hop, neo-soul, and dancehall," added Smit

MTN Bushfire organiser, Karla Smit said MTN Bushfire's line-up has always embraced the eccentric and unearthed the eclectic.

Festival goers can also expect a diverse range of art, culture and family-friendly activities, performances and activations. This year's lineup includes theatre, comedy, dance and the ever-popular artisanal marketplace, Food Village, and Kidzone.

Introducing Botswana Travel & Tourism Awards

Convenor says the aim is to recognise those who have contributed to the industry thus far and to encourage aspiring players

GAZETTE REPORTER

Slated for Gaborone on 18 June 2022, the inaugural Botswana Travel & Tourism Awards (BTTA) is the latest big thing added to the country's events calendar.

Known the world over for its excellent hospitality and breathtaking tourism sights and marvels, the awards seek to recognise and reward key industry players in Botswana's tourism sector.

"We are excited and honoured to be hosting such a prestigious event for the tourism sector in Botswana," said event convenor, Kagiso Morebodi. "We feel it is about time that we recognised the hard work and efforts that go into making Bo-

tswana tourism what it is."

Running under the theme "Regenerating Botswana's Tourism through Culture, Heritage and Creativity," the awards are meant to recognise those who have contributed to the industry thus far and encourage aspiring players, entrepreneurs and professionals in the field.

Morebodi added: "We are proud of what tourism has done for Botswana and its people and hope to see ourselves reaching even greater heights. The Botswana Travel & Tourism Awards have the potential to promote inclusion as well as the art and culture of our country.

The awards were officially launched on 3rd May 2022 at the Gaborone International Convention Centre.



American Diamantaire says Customers prefer the Botswana Diamond

"The Botswana diamond doesn't have any negative association," says Olivia Landau of The Clear Cut

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Most American customers of leading direct to consumer diamond jewellery brand, The Clear Cut, always insist on the Botswana diamond, the Founder of the business, Olivia Landau, has said.

"The majority of our market is in America and they always insist on buying the Botswana diamond," Landau told *Time Out* on the sidelines of the Forbes Under 30 Summit last week.

With such a clientele, the diamantaire developed a keen interest in the Botswana diamond and was in Botswana as a delegate to the Forbes Under 30 Summit, a first for Africa, and joined an organised tour of a De Beers building in Gaborone alongside local jewellery designers to learn about Botswana's diamond story.

"Customers are very particular about the back story of the products they purchase," she said in an interview. "The Botswana diamond doesn't have any negative association. They are responsibly and ethically sourced and this is why they are in demand."

Landau, who runs her New York-based business with her husband Kyle Simon, helps couples design their diamond jewellery and educates them on the process. The Clear Cut founders



started out as a diamond information blog that turned into an e-commerce store that makes most of its sales through Instagram.

In relatively short order, the business became such a success that Landau has been named among Women of Impact who change lives and influence industries of the future. This year she was named Future Leader in Fashion by New York-based publication, *Glossy*, while Forbes has reported that Landau and her team have celebrated the milestone of reaching \$1 million in sales a month.

"We mostly specialise in wedding jew-

ellery," she disclosed. "While the wedding industry experienced a loss during lockdowns, we actually made more sales then because that was a time when people decided to get married and physical stores were closed and we are online."

But opacity still precedes what really happens around the sparkling business of diamonds. The situation is the same in Botswana where discovery of diamonds more than five decades ago became the most important catalyst in the country's economic growth. Ordinary Botswana feel left out and the vast majority of them have never

seen a diamond with their own eyes.

As experts in diamond exploration, mining, grading, marketing and retail, De Beers decided to open one of its Forevermark stores at the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport in Gaborone to bridge this gap and create inclusion.

"This store was also meant to give the ordinary Motswana a chance to see, touch and buy our diamonds. There are plans to expand the store to other parts of the country," De Beers External Communications Manager, Kesego Okie, said.

De Beers also provides a platform styled De Beers Group Designer's Initiative to champion talented young designers from producer countries. The designers get to showcase their talent through the prestigious Shining Light Awards that affords the winner training opportunities to develop their jewellery designing skills.

Mbako Baraedi is the 2016/ 2017 winner of the Shining Light Awards and went on to do his Masters in Accessory Design at Politecnico Da Milano-Poli Design in Italy. His winning collection, Li-Phant, was inspired by the theme of Protecting Nature's Beauty that illustrates a collection concept of a lion paw and an elephant tusk.

With collaboration of Forevermark, the collection was promoting nature's beauty by protecting the country's diamonds. "While pursuing my certificates, I worked at a local jewellery design shop where I mastered the skill of product design for a period of a year as an intern," Baraedi told *Time Out*. "I am now fully employed as a design manager for a period of six years."



IzauraCreations (Pic: Mothusi Lesolle facebook Page)

Botswana Fashion in Forbes

- For once the runway show was for profit and not just entertainment
- iZaura showcases a sustainable collection that celebrated Botswana's tourism
- Dihdah's collection uncovered 'Diamonds of the Desert'
- Pop-up market sells out

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The proud moment when the world spotted Botswana fashion on the runway and in the pages of Forbes was a new dawn for two local fashion designers. Mothusi Lesolle of iZaura and Candida Montsho of Dihdah.

The opportunity to showcase with a reputable brand, African Fashion International (AFI), was a historic fit for the designers who looked in the window of opportunity to make partnerships and sell their collections globally.

The AFI brought pan-African fashion to the fore when it partnered with the just-ended Forbes Under 30 Summit Africa in Gaborone and Botswana's tourism mecca of Kasane.

"Unfortunately Botswana fashion shows are staged for entertainment and it all ends on the runway," said Lesolle in an interview. "Over the years I have been selective about which shows I attend but the AFI came with a lot of opportunities to grow as brands. The fashion shows are meant to give a glimpse of what we can do as designers and our main interest really lies in what happens before and after the show, which is to attract buyers who can secure shelf space for our products in their chain stores."

Sharing the opportunities that came with the fashion showcase that was staged on the banks of Chobe River in Kasane, co-founder of Dihdah Candida said their collections are now available on the AFI online store and plans are underway for them to be sold at the AFI concept store, House of Nala, which is a one-stop shop of the best of African luxury fashion and accessories.

Said Candida: "We also had an opportunity to sell some of our designs that were not a part of the collection at a pop up market. We were sold out. Orders were made and our market was mainly international. Currently in Botswana we don't have any readymade designs in any international store and we are making history."

Keeping with the Forbes theme of sustainability, Candida and partner Wedu showcased their collection styled The Diamonds of the Desert that told a story about Botswana's main export. Donned by Botswana's top models Kaone Kario, Thanolo Keutlwile, Miss Botswana Palesa Molefe and Miss World runner up 2010 Emma Wareus, the collection featured a mix of couture and avant-garde designs for different occasions.

Lesolle's fashion brand iZaura showcased a sustainable regal collection celebrating Botswana's tourism. The collection also paid tribute to craftswomen who are an unrecognised part of the fashion industry's value chain.

Said Lesolle: "My collection gives an image of how women may want to look while on holiday in Botswana. As a sustainable fashion designer who also advocates commercialisation of culture, I believe that people and the environment we work in should benefit.

"The biggest lesson learnt is that Botswana's fashion industry needs to move out of its comfort zone. We still have a lot to learn and the relevant Government officials should benchmark with industry players to see how we can change the status of the industry. We want to see local brands in chain stores."

Founded in 2007, AFI developed its brand through owning and producing Fashion Weeks and has now evolved into an industry aggregator and lifestyle platform.

INFLUENCER SPOT WITH RYAN RAMONYEPELE



BY JOEY BADUBI JR.

Ryan Ramonyepele is one of the popular names that always pop up whenever you log into social media. A funny guy and meme creator of note who has grown to become one of the admired influencers in the country, he shares his journey with us in this edition of Influencer Spot.

Q1. Welcome Ryan. It is quite interesting to have you here.

A1. Thank you so much, big guy. Thank you for having me.

Q2. Sure. You are actually the

first Motswana I know with the name of Ryan. Is it your real name? Hahaha

A2. Haha. Yes it is my real name. But it is my middle name, my first name is Mothusi. So I am Mothusi Ryan Ramonyepele.

Q3. And your surname is quite long hey. I suspect it might have given you difficulties writing and spelling as a kid, did it not?

A3. Well it did. I had difficulties in both writing and spelling it. My Primary school teachers were always on my case man...

Q4. By the way, congratulations on your new car, man. I see

you don't shy away from showing it off.

A4. Thank you so much. I love that car. I am a fan of Off-Road cars, that is why I went all out on this one.

Q5. You once posted that, its motor plan is digging too deep from your pockets, were you genuine?

A5. Yes I was dead serious. But it is not way that bad. It is something that I can accommodate and live with, since I had planned for it. I'm very good with planning around my finances.

Q6. That is good. Usually people who are good at managing finances were good students at school. Did you get good grades back in school?

A6. Yeah I was a good student, I was always top 3 in all my classes, from standard 1 up to form 5. I was a naughty child, that I admit, but I was an incredible student as well.

Q7. And then you chose a health career path. I understand you are a dentist right?

A7. Yes I am a dentist; I am currently placed at Kanye Seventh Day Adventist Hospital, in Kanye.

Q8. Interesting. But before getting much into your health career, let us talk about your other career that has and still making you famous. Being a meme creator. How it all did begin and how it come about?

A8. Well, I have always been a funny guy. I will always make fun out of each and every serious situation, and at school I would always make fun of everything, making me a class clown. It is something that has always been engraved in me, and as I got used to social media, creating memes became an easy thing for me to do.

Q9. So how long have you been creating memes now?

A9. For a very long time my man. From the first time I got on Social media and as early as

I discovered memes. It became something I could easily do. But I started getting much recognition from around 2017...

Q10. Hmmhm. How do you do it so easily? Creating a memorable and funny meme is no child's play, it is basically comedy, but to you it seems like easy pie.

A10. I know right. Like I said, I have a very creative mind. I'm such a funny person myself. It is all in my blood. I could write jokes for Trevor Noah even, hahaha..

Q11. Hahaha. Maybe you should seriously try that, you would never know. So as a meme creator, do you make income from your craft?

A11. Well, it depends on how you play your cards, and why you do memes in the first place. But in this day and era of Influencers, you can make income out of it. Besides my job, I make passive income out of being a meme creator. I do not emphasize too much effort on the economic benefits of it since I have a stable job.

Q12. So do you ever feel proud after your meme/post generate a huge number of reactions, comments and shares?. How is the feeling of it in general?

A12. Yeah I do feel proud. You have no idea. That is one of the best feelings ever. It is like a stand-up comedian making a joke then the audience reacts to it with laughter. It somehow validates your work and craft...

Q13. I see. So meme creation has somehow turned you into an influencer right? How is it like being an influencer? And how is it like being well known in general?

A13. Being an Influencer has its Pro's and Con's. Having your life under a microscopic eye on its own creates different kinds of pressures, and you somehow become limited to privacy. But there are positives as well, as I already mentioned. It really comes in handy for me in terms of business. I have a clothing line called Ryan's Classics, and I capitalize on my following for marketing. I used to sell phones as well, and it made it all easy for me to get them off the shelves.

Q14. Does the popularity score points for you around women

though?..

A14. Hahaha. Not really, because I am in a serious relationship right now, and I am not searching.

Q15. Haha, okay. So who is she?...

A15. Well, I cannot really reveal her identity now. She doesn't want to be known, hehe.

Q16. Hehe, Okay. Let us get back to your other job now. How do you juggle between being a dentist and a meme creator?

A16. Like I already mentioned, creating memes is just something that is engraved in me. I can create a meme even when I'm riding a horse, it doesn't take much away from me. Being an Influencer is just a part time thing for me, because my job is obviously my main priority. So I just juggle everything well into place.

Q17. I see. Do you have any wishes of advancing your dentist career further?

A17. Well I have a whole lot of wishes man. That included. I really want to advance my career further, and at the same I would like to grow my Influencer brand as well. They are two things that I am both passionate about, but I will see at time goes because I cannot really juggle them both forever. I will obviously have to make an economic decision on it.

Q18. Still on that, I understand that there is a provision in place for Botswana nurses to start working in the United Kingdom. What is your take on that? And as a health worker yourself, would you not like to work in the UK as well?

A18. Well it is a good thing. Such relationship would be good for the advancement of Botswana's health sector. But at the same time, the country might suffer in terms of losing nurses. It solely depends on how it will be done and how the Government reacts to it. And as for me, well, if the offer is good I will definitely take it. It will entirely depend on that.

Q19. Alright man. Well, Ryan, Thank you so much for joining us man. Until next time...

A19. Thanks. Cheers man.

Zim star Alick Macheso's music festival flops

- Organisers blame unruly behaviour of some youths
- Entrance gate broken and section of perimeter wall collapsed

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The entrance gate was broken and a part of the perimeter fence around Obed Itani Chilume Stadium in Francistown collapsed, thanks to an unruly mob of youths who gained forced entry to the much-anticipated African Music United Concert in that soon became a massive flop over last Friday.

The festival was to be headlined by Zimbabwean sungura genre legend, Alick Macheso, with an impressive lineup of local stars also billed to perform.

The organisers had expected thousands to throng the Obed Chilume Stadium for the festival that was aimed at promoting cultural exchange among African countries but there were less than 300 revellers in the end.

The inspiring local lineup did not do the few revellers any favour either. They include legendary kwasa-kwasa artists Franco Lesokwane, award winning Odirile Sento who is commonly known as Vee Mampezy, and Jeff Matheatau.

In an interview with Time

Out, Brian Marumisa of BeyondBrian Entertainment attributed the poor turnout to chaos at the gate that resulted from the unruly behaviour of some youths who wanted to negotiate the entry price. They overpowered the security guard on duty and gained forced entry.

"There was a long queue at the entrance at around midnight and some people started causing chaos," Marumisa said. "Some even threw stones and bottles at the security guards and made their way into the stadium. It was so disappoint-



Alick Macheso (Pic: facebookPage)

ing that decent people were not able to buy tickets."

Marumisa said the chaotic situation resulted in the entrance gate being broken and a segment of the stadium wall

collapsing.

However, Marumisa said despite the failure in Francistown, the second leg of the festival held in Gaborone on Saturday was a success.

Masisi Iterates His Commitment To Resuscitating Bargaining Council

From Page 11

“I note that this day is commemorated under a national theme, ‘Empowering Workers and Strengthening Social Dialogue for Real Economic Recovery and Transformation in the Workplace.’ This theme cannot be more fitting because it espouses the very ideals that we cherish as a democratic government, which are to empower Batswana to participate in the economic development of their country, and to have an equitable share in its gains so as to eradicate poverty altogether.”

President Masisi appealed to the two union federations to actively take part in the Reset Agenda to help stimulate the economic recovery of the country. “I wish to commend you BOFEPUSU and BFTU for working together in advancing the interests of the workers,” he said. “This joint commemoration on its own gives my heart a lot of gratitude as it shows commitment, maturity, foresight and willingness to make a difference in the labour relations of this country. Keep it up, comrades!”

Meanwhile, this year’s civil service negotiations are expected to be tense after a confidential memo stating that the poor state of the budget means no increment can be awarded to civil servants was leaked.

Civil servants received increments ranging from 6 percent to 10 percent in the 2019/20 and the 2020/21 financial years. The increments, together with the impact of COVID-19, have been blamed for worsening budget deficits that led to widening the country’s tax base and raising taxes and levies in April 2021.



Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) will remain relevant and survive in its strongholds in the buildup to the next general elections without involvement of former President Ian Khama, the youth league of the party has said.

“We Can Survive Without Khama” - BPF Youth

From Page 11

sary strategies to build on to what has been established.”

He said the BPFYL suspects that allegations levelled against Khama could be fabricated in order to drive him away and prevent him from helping the opposition from wresting power from the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP).

“It is possible that the allegations are fabricated, considering that the opposition - particularly the BPF - was growing at a fast pace that threatened the BDP,” he asserted, “The timing of the allegations was also convenient because it came at a time when most parties are positioning themselves for the 2024 elections.”

“Khama’s absence is not a weakness to the BPF but rather a litmus test to gauge the political dynamics of the BPF and the party has since proven them solid. Of course, we stand in solidarity with our beloved patron and are firmly opposed to his persecution, but his absence cannot

weaken the organization.”

“Of course, we stand in solidarity with our beloved patron and are firmly opposed to his persecution, but his absence cannot weaken the organization.”

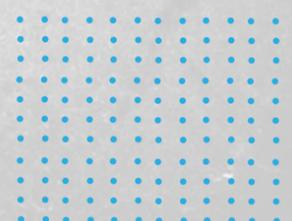
In the lead-up to the 2019 general elections, Khama’s status as paramount chief of BaNgwato and appeal as a former president proved to be a potent weapon in the hands of the BPF. Under Khama’s inspiration and direction, the coalition Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) and the BPF forged a strategic partnership.

DEBSWANA 

NOTICE

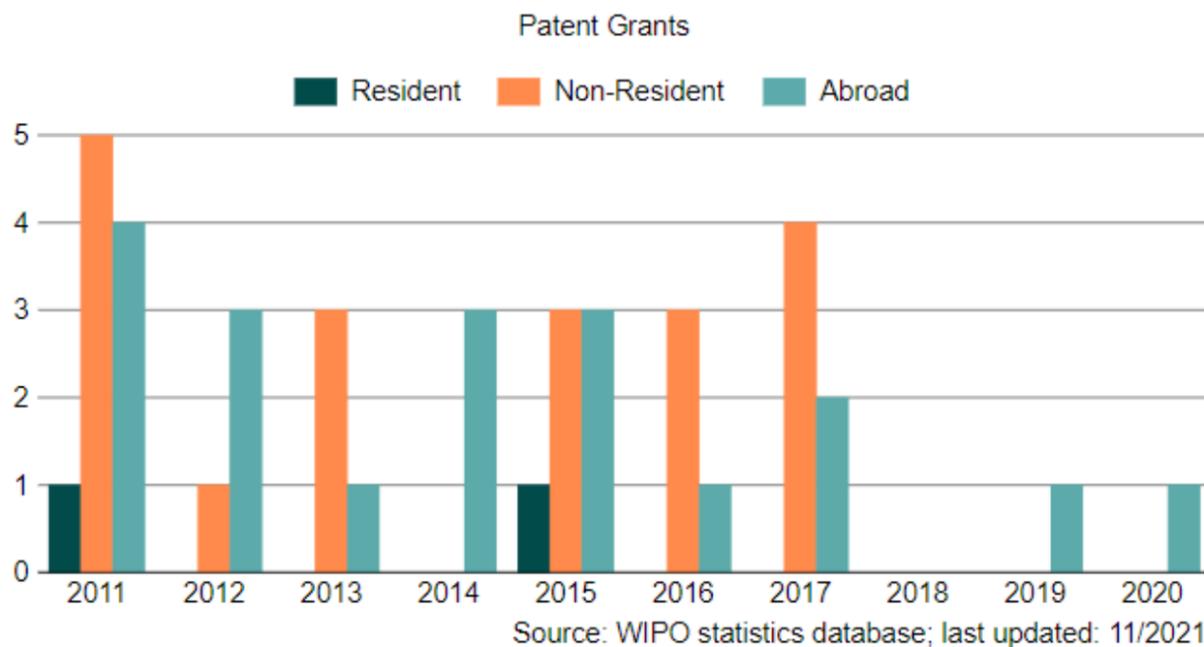
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Innovation – The Beating Heart Of A Progressive Economy

How often has it been said that Botswana must become a more knowledge and innovation centric nation – most likely it is daily or even hourly. Not a moment goes by in any speech or discussion when the term innovation does not creep in. None more so than this week at the 2022 Forbes under 30 Summit very proudly held in the capital of Botswana – Gaborone. In this item **DOUGLAS RABASH** asks what exactly innovation is; how innovation ready or inclined is Botswana; what are the best success indicators for innovation; how does Botswana shape up and how can it improve?



Firstly, what is innovation? There are as many definitions of innovation as there are experts defining it. Generally, they talk of realising an idea or concept to add value - normally linked to corporate goals. But out of sixty definitions, this one seems to be right, thanks to Whitney Johnson 'You approach a problem or challenge in a way that turns out to be better than before'. In other words innovation neither relates to scale or value or commercial gain – simply innovation makes things better than before. After all nobody will innovate to make things worse.

It is said that necessity is the mother of all invention. Life in Botswana has for the last two generations benefited from the inventiveness of others – mostly non-Batswana. Almost all products and services are imported, from ITC to banking from mineral extraction to tourism – the list of leading enterprises that are results of home-grown innovation is very limited. So perhaps necessity has yet to bite into the Botswana persona. Certainly creativity – the prerequisite for innovation – is perhaps not cultivated in schools. Basic education remains stuck in the time warp of the three Rs (reading, writing, and 'rithmetic) and delivered in the educationally anarchistic method of learning by wrote. With learning through discovery being far removed from the educationalists' lexicon – creative thinking is a very scarce resource.

Then there is the preoccupation with innovation infrastructure – such as the Botswana Innovation Hub - which is conceived on the notion that fancy buildings and environment maketh innovators. It forgets that back yards and dimly lit garages have been the work-places of the most celebrated innovators. Steve Jobs invented the iconic Apple II from his garage in 1977 and similarly Gottlieb Daimler and Wilhelm Maybach founded Daimler Motoren Gesellschaft (DMG) in 1892. Isaac Newton sat under a tree to realise gravity while in the year 1752, Benjamin Franklin conducted an experiment using a kite and key on a rainy day in his back yard so to speak and discovered electricity. So architectural masterpieces and sophisticated landscaping may not necessarily produce innovators.

Possibly the best measures of an innovate society or nation are those of patents and trade-marks registered with the World Intellectual Property Organisation WIPO. Before we glimpse at the WIPO statistics to see how many patents our nationals have been granted, lets first look and the WIPO compound Global Innovation Index GII. The GII has been going for many years and is built up from some eighty or so pieces of information as shown in the table. The overall result of the GII was that in 2019 Botswana scores ranged from 65.7/100 for its institutions, which is very good down to a dismally low 14.3/100 for

its creative outputs. The overall GII ranking for Botswana in 2019 was 93/121 which surprisingly it fell to 106th in 2021. The GII index is moving in the opposite direction to that which this government has intended and may partly explain the constant reshuffling of Ministry's portfolios. What government has done very well is to create institutions and regulations but what it has singularly failed to do is to engender creative and innovative people. Perhaps it is a bit trite, but garages might be more creative spaces than suites of fine offices and landscaped gardens.

The innovativeness of Botswana compared to Sub-Saharan-Africa other upper middle-income countries and the top ten innovators is shown in the radar diagram. It shows that while Botswana is on a par with the average in SSA, it falls behind other middle-income countries especially in human capital and research creativity and knowledge. It has to be said also that being on a par with forty or so Sub-Saharan Countries is not satisfactory, given that Botswana is the world's fourth highest spender on education. Possibly having an Education Act that is 50 years old and a similarly ancient education policy of 1977 may have relevance. The prevailing policy continues to endorse the philosophy of 'Education for Kagisano'; social harmony is perfect for a newly independent country with the objective of nation building, but not one focussed on innovation. In

fact, creativity is invariably divisive, such as progressives versus reactionaries. Coping with the dynamics of change is very hard for an instinctively conservative nation more disposed to maintaining the status quo.

Moving onto the key outcome of innovation and that simply has to be the number patents registered by Batswana at WIPO. In the last ten years only two Batswana were granted patents by WIPO in 2011 and 2015 as shown on the bar chart while non-residents located in Botswana were granted nineteen patents as were Batswana Nationals living overseas. **Only two Batswana have been granted patents by WIPO over the last ten years – this is the best indicator of the level of innovation in Botswana and it does not look good.**

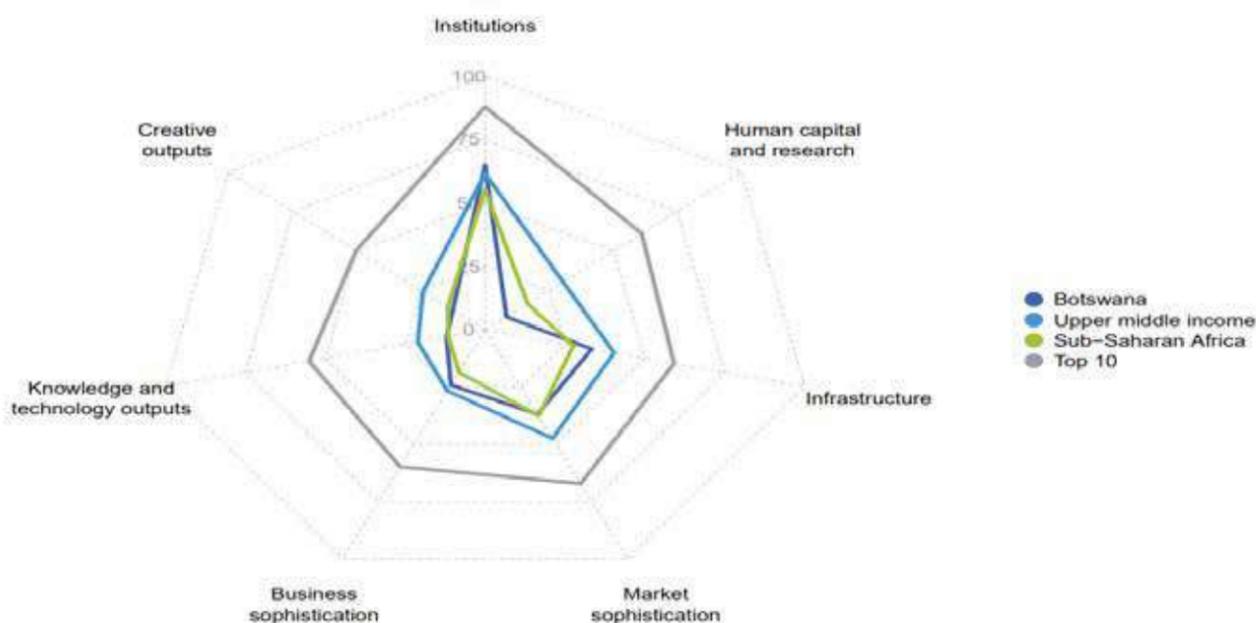
Possibly the best measures of an innovate society or nation are those of patents and trade-marks registered with the World Intellectual Property Organisation WIPO.

Ethics, professionalism and a collaborative spirit are not to be ignored when considering inculcating a climate of innovation. One of the difficulties often cited by would-be inventors is the predatory nature of others to steel ideas – even public officials, although we have no evidence of this. Certainly, sharing experience and information to the common good is not particularly in evidence in a society that keeps their cards close to their chests. Hopefully the knowledge-based society will gradually change the myopia.

But very profoundly if the dots are joined up there is a disturbing insight to reveal. Botswana is ranked very lowly 146/152 in the World Happiness Index (WHI) as the Gazette has reported many times recently. Now Government's position is to disregard the WHI and perhaps, at least publicly, refuse to acknowledge the symptoms of social dysfunctionality such as rape, suicide and divorce. But one question must be answered, is it possible that a dystopian society could be fertile ground for creative thinking? The answer to this must be self-evident.

Food for thought, Botswana spends more on education as a proportion of its economy than almost any other country in the world but cannot create or invent a worthy product, system or service. Sobering as it is, Government is most certainly cognoscente with the issues, but throwing money at buildings and institutions is clearly not the answer - overhauling basic education is. **Young minds need to be preconditioned to be progressive not compliant, creative not conformist and confident and not reticent, importantly, as long as Batswana are basically unhappy, they will not invent a thing.**

The seven GII pillar scores for Botswana



Source and photo credit: WIPO 2021

Botswana To Capacitate Rwanda's Beef Industry

- MoU signed between BITC and Rwandese counterpart for the purpose
- 33 Botswana companies attended trade forum in Kigali last week

KATLEGO RAKOLA

The Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) is expected to start capacitating Rwanda in production of beef soon. This follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) and its Rwandan counterpart, the Rwanda Development Board, during a trade and investment forum that took place in Kigali, Rwanda last week.

The MoU is aimed at fostering cooperation in investment between the two countries. According to BITC, one area of immediate and keen interest is the beef industry in which Botswana has expertise.

Speaking with The Botswana Gazette from the Rwandan capital, the CEO of BITC, Kelotsositse Olebile, said although Banyarwanda traditionally rear cattle and have quite a lot of the animals, they have never turned them into a commercial venture. The formal partnership with Botswana's the beef industry is considered a viable means to that end.



Speaking with The Botswana Gazette from the Rwandan capital, the CEO of BITC, Kelotsositse Olebile, said although Banyarwanda traditionally rear cattle and have quite a lot of the animals, they have never turned them into a commercial venture.

The MoU is aimed at fostering cooperation in investment between the two countries. According to BITC, one area of immediate and keen interest is the beef industry in which Botswana has expertise.

Olebile noted that Botswana has an end to end beef value chain from which Rwanda can benefit. This includes cattle tracing systems, globally accredited ab-

attoirs and processing of beef by-products. "They are looking at relevant practitioners and organisations to come in and help them with formalising their beef industry," he said.

The two organisations piggybacked on the Rwanda-Botswana Trade and Investment Forum to formalise their partnership, with Rwanda guiding Botswana in matters of investment strategy. "Rwanda is one of the best when it comes to trade and investment facilitation," Olebile noted. "We believe we can learn a lot from them."

Thirty-three companies from Botswana were on the delegation that engaged and cut deals with companies in Rwanda during the trade and investment forum. Key areas of investment being pursued in Rwanda are in tourism, agriculture, manufacturing and services, as well as technology and innovation.

No Blessings For UK Bound Nurses From Govt

- Says departure of nurses in large numbers is "not a desirable situation"
- First batch expected to leave in three months
- UK recruitment agency midwives, mental health nurse and community health nurses

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government will not give the anticipated mass exodus of nurses to the United Kingdom (UK) its blessings despite its failure to absorb them in jobs. Responding to a questionnaire from The Botswana Gazette, the Chief Public Relations Officer in the Ministry of Health, Dr Christopher Nyanga, described the recruitment of nurses by the UK as "not a desirable situation system."

"The ministry is aware of reports about an ongoing recruitment of nurses by some international organisations," Dr Nyanga said. "The departure of nurses or any healthcare workers in huge numbers is definitely not a desirable situation for any health care system."

He stated that it is common cause that healthcare is one of the most sought-after services in any country and that it is important that all resources necessary for the full functioning of a health system are in place. "The ministry regards healthcare workers, including nurses, as a critical resource for the full functioning of the health system," Nyanga continued.

"It is for this reason that the ministry has initiated some changes that could see healthcare providers, including nurses, experiencing an improvement in their

conditions of service. These changes among others, cover issues relating to progression and training for all healthcare workers, including the nursing and midwifery cadre."

"The ministry is aware of reports about an ongoing recruitment of nurses by some international organisations," Dr Nyanga said. "The departure of nurses or any healthcare workers in huge numbers is definitely not a desirable situation for any health care system."

The Secretary General of Botswana Nurses Union (BONU), Lebogang Philip, recently told the media that they will determine the number of nurses to be recruited and logistics over the weekend.

Philip said the recruitment is being done through Professionals Limited, an international healthcare recruitment agency headquartered in London which was formed in 2013 with the specific aim of help NHS trusts and health boards with recruitment of nurses from overseas.

"We have already conducted interviews in Gaborone and Lobatse and will do Francistown today (Wednesday) to determine the number of nurses that will work in the UK," Philip added.

He stated that BONU's engagement with the UK agency came about after engaging the government several times about absorbing nurse graduates but were told that there are no posts at public health facilities.

"The agency has made it clear that they intend to recruit nurses with six months' or more experience," Philip explained. "They are targeting those in the field of mental health, community nursing and midwives."

Philip stated that they previously wrote to request that the nurses be exempted from writing an English paper as a prerequisite but they were not responded to. He said they expect the first batch of nurses to leave for the UK in three months.

According to BONU Secretary for International Affairs, Pinkie Mpinba-Joseph, their partnership with NEU ??? will make it easier for Batswana to work abroad.

The government has over the years acknowledged the need to employ nurses as they graduated but pointed to shortage of posts as a constraint. Between 250 and 300 nurses graduate every year in Botswana.

Govt Repeats Promise Of Freedom Of Information

... but MISA Botswana seeks to hold President Masisi to his word and says it is time to act



The theme of this year's commemoration was Journalism Under Siege. Dipowe emphasised it is imperative for the government to ensure that its promise of media freedom is fulfilled, saying the media has enjoyed a cordial relationship with the government that since Masisi became president.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government intends to repeal the Media Practitioners Act (MPA) before the end of President Mokgweetsi Masisi's term of office, government spokesman John Dipowe has said in a telephone interview.

Contacted as the world commemorated World Press Freedom Day yesterday (3rd May), Dipowe said it has always remained government's priority to ensure that the Act

is repealed in order to allow for self-regulation regulation within the media industry.

The theme of this year's commemoration was Journalism Under Siege. Dipowe emphasised it is imperative for the government to ensure that its promise of media freedom is fulfilled, saying the media has enjoyed a cordial relationship with the government that since Masisi became president.

"Ever since President Mokgweetsi Masisi ascended to

the presidency in 2018, the relationship between the government and the press is cordial," he asserted. "That is why the President continues to host press conferences so that they (journalists) can ask questions on issues of national interest."

He said repealing a freedom of information bill is a long process that requires, among other things, drafting of the bill by the Attorney General before it can be taken to Parliament.

On the other hand, the National Director of the Botswana chapter of the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA Botswana), Tefo Phatshwane, said President Masisi had indicated that that his administration was willing to look into promoting media freedom but there is little progress to that end. "The media in Botswana has functional structures in place to enable self-regulation, which has been the case over the years," Phatshwane noted.

"Ever since President Mokgweetsi Masisi ascended to the presidency in 2018, the relationship between the government and the press is cordial," he asserted. "That is why the President continues to host press conferences so that they (journalists) can ask questions on issues of national interest."

"To argue that they cannot repeal the Act with no substantive replacement would lead to unregulated media posing risk of abuse to members of the public is a non-starter. As stated before, this law has been in place for 12 years now and those aggrieved had structures to report to, including the Press Council of Botswana and the courts of the country."

He asserted that the effect of the failure of Parliament to repeal the MPA means that a dark and ominous cloud continues to hang over the heads of media practitioners while preservation of the status quo means that the media legislative environment continues to be a chilling and hostile one.

"Press Freedom is an indispensable hallmark of any democratic society and many younger countries that appreciate the role of the media have gone the extra mile to create a legislative environment that is conducive for media practitioners to do their work," said Phatshwane.

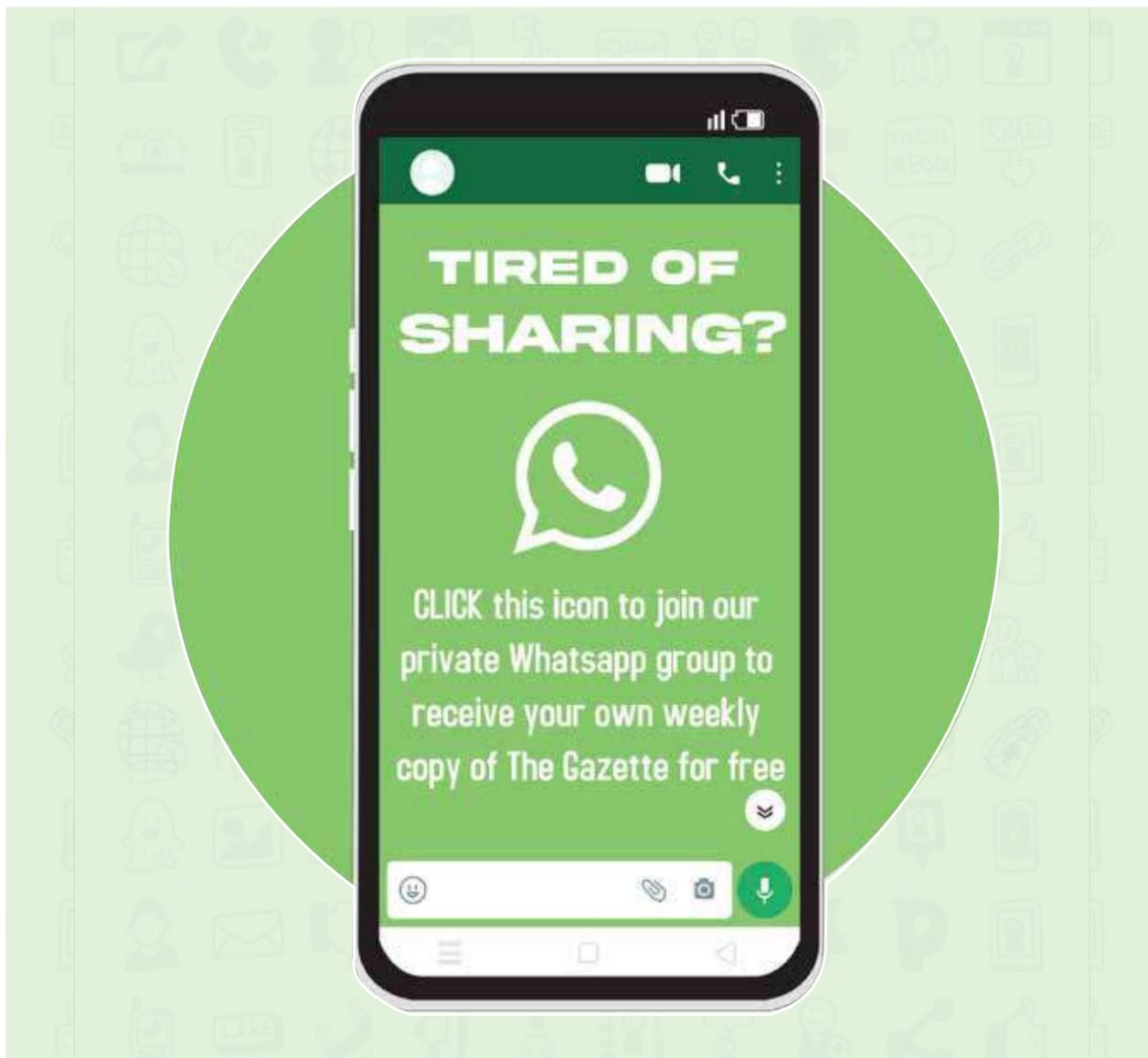
On the other hand, Botswana continues to cling to legislation that is purposely designed to frustrate the media in their work instead of words supported by action as a true indication of commitment to supporting media freedom.

In the lead-up to the 2019 general elections, President Masisi said guaranteeing free media was not only the cornerstone of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) 2019 election manifesto but was also the foundation of any truly democratic country.

"Although it is sometimes hard to balance government and the media's interests, it is a non-negotiable commitment of the BDP to work towards strengthening the principle of freedom of speech for all Batswana and all sectors of the media," he said.

He emphasised that since he took over as President of Botswana, he had worked hard to ensure that journalists were able to do their work unencumbered and that the freedom of expression that is enshrined in the constitution is upheld.

"My BDP-led government and I have pledged to repeal the Media Practitioners Act of 2008 that was signed into law by Ian Khama in 2008 that restricted the freedom of the media," the President pledged. "We support the Botswana media's investigation of corruption at any level of society or the public service."





Botswana National Stadium (Pic: Bendan Photography FACEBOOKPAGE)

Tebogo Sets a New World Junior Record After Running Sub 10 at GIM

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's most promising sprinter, Letsile Tebogo has again proved to the world that he is the future of short sprints when he dominated the 100m race at the recent Gaborone International Meet (GIM) 2022 Bronze Continental Tour held in Gaborone at weekend. Tebogo smashed the 100m World Junior record after clocking 9.96 seconds

in men's 100m which was also a national record.

The 19-year-old Kanye native was pitted against the best in the continent such as Richardson Benjamin of South Africa who clocked 10.08s, Bruintjies Hendrico (10.16) and Canadian based Motswana Stephen Abosi who finished 4th with 10.28s. The world under 20 record was long set in 2014 by the American top sprinter Trayvon Bromell at

the World Juniors. Tebogo earned himself a qualification to the World Championships slated for Oregon, USA in June where he is set to be pitted against the best (Seniors) in the world for the first time in his career.

He became the first Motswana to run sub 10 seconds in 100m in the history of Botswana Athletics. In an post-match interview Tebogo said he is very happy and excited with his performance as it is a true reflection

of hard work. "I am very proud of myself that I made history by running sub 10 at my age. The love I got from Batswana made me feel special and it also motivated me to do well in future. I was not so sure of the weather conditions on the day, that's why I did not expect such a performance, I was also wary of the threat that my opponents were posing, the likes of Gift Leotlela and Abosi but I am happy I made it. I am going to work hard now so that I ready to take on the world in Oregon in two months time," he said. Tebogo joins his teammates who have already qualified for the world championships like Nijel Amos, Isaac Makwala, Anthony Pesela and Bayapo Ndori.

The Namibian sprint sensation Christine Mboma who is also an Olympics 200m silver medalist displayed a brilliant performance in both 100m and 200m where she clocked a world leading time of 21.87 seconds in 200m. Her Namibian counterpart Beatrice Masilingi finished 6th in 100m after incurring an injury on track rendered her unfit for 200m.

Isaac Makwala also put up a brilliant performance in both 100m and 200m on his last race in the country before retirement at the end of the season. Tsaone Sebele and Christine Botlogetswe also did well in their respective races (200m and 400m) winning silver medals.

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

CASE NO. CVHGB 003479/20

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
 and
MOSIMANEGAPE LUBINDA

Plaintiff
Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that a sale in execution against Defendant will be held by **DEPUTY SHERIFF OPELO MOTHIBI** to the highest bidder as follows;

DATE : 25th May 2022
TIME OF SALE : 10:00 hours
PLACE OF SALE : Tribal Lot 11882 Mogoditshane, unit consisting of section no. 6 and Balcony BA3 and BA4 of Shale Home Scheme,

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendant's rights, title and interest on a Certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 11882 Mogoditshane, unit consisting of section no. 6 and Balcony BA3 and BA4 of Shale Home Scheme, measuring 70m², held under Notarial Deed of Cession of Real Rights- Exclusive Use Areas No. CCR 117/2016 dated 16th September 2016 made in favour of **MOSIMANEGAPE LUBINDA**, comprising of two bedroom fitted, sitting room bathroom with toilet. Fitted kitchen.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : May be inspected at the office of the Deputy Sheriff.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2022.

Deputy Opelo Mothibi
 c/o **OTTO ITUMELENG Law Chambers**
 Tholo Office Park
 Plot 50668/9, Unit 3A
 Mpingo Building, Fairgrounds
 P O Box 46291
GABORONE
CELL:72234419/77636760

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

CASE NO. CVHGB 003466/20

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
 and
SEMAKALENG FARAI MAJELANTLE

Plaintiff
Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that a sale in execution against Defendant will be held by **DEPUTY SHERIFF OPELO MOTHIBI** to the highest bidder as follows;

DATE : 25th May 2022
TIME OF SALE : 14:00 hours
PLACE OF SALE : Lot 18064 Gaborone West

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendant's rights, title and interest on a Certain piece of land being Lot 18064 Gaborone West, measuring 700m², held under Deed of Transfer No. 1615/2011 dated 31st August 2011 made in favour of **SEMAKALENG FARAI MAJELANTLE**, comprising of three bedroom fitted, sitting room, kitchen, combined toilet and bathroom, servant squatters, paved, screen wall with electric fence.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : May be inspected at the office of the Deputy Sheriff.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2022.

Deputy Opelo Mothibi
 c/o **OTTO ITUMELENG Law Chambers**
 Tholo Office Park
 Plot 50668/9, Unit 3A
 Mpingo Building, Fairgrounds
 P O Box 46291
GABORONE
CELL:72234419/77636760

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

CASE NO. CVHGB 001610/21

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
 and
MOGOMOTSI NOAH MARAMBE
EVELYNE MMASERAME MARAMBE

Plaintiff
1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that a sale in execution against Defendant will be held by **DEPUTY SHERIFF OPELO MOTHIBI** to the highest bidder as follows;

DATE : 27th May 2022
TIME OF SALE : 10:00 hours
PLACE OF SALE : **Lot 26265 Gaborone West**

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendant's rights, title and interest on a Certain piece of land being Lot 26265 Gaborone West, measuring 450m², held under Deed of Transfer No. 465/2009 dated 6th March 2009 made in favour of **MOGOMOTSI NOAH MARAMBE AND EVELYNE MMASERAME MARAMBE**, comprising of master in suite, two bedroom, fitted bathroom, toilet, dining room, kitchen, sitting room, garage, servant squatters, double parking paved screen wall with electric fence.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : May be inspected at the office of the Deputy Sheriff.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2022.

Deputy Opelo Mothibi
 c/o **OTTO ITUMELENG Law Chambers**
 Tholo Office Park
 Plot 50668/9, Unit 3A
 Mpingo Building, Fairgrounds
 P O Box 46291
GABORONE
CELL:72234419/77636760

LIQUIDATOR'S NOTICE

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

CASE NO. MAHGB-000355-21
MASTER'S REF: - LQHGB 000012/21

THE BRAND CONNECTIONS (PTY) LTD – IN LIQUIDATION

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

PURSUANT to section 447 of the Companies Act, notice is hereby given that Debtors and Creditors of The Brand Connections (Pty) Ltd are required to pay their debts, handover all property and assets in their possession and file their claims respectively to the undersigned, appointed as liquidator within thirty (30) days hereof.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 3rd DAY OF APRIL 2022.

Harold Mwanjeni Kachaje – Liquidator,
c/o Impact Business Consultant (Pty) Ltd
 Central Square, Unit 103, Plot 54354, New CBD, Gaborone, Botswana.

"There is absolutely no reason why you should not host the AFCON finals. The benefits are enormous,"



Botswana National Stadium (Pic: Bendan Photography FACEBOOKPAGE)

Namibia, Botswana AFCON bid takes early shape

GAZETTE REPORTER

Talks between neighbours Botswana and Namibia over the hosting of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations finals are gaining traction. The two countries explored the possibility of hosting CAF's biennial

tournament last December, and talks have progress since then. Officials from the two countries, including ministers responsible for sports, attended the AFCON finals in Cameroon in February.

This was followed by a Namibian delegation visiting Botswana which saw official talks take off

the ground. The hosting will be on a 60-40percent ratio, with Botswana getting the larger slice. "At the moment, there is a lot being done, including putting together the bid committee and ultimately the bid document. There is buy-in from both governments which is encouraging," said a

member involved in the talks but not authorised to talk to the media.

"There have been a lot of interactions, including Namibian officials visiting Botswana and attending the Mascom Charity Cup in Francistown," the official said. While the two countries are laying the ground work for the hosting, the costs of organising the tournament could prove to be a stumbling block. Last week, CAF president, Patrice Motsepe during a visit to Gaborone, encouraged the two countries to bid for the

tournament, arguing the benefits outweigh the costs.

"There is absolutely no reason why you should not host the AFCON finals. The benefits are enormous," he said. Due to limited availability of facilities, particularly stadia in Namibia, the costs could skyrocket. Namibia has no suitable venue to host international matches which could mean building new facilities. Botswana has three stadiums considered decent enough to host the tournament.

Obed Itani Chilume, the National Stadium and the Lobatse Sports Complex look certainties to be considered if a bid is put through. But further works could be required as the host should have a 40,000 seater facility, with the three falling below that capacity. Meanwhile, Botswana will have no representative when regional body, COSAFA goes to the polls on May 14. COSAFA will vote for a new committee during the annual general assembly to be held in Namibia.

The closing deadline for nominations was April 10, but no local official raised their hand for consideration. According to COSAFA, all the 10 nominees were vetted and were deemed fit to contest for office. "The Review Sub Committee of the Governance Committee can confirm to COSAFA Secretariat that all nominees are eligible to stand for the Elections for the General Assembly to vote on," COSAFA said in a statement on Monday. The regional bloc will have a new president, Artur Almeida e Silva of Angola is unopposed. He expected to replace Zimbabwean, Philip Chiyangwa who is not seeking re-election.

Orebonye fires OCK to CAF Confederation Cup contention

BONGANI MALUNGA

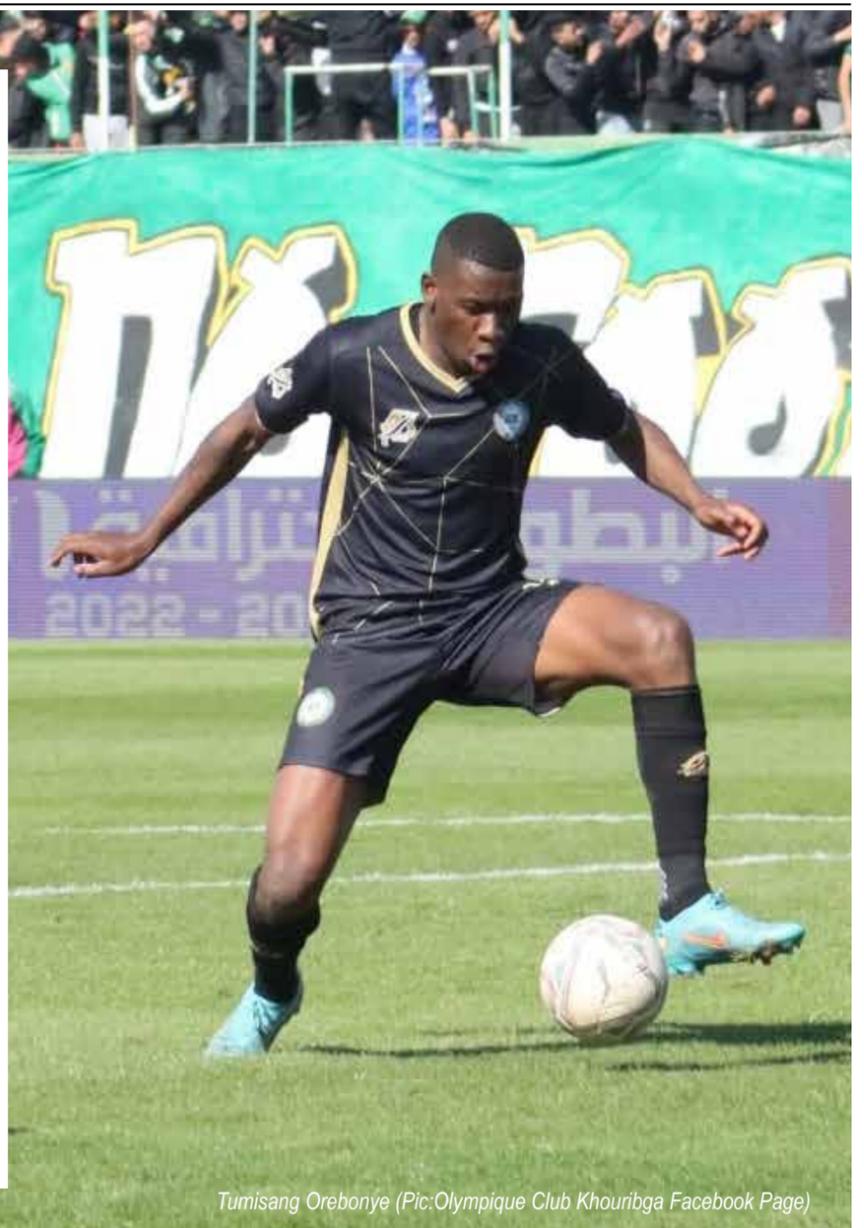
Tumisang Orebonye scored the winning goal as his club Olympique Club Khouribga (OCK) won 2-1 against Rapide Oued Zem in the Botola Pro (Moroccan Premier League) last week Monday. The win has steered the club from potential relegation danger to CAF Confederation Cup contention in the space of a week.

With the game increasingly heading for a draw Orebonye entered the game in the 66th minute and quickly asserted himself with the winning goal to send his club to the sixth spot on the log. As it stands OCK are only one point behind third placed Maghreb Fes and fourth placed RSB Berkane. Maghreb and Berkane are level on points (31) while OCK are

on 30 points after 22 games so far in the league.

The third and fourth spots on the log in Botola Pro yield CAF Confederation Cup football. Before the international break the club was nervously looking down the table as one slip up could have dragged them closer to the drop zone. They were only six points ahead of 15th placed Mouloudia Oujda but they have now created a comfortable cushion between themselves and the relegation threatened teams.

Orebonye's goal was his seventh of the season, he is now tied with countryman and teammate Kabelo Seakanyeng. Only three players in the league have scored more goals than the Botswana pair. OCK will resume league action against 11th placed FUS Rabat on Sunday.



Tumisang Orebonye (Pic:Olympique Club Khouribga Facebook Page)

Orange FA Cup Quarterfinal ties revealed

GU aiming to emulate a 22 year old record set by Mogoditshane Fighters

BONGANI MALUNGA

Orange FA Cup reigning champions Gaborone United will continue their quest to defend their crown as they will face Police XI in the quarterfinals. The clash is the headline tie in the last eight of the competition as the Reds will face a potential banana skin in the form of the unpredictable Police XI in a one off knock-out tussle.

GU lifted the 2019/2020 trophy in

December last year after beating Masisaoka FC in the final. Last year's run was a continuation of the 2019/2020 season which had been halted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Moyagoleele are aiming to win the competition on successive occasions.

No team has won the competition (FA Challenge Cup) two years in a row since Mogoditshane Fighters in 1999 and 2000. The club is also aiming to achieve a league and cup dou-

ble, a feat that was last achieved by Township Rollers in the 2017/2018 season.

In other last eight ties Extension Gunners will face Security Systems. Jwaneng Galaxy will tussle with the winner of the tie between Matebele and TAFIC while Sua Flamengoes will host BDF XI. The last 16 tie between Matebele and TAFIC will take place today (Wednesday) at Lekidi West Ground at 3pm.



Gaborone United (Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

LOCAL FENCING ATHLETES IMPRESS AT NAMIBIA FENCING OPEN TOURNAMENT

GAZETTE REPORTER

Thobega fencing academy athletes have scooped three medals at Namibia fencing open tournament that was held over the weekend. The academy Director and Master Karabo Thobega told The Botswana gazette sport that they took three athletes namely Alakanani Warona, Rethabile Mabaka and Lebone Mosinyi to compete in different categories.

Thobega stated that Rethabile Mabaka and Lebone Mosinyi started the tournament by participating in the Under 15 category in which the former scooped a gold medal while the latter won a silver medal.

He further said in the junior mixed category all three athletes were involved, with Mosinyi bagging another silver medal while Warona scooped position five and Mabaka finishing in position six.

"In the junior mixed category we had challenges because the Namibian fencing academy realized that our athletes were too good and they started playing rough which forced Mosinyi and Warona to play with injuries," he said.

He went on to state that in the senior category Mosinyi's injury forced him out of the contest and thus leaving Ma-



baka and Warona to compete. He said Mabaka ended up finishing in the 7th position while Warona finished in the 10th position.

"I was impressed with the way our athletes performed and I must say that I was not expecting such performances

considering that since the start of the year we have not had any games," said Thobega.

"My athletes played too many games during the tournament and I must say that this was our first tournament outside the country. We have been training

and we came to a point where we felt that we were all yearning for a tournament," he said.

Thobega also said the tournament came at the right time to assess his athletes. "During the tournament I realized that my athletes were struggling to adapt to the carpet that was being used because it's a metal carpet which we do not have here in Botswana," said Thobega.

He further went on to highlight that the tournament has also helped him to forge relations with the Namibian fencing club.

"This was a great tournament which resulted in our counterpart awarding us with a software which we do not have in the country, so that clearly shows that we are moving in the right direction and prepared to compete in the International stage," he said.

The academy currently teaches 12 pupils, of which six are currently active in local and international fencing. The club previously had intentions to expand across the country to bring fencing closer to all Batswana. However the onset of the global pandemic and lack of support from the government has delayed progress.

The academy is currently open to taking as many young pupils as possible with Thobega recommending that the best time to start the sport is at a fairly young age. "We start training children at four-years-old, whether you're 22 or older we freely accept training anyone at any age," he said.

Important clash awaits Ngele and co.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Mogakolodi Ngele's club, Chippa United, will face a stern test against third placed Cape Town City today (Wednesday) to keep their hopes of avoiding the relegation and promotion playoffs as the season draws to a conclusion in three weeks. The sides will lock horns at the Nelson Mandela Bay in Port Elizabeth at 5pm.

Ngele has not featured in the club's last three games after making a cameo appearance against Kaizer Chiefs last month. The player has not been listed in match days against Supersport United, Stellenbosch FC and Orlando Pirates.

He will be hopeful of being called upon in the crunch game against Cape Town City. Chippa's opponents are in good form at the moment as they are unbeaten in their last five games with three wins and two draws.

Chippa are also in an encouraging run of form with just one defeat in the last five games, the run

includes one win and three draws. Alarmingly Chippa has won only one home game this season, they have recorded seven draws and four defeats in 12 games on their home turf in the DSTV Premiership.

Ngele has not featured in the club's last three games after making a cameo appearance against Kaizer Chiefs last month

Ngele's club is only three points ahead of 15th placed Moroka Swallows after 26 rounds of league action. After today's clash, the club will face Baroka FC, Swallows and TS Galaxy in the last three games of the season.



TSOTSI NGELE

Badminton Returns with Highly Contested UB Open Tourney



(Pic:BOTSWANA BADMANTON ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK PAGE)

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Badminton Association (BBA)'s newly elected executive committee marked their Presence by sanctioning and presiding over the University of Botswana (UB) Open Championships that was held at the UB indoor sports arena in Gaborone at the weekend. The tournament was organised by the UB Badminton Club following a long hiatus of no activities within the association owing to Covid-19 complications.

The tournament that attracted over 40 players from various clubs across the country was the first in the year 2022 and was contested in both Men and Women's Singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Tebogo Ndzingo emerged the overall winner of the women's singles after defeating Asher Moruti in the finals to win gold medal and P1,000.00 prize money. Moruti and Kesego Hamu settled for position two (silver)

and three (bronze) to with P700.00 and P500.00. The Men's section was won by Godknows Kethabanetswe after he brushed aside Gaone Tawana (21/15,16/21,21/18) in the finals and Tshepo Perekisi settled for position three.

In a recent post-match interview with Gazette Sport, Women's singles champion Tebogo Ndzingo who also emerged as the big winner said she is impressed with her performance despite not playing badminton after a long time. "I am very happy with my overall performance and I must also commend all the players who took part for their brilliant performance. It is always good to gauge yourself with lots of tournaments not only one, hence my plea to the leadership to make sure that we have tournaments scheduled every month," she said.

The Women's doubles were won by the national team duo Ndzingo and Tessa Kabelo following their triumph against

Tsholofelo Willie and Gaone Mpati whereas the Men's doubles was won by Tshepo Perekisi and Gaone Tawana ahead of Prince Onalethata and Godknows Kethabanetswe. Tawana and Ndzingo won the Mixed doubles titles to ensure that Ndzingo walks away with a total of Three gold medals.

For his part the newly elected Badminton Association Publicity Secretary Thobo Tshosa said they are content with how the tournament turned out and it was a vivid sign that the players were hungry for tournaments hence their intentions to host more local championships this year. "It was a happy day for the badminton fraternity, and we are happy with the turnout of

players and supporters who came to grace the event. The Botswana Badminton Association provided the logistics and technical assistance, and we will continue to support every club that will be hosting tournaments throughout the year," he said.

Meanwhile BBA has elected new executive committee into office led by Moses Macheke as the President, assisted by Kegomoditswe Gaodumelwe as the Vice president. Thobo Bogacu (Secretary General), Edward Lesole (events manager), Wame Maposa (Treasurer), Emmanuel Seokamo (Technical Director) and Thobo Tshosa (Marketing and Publicity officer). They will be at the helm of the committee for the next four years.

LIQUIDATOR'S NOTICE

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

CASE NO. MAHGB-000355-21
MASTER'S REF: - LQHGB 000012/21

THE BRAND CONNECTIONS (PTY) LTD - IN LIQUIDATION

NOTICE OF FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with a directive issued by the Assistant Master of the High Court, and pursuant to section 382(1) of Companies Act, Cap 42:01, the First Meeting of Creditors will be convened before the Assistant Master of the High Court, in Gaborone at 0900 hours on **Thursday 9th June 2022**.

- To prove claims against the company;
- To receive and consider the report of the Liquidator which shall be prepared and submitted to all known creditors of the company in accordance with the terms of section 448 of the Companies Act, Cap 42:01;
- To approve the Liquidator's remuneration;
- To consider any other competent business.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 03rd DAY OF MAY 2022.

Harold Mwanjeni Kachaje - Liquidator,
c/o Impact Business Consultant (Pty) Ltd
Central Square, Unit 103, Plot 54354, New CBD, Gaborone, Botswana.

ANXIOUS WAIT FOR ROLLERS

After PSC Guilty Verdict

GAZETTE REPORTER

Record Botswana Premier League (BPL) champions, Township Rollers face an anxious period after the Players Status Committee (PSC) found the club guilty of improper registration of defender, Onkarabile Ratanang.

The Botswana Football Association (BFA) referred the case to the PSC after establishing that the player had been registered on October 29, when the transfer window closed on September 30, 2022. On Monday, sources close to the developments said the PSC had returned a guilty verdict for Rollers.

The matter is now with the mother body's prosecutor and the Disciplinary Committee for sanction. Rollers now face a massive points deduction unless authorities temper justice with mercy.

Reports indicate Ratanang could have played up to 16 games for the former champions. There is a possibility Rollers could lose up to 48 points if maximum punishment

is carried out. The matter, according to sources, will be settled before 20 May. Botswana Football League (BFL) chairperson, Nicholas Zakhem was reluctant to comment on the latest developments.

"Unfortunately, I'm not in a position to share with you their (PSC) finding, though our secretariat is yet to receive their finding," he said. However, he confirmed that the club will appear before the Disciplinary Committee for misconduct. "According to a resolution adopted by the BFA NEC and according to the misconduct rules of BFL, the club will appear before the DC to answer to allegations raised by BFA," Zakhem said. There are reports that the Rollers case is not an isolated incident, with a number of players improperly registered under the new registration system, FIFAconnect.

But Zakhem said they do not have official complaints regarding similar cases. "So far no one has raised any complaint of the same sort of issue of fraud involving the BFA registration system," he said. BFL chief executive of-

ficer, Solomon Ramochotlhwane was equally non-committal about the progress in Rollers' case.

"We have not received anything to the above. I'll be constrained to comment on what I have not been furnished with. The next step will be determined on any information we receive from the concerned. The issue of registration lies with the Regulator BFA and we are constrained to comment as we have not been appraised of any development," he said.

The Ratanang saga is likely to put paid to Rollers' spirited fight for the league title, where they are involved in a two-horse race with Gaborone United. Ratanang's disputed registration has claimed the scalp of three officials, with former BFA officer, Phuthego Setete banned from the game indefinitely.

Rollers' Sidney Magagane and team manager, Motshegetsi Mafa were suspended pending the outcome of the matter. The three reportedly had a hand in the illegal registration, with Setete in charge of the process at BFA at the time.



(Pic: MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)