

ELECTION BULLYING BEGINS?

Mesheck Tshenyego, Nonofho Molefhi's Campaign Manager for the upcoming BDP Congress elections was questioned by Police for allegedly threatening to kill BDP Chief Whip, Liakat Kablay. "My only crime is to associate myself with Nonofho Molefhi," he said.

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Matsheka faces BDP Suspension?

- Lobatse MP was arrested in connection with the murder of Karema
- He blames BDP factions for his arrest



(Pic: MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The embattled Member of Parliament (MP) for Lobatse, Dr Tebogo Matsheka, is

reportedly facing suspension from the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) for allegedly being an accomplice in the murder of young Tlotso Karema.

The former cabinet minister was arrested and detained in a combined operation of the Directorate of the Intelligence and Security Service (DISS) and

Botswana Police Service (BPS) for interrogation pertaining to the allegations last week.

Although he was released after five days in detention, sources within the BDP say like the MP for Nata/Gweta Polson Majaga, it is a matter of time before Matsheka is slapped with suspension.

Majaga was suspended for 60 days when he faced charges of sexual harassment and rape last year. The suspension was lifted after he was acquitted. "Very soon the party will take action against Matsheka because the allegations he is facing cannot be taken lightly," said a source.

Innocent until proven guilty

Quizzed about this, BDP spokesman Kagelelo Kentse stated that they will only act once a charge has been preferred against Matsheka, adding that the party takes the allegations seriously but must uphold the fundamental principle of "innocent until proven guilty".

"The process is that the party only acts once a charge has been preferred," Kentse stated.

However, he dismissed

suggestions by Matsheka that his arrest stemmed from party factions. "The BDP is not empowered to arrest or charge any individual," he noted. "The MP is the only one who can shed more light on what happened."

"The process is that the party only acts once a charge has been preferred."

Matsheka blamed BDP factions and a political witch hunt for his arrest when he was released last Sunday. He said he would make a detailed statement about his arrest in due course.

UDC distances itself from Matsheka

... calls it "BDP mess" and says people should learn from disgraced apartheid era intelligence operatives

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) has distanced itself from playing any part in the recent detention of embattled MP for Lobatse, Dr Thapelo Matsheka.

The opposition coalition has characterised what says are attempts to link it to the case as "elementary Directorate of Intelligence and Security propaganda and a smear campaign aimed at causing confusion and mistrust in the opposition."

According to the UDC spokesman Moeti Mohwasa, contrary to allegations across social media platforms, no UDC leader visited or attempted to visit Matsheka in detention.

"Why is it that now that Dr Matsheka has been arrested, he is linked with the UDC?" Mohwasa queried. "Dropping the name of the UDC in this whole saga is deliberate and is aimed at dragging us into the BDP mess."



(Pic: MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

No conversation

He added that the BDP should "deal with their issues and leave us out" and dismissed suggestions and that Matsheka could join the UDC. "There has not been any conversation between

us and Matsheka about him joining us," he emphasised.

"If there had been any, would he have shown interest in running for the chairmanship of the BDP? This assertion is so empty and disjointed! It's a hard story to

sell. The bluffers should try harder next time."

The UDC spokesman turned on what he called intelligence operatives and their actions. "We would like to urge all those who are being used in such heinous

and illicit propaganda to stop it before it catches up with them," Mohwasa said.

"They should learn from what happened to the disgraced apartheid era intelligence operatives. Those who are using them will not be there to defend them post-2024. We call upon security agencies to be professional and not to allow themselves to be used to spoil the name of the UDC to shore up the crumbling BDP."

"This assertion is so empty and disjointed! It's a hard story to sell. The bluffers should try harder next time."

He added that should an opportunity of a bye election present itself in Lobatse, the UDC would gladly take it as a bonus. Meanwhile, Matsheka has linked his arrest to BDP factions but says he will not resign from the party yet.

Election Bullying Begins?

Mesheck Tshenyego, Nonofho Molefhi's Campaign Manager for the upcoming BDP Congress elections was questioned by Police for allegedly threatening to kill BDP Chief Whip, Liakat Kablay. "My only crime is to associate myself with Nonofho Molefhi," he said.



Nonofho Molefhi

TEFO PHEAGE

Mesheck Tshenyego, campaign manager for Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) chairmanship aspirant Nonofho Molefhi was on Thursday last week questioned by Molepolole Police over an alleged threat-to-kill he reportedly made against MP for Letlhakeng-Lephephe and BDP Chief Whip, Liakat Kablay.

Tshenyego, who is also the Letlhakeng East Sub-District Council Chairperson confirmed that he was questioned by the Molepolole Criminal Investigation Department and had his phones confiscated.

"I am still shocked by the news because it is not true. But I am not surprised because a difficult season is upon us." - Tshenyego

Shocked

"Yes, I was called to Molepolole Police Station and questioned over reports that I have threatened the life of MP Liakat Kablay." He told *The Gazette* on Tuesday. "My phones were taken from me and they are with the police."

"I am still shocked by the news because it is not true. But I am not surprised because a difficult season is upon us. I think my only crime is to associate myself with Nonofho Molefhi and to gather BDP members at my farm to canvass for his support."

Reached for comment, Molefhi said he was aware of the developments. "The team supporter in Letlhakeng East was called in by the police on receipt of a complaint filed by Kablay of threat-to-kill," he said. "He was interviewed on the matter and later released but his mobile phone was kept by the police."

Kablay did not want to comment saying that the law will take its course. The Police also declined to comment.

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ANALYSIS: MAGOSI'S GAMBIT

The head of DISS needs a conviction in the Matsheka case badly but the evidence seems tenuous so far

GAZETTE REPORTER

The DISS currently has both its Deputy Directors on suspension. The heads of the Botswana Police Service and the DCEC are currently on suspension too. The DPP is without a Director and the Attorney General has been given a month's extension of contract to wind up his affairs.

Insiders have told *The Gazette* that Peter Magosi has orchestrated the leadership vacuum in these key national security areas and taken advantage of the silence from the Office of the President to ensure his relevance and grip on the security sector.

Vital blow

The Court of Appeal threw a lifeline at him last week when it overturned the acquittal of "Butterfly." However, on the 7th of August, Justice Ketlogetswe dealt Magosi a vital blow in his gambit to remain relevant by releasing the MP for Lobatse, Thapelo Matsheka, from DISS and police custody by declaring his detention unlawful.

Court papers filed on behalf of the DISS opposing Matsheka's release revealed lack of evidence against the MP, the speculative nature of the allegation and a lack of legal guidance and input by the DPP, the AG and the government legal officers within the security and law enforcement structures.

Goitseone Anita Esely, a recent recruit from the DCEC and former partner close to Ian Khama and Botswana Patriotic Front acolyte Kamal Jacobs (former contender for Lobatse constituency) disposed to the affidavit on behalf of the DISS and the State. The High Court expressed its displeasure at the lack of evidence against Matsheka and the DISS failure to adhere to the rule of law by avoiding costs on a punitive scale.

Traditional doctors

Esely stated under oath that her investigation centred on two points. The first that Matsheka had consulted a traditional doctor to avoid being arrested in connection with Tlotso's murder and secondly that the MP had "created a complex web of

individuals to shield his possible complicit conduct".

She offered no proof in support of the allegations. Instead, she appeals, in the same vein that the DIS has used in the past, to dangerous public emotion and invokes the spectre of mob justice by alluding to the public demonstrations in Lobatse of 13 June 2022.

Esely's affidavit claims that Matsheka "will ultimately be charged once all the evidence has been collected". Police investigators interviewed on grounds of anonymity by *The Botswana Gazette* have expressed their concern over this statement.

"Esely's affidavit shows that there is no evidence against Matsheka, otherwise it would have been stated," said a police source. "For an Investigating Officer to make a conclusion that a person will be charged despite lack of evidence goes against all investigative training and the impartiality of the investigator is questionable."

The interviewee, a senior investigator within the Murder and Robbery division of BPS, also expressed his concern with the claim that the investigation would not rest until those responsible are ultimately charged while at the same time revealing that Tlotso's body has not been found.

Magosi's excesses

Matsheka resigned as Minister of Finance in 2021 and has been reported to have differed with cabinet in respect of Magosi's absolute control of the security and law enforcement sector, as well as the failure of the BDP leadership and the government to curb his excesses in the use of his authority as found and confirmed by the Court on Sunday.

Magosi has placed himself at the apex of responsibility in the Tlotso investigation. If the investigation fails or has insufficient evidence to charge Matsheka, it will be viewed as a political witch hunt. In the event the incoming DPP charges Matsheka but fails to advance evidence, the political backlash will be hard to bear. If Matsheka is ultimately successfully prosecuted, Magosi will have sealed his tenure in office. This is his gambit.

Israel tipped to replace Tiroyakgosi as DPP

- Israel is reportedly frontrunner for DPP
- Tiroyakgosi's contract ended last month
- Israel previously served as Assistant DPP

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

The Deputy Director General of Operations at the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC), Priscilla Israel, is reportedly the frontrunner to replace Stephen Tiroyakgosi as the new head of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

Impeccable sources on Government Enclave say there have been several engagements with Israel regarding her taking over as the new Director.

Tiroyakgosi's contract as DPP expired on 31st July and the government decided not to renew it. He had served in the position since August 2017.

The Permanent Secretary to the President, Emma Peloetletse, told *The Gazette* yesterday that the recruitment process for Tiroyakgosi's replacement is well underway.

Announcement expected soon

"The process started before he left," said the PSP. "These things take time but we will make an announcement soon when all has been completed."

It is expected that Israel's appointment will be announced in the next couple of weeks. *The Botswana Gazette* is informed that an Acting Director of the DPP is also yet to be appointed.

Israel has previously served as Deputy DPP under Tiroyakgosi and has been described as being among "loyalists" in President Mokgweetsi Masisi's administration. She was the lead prosecutor in the "Butterfly" case and former Permanent Secretary to the President Carter Morupisi's corruption case.

Israel was transferred to DCEC in May this year. She was unavailable for comment with her phone ringing unanswered at the time of going to press yesterday.

Keen on DCEC post

Meanwhile, sources say Israel and the Acting Director of DCEC, Tshepo Pilane, have fallen out in the course of battling for control of the corruption-busting agency.

It is understood that Israel was initially 'promised' to take over as head of DCEC following the suspension of Tymon Katholo but things seem to have changed after Pilane was appointed.

Sources say Pilane is keen on the post and is more than ready to do everything to please his superiors.



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Biggie Butale to sue BPF

- Says charges against him and disciplinary hearing are yet to come
- Estimates approximately P200K will be needed for his legal costs



Biggie Butale (Pic: MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Suspended president of the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF), Biggie Butale, has embarked on a fundraising mission to raise money to sue his party for failing to reinstate him, The Botswana Gazette has established.

The troubled politician has floated a flyer on different social media platforms titled "Help our President" through his lawyers, Ramalepa Attorneys.

Butale is said to have rejected an invitation for reinstatement as an ordinary member of the BPF last week. Butale was suspended from the party last year over allegations of sexual misconduct involving a student.

In a letter he wrote to the party through Monthe Marumo & Co. a copy of which this publication is in possession of, Butale demanded unconditional reinstatement to his position with immediate effect.

"Our client instructs that he was suspended from the party on or about 8th September 2021 pending disciplinary hearing," the lawyers wrote. "However, to-date some 10 months later client has not been furnished with any charge sheet nor has the disciplinary hearing be convened."

"We advise that it is unlawful for the party to suspend the president or any member indefinitely as is in the case currently. Disciplinary action if any should be taken immediately after the commission of the alleged transgression, not unless such suspension is meant to serve some other ulterior motives."

"On that, we have been instructed by client to demand as we hereby do that our client be unconditionally reinstated to his position with immediate effect."

The BPF was given seven days up to 28 July to comply with Butale's demand but did not. The fundraising campaign and envisaged action against the BPF come against this background.

"It is true I have embarked on fundraising, which started on Monday," Butale told The Gazette. "I might need approximately P200 000 because there is a lot about this case. A lot has been concealed."

But the embattled politician refuted reports that the party has reinstated him as an ordinary member. "There is no truth in that," he said. "I have not been reinstated."

Reached for comment, BPF spokesman Lawrence Ookeditse said that he was constrained to comment on Butale's case because he did not have details. "I am yet to be updated by the party," he said. "If there is any development, I will definitely share it."

Ookeditse added that any member of the BPF who feels aggrieved by party decisions has an option of going to court to seek redress. "The BPF is a democratic party," he said. "So when a member feels aggrieved by any decision, they may choose to take the legal route. No one should judge Butale for exercising his rights."



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BPF divided over UDC move

- A faction is preparing to vote against UDC move
- Says members had proposed a pact model
- BPF spokesman adamant NEC acted in the best interests of the party

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

The Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) is already divided over the decision of the National Executive Committee of the party to join the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) as a full member.

In fact, a faction within the party has emerged and is raising the question why such a key decision was made before the BPF congress, which is its highest decision-making body of the party, that is scheduled billed for 29 October in Francistown. The faction is said to be preparing to vote against the decision to join the UDC at the congress.

Pact

“There were a number of models that had been proposed for the BPF’s association with the UDC and the rest of the



According to this source, one of their biggest fears is having to make way in some constituencies, especially Palapye. “The current Member of Parliament for Palapye is Ramogapi(UDC) and it is a known fact that former MP Moiserale Goya (BPF) is also preparing to become a candidate for the seat,” the source said.

opposition parties. “One of the models proposed was of a pact model and a lot of BPF members did like it,” said a prominent BPF member who preferred anonymity.

“We do not know how the NEC reached this decision to join the UDC without the input of the rest of the membership. We will contest this decision at the congress.”

According to this source, one of their biggest fears is having to make way in some constituencies, especially Palapye. “The current Member of Parliament for Palapye is Ramogapi (UDC) and it is a known fact that former MP Moiserale Goya (BPF) is also preparing to become a candidate for the seat,” the source said.

Adamant

But the official spokesman of the BPF, Lawrence Ookeditse, is adamant that the NEC is empowered by the constitution of the party to make such decisions. “The NEC has the power to engage in cooperation with other parties,” Ookeditse told *The Botswana Gazette*.

“Congress will then also look into the decision and support it or not support it. I trust most BPF members are looking to work with other parties. It is the only way to win in 2024.”

Even so, he admits that there were some who held a different view on the decision but pointed out that the NEC acted in the best interests of the BPF.

A joint BPF and UDC press release of 6 August announced that the organisations will establish working streams to work on the constitution and policies, as well as engage about ward and constituency allocations as soon as the Delimitation Committee Report is released.

The BPF won three parliamentary seats in the 2019 general elections. The party was also instrumental in dislodging the ruling Botswana Democratic Party’s (BDP) long time domination in the Central District, which resulted in the UDC winning most of the constituencies there.

BPF Central Region rejects decision to join UDC

- Calls emergency meeting to discuss the matter
- Fears incumbency principle may rob BPF of constituencies

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Central Region of the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) has reportedly called an emergency meeting for tomorrow (Thursday) to object to the decision of the party’s National Executive Committee to join the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) without consultations. The Botswana Gazette has established.

This follows a recent announcement that the party had joined the UDC with immediate effect. In a joint statement over the weekend, the two organisations announced that the BPF shall, with immediate effect, become a member of UDC and shall establish working streams to work on the constitution and policies.

However, the BPF Central Region has reportedly rejected the decision and accused the party leadership of not consulting them. As a result, the region reportedly called an emergency meeting for tomorrow to map the way forward.

“Their view is that the decision to join UDC was supposed to be adopted by the general membership,” said a source.

Constituencies available

Those behind the planned meeting are said to be mainly people with aspirations to become BPF candidates in the 2024 general elections and fear that being a part of the UDC could limit constituencies available to the BPF.

Those behind the planned meeting are said to be mainly people with aspirations to become BPF candidates in the 2024 general elections.

“These people are not looking at the bigger picture but their self-interest,” said an insider. The Secretary of the BPF Central Region, Kesego Lesaso, would not be drawn into discussing the alleged grievances raised by the region. “I will not comment on that issue because everyone is entitled to his or her opinion,” Lesaso said. He also declined to share the agenda of the meeting.



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ZCC Members' Joy short-lived as Church remains largely Closed

- Social distancing and masks fall away but Moria-run denomination remains cautious
- Members choose to stay home to wait for full resumption of services



GAZETTE REPORTER

When the leadership of the Zion Christian Church (ZCC) in Moria, South Africa revealed in April that church premises could be opened for services, members who had longed to return to their homes of worship were over the moon.

However, it turns out that their long wait is not yet over. "Since the state of disaster is lifted in countries where ZCC has footprints, the church has decided to reopen its branches after engaging internal and external stakeholders," Moria announced in April.

But since making the much-publicised announcement that some services could resume with strict compliance with COVID-19 protocols, members seem to have decided to wait for full resumption of services.

ZCC members seem to have decided to wait for full resumption of services.

Dove insignia

It is reportedly worse for the ZCC of the Dove insignia which, unlike its Star counterpart, has not moved an inch to open its doors after universal relaxation of COVID-19 protocols.

The Ministry of Health recently announced that the wearing of masks outdoors will no longer be mandatory and that social distancing will also be optional. Despite this, members of the Moria-run denomination are still in the dark about when full services will resume.

Some observers have warned that further delays could lead to backsliding in faith for some members.

The denomination is notable for the abiding reverence for its leader, His Grace the Right Reverend Bishop Dr Barnabas Lekganyane, by members. But he has warned them against non-compliance.

"Non-compliance will not be tolerated at all and strict and harsh steps will be taken against those found to be non-compliant as emphasised by Lekganyane on the 09th of April 2022," the communique states.

The communique also warned of regular monitoring and evaluation for compliance at all branches with regular quarterly reporting to Moria.



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BCP, UDC clash over BPF membership of UDC

- Says it was neither invited nor informed of events preceding BPF admission
- UDC says it was merely implementing resolutions of Palapye NEC meeting that BCP was a part of

TEFO PHEAGE

The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) was not a part of the process that led to the admission of the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) into the UDC coalition, the BCP has revealed.

UDC president Duma Boko and a representative of the Botswana People's Party (BPP) announced in a statement last weekend that the BPF was now a member of the UDC, bringing to four the contracting parties of the UDC, the others being the BPP, the BCP, and the Botswana National Front (BNF).

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette this week, the Secretary General of the BCP, Goretsetse

Kekgonogile, said they are clueless about the BPF being admitted into the UDC. "We cannot answer for anything about the admission of the BPF into the UDC because like many others we learned of that through the media," Kekgonogile said.

"The BCP made it clear that they would be suspending their participation in UDC affairs."

Not a BCP priority

"We were not invited or even informed of the meetings to discuss the BPF becoming a mem-

ber or even for the signing of the agreements. This is despite the president's (Boko's) repeated statements that the BCP remains part of the UDC."

But sounding acquiescent, he said the BCP is neither worried nor shocked by the development. "That is not really a priority for us at the moment," he said.

Contracted for comment, the UDC spokesman Moeti Mohwasa said the BCP was aware of all the events that preceded admission of the BPF. "The decision to invite the AP and the BPF was made at our last scheduled NEC meeting in Palapye and the BCP was part of it," he said.

Asked if the BCP was informed or invited to the meeting with the BPF and the subsequent signing

of the agreements, he responded: "What happened over the weekend was essentially an implementation of one of the resolutions of the June 25th June meeting."

BCP aware of things

"The item on the invitation of the AP and the BPF was dealt with before the one on the suspension of Comrade Dumelang Saleshando and Comrade Goretsetse Kekgonogile. Subsequent to the decision to suspend the two, the BCP, through its two remain-

ing representatives, made it clear that they would be suspending their participation in UDC affairs."

Mohwasa added that this will be the case for the duration of the suspensions of the two. "They subsequently walked out," he said. "However, we will be sending a report from the weekend meeting with the BPF to them as we still see them as part of the UDC. We value and still see them as part of us."



The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) has not given up on bringing the Alliance for Progressives (AP) on board and has resolved to launch another attempt to that end, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

UDC vows to woo AP further

AP congress resolved not to join UDC with its current "undemocratic" constitution

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) has not given up on bringing the Alliance for Progressives (AP) on board and has resolved to launch another attempt to that end, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

This is despite the recent decision by the AP congress to stay away from the UDC on grounds of its current constitution that the AP considers a hindrance because it is undemocratic.

"We are sceptical about working with UDC with its current undemocratic constitution," the vice president of the AP, i, said at a post-congress press conference. "Our congress has resolved that we should only work with like-minded political parties."

BCP like-minded with AP

He added that the AP is currently in cooperation talks with the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) as the only party that has shown like-mindedness with it.

However, by contrast, the opposition coalition is still optimistic about bringing the AP into its fold. A joint UDC-Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) statement released last weekend commits to more efforts to persuade the AP to join the coalition.

But in response to *Gazette* en-

quiries, the official spokesman of the UDC, Moeti Mohwasa, said there would have to be a conversation about what each expects from the other before the AP and the UDC could work together.

"Our meeting with the BPF was prompted by letters that we had written to both the AP and the latter requesting that we meet to discuss cooperation," he said. "We remain hopeful that the AP will revert as promised." But pressed further, he became terse. "Having opened a channel of communication out of respect for our comrades at the AP, we will not engage through the media."

Phenyo Butale shocked

At the AP, Secretary General Dr Phenyo Butale expressed shock at the UDC statement and raised the matter of the initial agreements of opposition coalition talks. "In our last meeting, it was agreed that all opposition parties should bring position papers and names of facilitators," Dr Butale noted.

"The AP together and the BCP submitted everything that was wanted but the negotiations never went ahead. We had an agreement with the UDC, and if they abandoned the initial negotiations they should have informed us of it because we cannot start a new conversation when one was going on."



INVITATION TO TENDER FOR PROVISION OF BOARD ASSESSMENT SERVICES
TENDER NO: MINET (BOBS STAFF PENSION FUND) 01/2022

Tenders are invited from reputable and professional service providers in the provision of Independent Pension Fund Board Assessment Services to Review the Governance Strategy of the Fund and Evaluation of the Board's performance of the Botswana Bureau of Standards Staff Pension Fund, in line with section 14 (2) (c) of the Retirement Funds Act. The tender is open to reputable companies who have the necessary experience in the above-mentioned services.

1. The scope and terms and conditions of the work are provided in the Invitation to Tender Documents which can be collected upon payment of a non-refundable tender documentation and administration fee of P500.00 (Five Hundred Pula) VAT inclusive from the Minet Botswana Head Office- Plot 50368 Fairgrounds, Gaborone, starting from Tuesday 10 August 2022.
2. Payment can be made between 08:30 and 16:30 hours from Monday to Friday, at the above address.
3. Tender documents must be clearly marked: **Tender for Provision of Board Assessment Services (BOBS STAFF PENSION FUND) 01/2022** and must contain one (1) marked Original and seven (7) marked Copy and one (1) electronic copy to the following e-mail address: tlamelo.moepeng@minet.co.bw or refilwe.bashe@minet.co.bw. The hardcopy tender documents are to be submitted to Minet Botswana at the above-mentioned address.
4. The closing date for submission of tenders will be, 26 August 2022 at 11:00 am.
5. Tenders received after the closing date and time will not be considered including the electronic copy. Furthermore telephonic, telex, facsimile or electronic mail submission will also not be accepted.

Notwithstanding anything contained above and in the tender document, Botswana Bureau of Standards Staff Pension Fund is not obliged to accept any tender whether lowest or highest, nor incur any expenses in the preparation nor give reasons for rejection or acceptance of any tender submitted thereof.

Any further information relating to this tender should be directed in writing to the Administrators of the Fund, Minet Botswana, for the attention of Minet Botswana Retirement Solutions - Pension Consulting. The email address is tlamelo.moepeng@minet.co.bw or refilwe.bashe@minet.co.bw

Batswana encouraged to tighten their Digital Security

TSHEPO JAMILLAH MOYO calls on all Internet users to watch out for scammers.



According to Data Portal's Digital Botswana report published on HootSuite, in January 2021 there were 1.12 million Internet users in Botswana comprising 1,283,00 Facebook users, 192,100 Instagram users, 314,200 LinkedIn users, 73,120 Twitter users, and 60, 887 TikTok users.

social media platform, deleted all her content, and began monetising the page which had thousands of followers that she had built over years.

Although she was able to retrieve her page through a cyber security expert and Facebook support, the damage to her on-line presence resulted in revenue loss. The process, which took almost a year, meant she could not advertise her dance classes or other services at that time. She will also never be able to retrieve the deleted content such as high streamed videos that she used in her marketing.

Socio-economic pressures motivate fraudsters to commit these acts while poverty and financial burdens cause civilians to relax their guard out of desper-

To Page 11

Because the COVID-19 pandemic forced people to stay indoors and work from their homes, Internet usage in Botswana also spiked by 22 000 between 2020 and 2021.

According to Data Portal's Digital Botswana report published on HootSuite, in January 2021 there were 1.12 million Internet users in Botswana comprising 1,283,00 Facebook users, 192,100 Instagram users, 314,200 LinkedIn users, 73,120 Twitter users, and 60, 887 TikTok users. In recent months, Botswana reported a rising trend of social media users falling victim to cybercrimes, scammers and hackers.

Lebo Busa was able to realise that she was being scammed when asked to send passwords that would give the man access to her accounts.

Fake social media suitors

Some of the scams included elaborate long-term cons such as victims who enter romantic relationships with social media suitors who use fake profiles and stolen identities, they end up scamming them. In some of these reported cases, the scammer eventually offers to send the victim a parcel that will apparently have cash or some kind of high-end gift.

A few days later, the victim gets a call from someone claiming to represent a shipping company saying there is a fee to pay in order for the package to be released. However, once the fee is paid, the scammer ceases all communication and the parcel never arrives.

One Facebook user, Lebo Busa, says she was approached by another user claiming that an investment of P500 in cryptocurrency would result in a profit of P1 600 in less than 10 hours. After investing, she was required to submit a video speaking about how she had received her profit. Thankfully, she was able to realise that she was being scammed when asked to send passwords that would give the man access to her accounts. Had Busa submitted the video and passwords, her account would have been used to recruit more people to 'invest.'

Allure of big brands

Hackers have also taken over Instagram accounts of digital content creators who make their livelihoods off their pages. Some of the hacks happen via inboxes promising collaboration between them and a big brand or through malicious links on other apps. Tatyana Makuku, a digital entrepreneur, was hacked via Zoom. The hacker then took over her dance school

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There are 1.48m Internet Users in Botswana - Report

- 1.20 million users of social media recorded in January 2022
- Facebook the biggest platform in terms of use and Ad reach



In a bid to highlight the insights and trends for digital adoption in Botswana, the Datareportal Digital 2022 report says the country recorded 1.48 million Internet users in January 2022.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

In a bid to highlight the insights and trends for digital adoption in Botswana, the Datareportal Digital 2022 report says the country recorded 1.48 million Internet users in January 2022.

In addition, 1.20 million users of social media - which is equivalent to 49.6 percent of the total population - were recorded at the beginning of the year. The report indicates that social media use remained unchanged between 2021 and 2022.

Kepios analysis

“Botswana’s Internet penetration rate stood at 61.0 percent of the total population at the start of 2022,” says the report. “Kepios analysis indicated that Internet use increased by 27 000 between 2021 and 2022.”

In simplified terms, the figures show that 943.4 thousand people in Botswana were not using the Internet at the start of 2022, which meant that 39.0 percent of the population remained offline earlier this year.

Facebook use

The report states that data published in Meta’s advertising resources shows that Facebook had 1.10 million users in Botswana early this year, making it the most used social media platform in the country. Meta’s audience figures further indicated that Facebook’s advertising reach in Botswana was equivalent to 45.5 percent of the total population at the beginning of the year.

“However, Facebook restricts the use of its platform to people aged 13 and above, so it’s worth highlighting that 63.6 percent of the ‘eligible’ audience in Botswana uses Facebook in 2022. At the start of 2022, 49.9 percent of Facebook ad audience were female while 50.1 percent were male.”

Instagram use

According to the figures published in Meta’s advertising tools, Instagram had 176 000 users in early 2022, which meant that Instagram’s ad reach was equivalent to only 7.3 percent of the total population.

Meanwhile, there is an age restriction of 13 years and

above on the social media platform, which meant that 10.2 percent of the ‘eligible’ audience uses Instagram. Further, 50.4 percent of Instagram’s ad audience was female while 49.6 percent were male.

Twitter use

Statistics published in Twitter’s advertising resources show that the social media platform had 85 500 users in the country early this year. The social media platform’s ad reach was equivalent to 3.4 percent of the total population at the time.

It (is) normal for mobile connection figures to exceed figures for the total population.

LinkedIn use

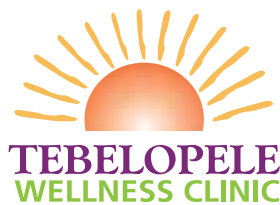
LinkedIn’s advertising resources reveal that the platform had 300 000 members earlier this year. The advertising reach figures indicate that LinkedIn’s audience in Botswana was equivalent to 12.4 percent of the total population.

“For additional context, LinkedIn’s ad reach in Botswana was equivalent to 20.3 percent of the local Internet user base regardless of age at the start of the year. Further, 41.5 percent of the platform’s ad audience were female while 58.5 percent were male,” the reports states.

Mobile connection

In terms of mobile connections, the report indicates that there were 4.05 million cellular mobile connections early this year. It was also noted that people often use more than one mobile connection and it was normal for mobile connection figures to exceed figures for the total population.

“The number of mobile connections in Botswana increased by 189 000 (+4.9) between 2021 and 2022,” says the report.



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Mo Botsogong



On this day, 34 years ago, the Presidential jet, OK1, was shot down over Angola. Fortunately the plane was able to successfully make an emergency landing at Cuito Bie airstrip. Photo Credit: zambianobserver.com

Commemoration: Masire's Jet Shot Down Over Angola, August 7, 1988

DR JEFF RAMSAY

On this day, 34 years ago, the Presidential jet, OK1, was shot down over Angola. Fortunately the plane was able to successfully make an emergency landing at Cuito Bie airstrip.

In addition to the President, Sir Ketumile Masire, the plane, which had been en-route

to Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) summit in Luanda, was carrying the then Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Ponatshego Kedikilwe, the Chief of Protocol, Bashi Ikitseng, the President's Senior Private Secretary, Mogolori Modisi and Mmegi journalist Douglas Tsiako.

Also on board was its principal pilot,

Colonel Albert Scheefers, apparently a BDF co-pilot and accompanying engineer (identities unconfirmed), as well as training Captain Arthur Ricketts, a civilian pilot who had been seconded by the British Aerospace company. Ricketts presence was due to the fact that the Presidential Jet, a British Aerospace BAe125-800A, had only recently been purchased by the gov-

ernment, a move designed to end the states embarrassing and costly dependency on South African Charters for regional trips.

According to reports, OK 1 had been flying flying over south-central Angola at 900km/h when a missile ripped off its right engine after Angolan MiG-23 fighter jet had fired two R-60 (AA-8 Aphid) missiles at the plane. One missile hit the no. 2 engine, causing it to fall off the aircraft. The second missile then hit the falling engine. The plane had also apparently been targeted by surface to air missiles. At the time the Angolan Government put many conspiracy theories to rest by apologizing for the mistake which was almost certainly caused by a breakdown in communication.

By sheer luck the passengers had suffering relatively modest injuries. A piece of shrapnel from a fan blade had in fact struck Masire barely missing his spinal column, while Bashi Ikitseng, who was the most injured, received emergency medical treatment upon touchdown. In this respect a team of Cuban doctors stationed at Cuito Bie had been rushed to assist. Both Masire and Ikitseng subsequently received follow-up care in Britain.

Sir Ketumile and members of his delegation subsequently returned Gaborone aboard Angolan President Dos Santos presidential jet.

The clear heroes of the unfortunate incident were the BDF flight crew and Captain Ricketts who were able to get oxygen to the cabin while successfully manoeuvring the shattered plane's safe descent.

Addressing a crowd upon his safe return Masire observed that: 'it was through the power of God, that everybody was safe and well'

Batswana encouraged to tighten their Digital Security

From Page 9

ation. According to Our Fraud - the Facts 2021 report, sponsored by LexisNexis Risk Solution, "Criminals used the COVID-19 pandemic to target victims online, through impersonation scams, romance fraud, and investment scams."

Two-factor authorisation

Cyber security expert, Itumeleng Garebatshabe, agrees that Batswana may also be the perfect victims of online scams because many are new to Internet use and have little to no awareness of cyber security or the dangers of the dark web. He advises that in order to protect themselves, anyone using the internet should activate two-factor authorisation.

"This is a security measure that requires two passwords to access your personal account by sending one to your phone. These passwords or codes should not be shared with anyone," says Garebatshabe.

He also encourages Internet users to be extra-cautious of any 'opportunity' that finds its way to their direct messages, or email inbox. "If you think you've found something legitimate and want to get involved, make sure you do plenty of research on the Internet before signing anything or sending any money," he says.

"I thank Jeff for the apt Memorial Article"

In an article to remember the near disaster for the nation 34 years ago when Botswana's presidential jet OK1 was nearly blown out of the Angolan sky, renowned historian, journalist and author, Dr Jeff Ramsay, ably recaptures the incident and mentions by name the people who were on President Ketumile Masire's entourage to the SADCC summit in Luanda.

However, he includes Douglas Tsiako as also having been on the flight as well. But, Dr Ramsay is mistaken about this but I can understand how this may have come about.

Other than being a Motswana who like others would have been most sorrowed had the disaster not been averted, my only 'involvement' with the unfortunate incident was being able to obtain exclusive interviews with key people like Captain Arthur Ricketts and Albert Scheefers, who was only promoted to the rank of Colonel some time later, as well as with sources inside the Angolan government through members of the ruling MPLA government with whom I was serving on a regional committee chaired by Thabo Mbeki of the ANC in exile then.

The purpose of this committee was to put the southern African the liberation movement on an information and propaganda offensive against an incessant onslaught from news agencies of the West whose governments were on the side of racist minority regimes in Namibia and South Africa and anti-government rebels in Mozambique and Angola.

The resulting stories were published in *Mmegi* where I was Deputy Editor. They attracted much interest here at home and around the world because it was a difficult time in our region where the Cold War was

always very hot. The near-fatal disaster in which President Masire and his entire entourage almost perished occurred under these circumstances. An added dimension for Botswana was that the country's airspace was under the control of apartheid South Africa and the racist regime used the anomaly to the fullest advantage to ferry arms and other war materials to the headquarters of UNITA at Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola where the rebels, under the command of Jonas Savimbi, supervised their occupation of nearly half of the former Portuguese colony with the full support of Western powers, especially the United States.

The nightly flights from South Africa to

Jeff and I were quite close at the time and worked together on several fronts, notably in consultations with the Office of the President.

Cuito Cuanavale through Botswana airspace were a cause of much consternation for Angola whose wish it was for Botswana to take control of its own airspace and thus be in a position to raise a clear and cogent protest at the United Nations and other international platforms if the apartheid violated it with flights to UNITA.

It can only be assumed that Botswana - clearly in a predicament as the most frontline of the Frontline States - had serious encumbrances that prevented it from taking control of its airspace from forces outrightly hostile to regional interests, especially peace and stability in a fellow SADC state. One of these concerns must have been the real and present prospect of reprisals, many of which had been visited upon the nation for various excuses for apartheid South Africa to enforce its will.

It was this predicament that Pope John Paul II, on a wing-footed visit to Botswana on 14 September 1988, described our country as "an island of peace in a troubled sea". Founding president Sir Seretse Khama had in earlier years used a similar analogy when he spoke of his country as island of sanity in an ocean of madness. American civil rights leader, Jesse Jackson, summed it up when he likened the situation of Botswana to being "in the belly of the beast".

Mercifully, those troubled times are behind us but will remain a reference point for all of us to protect and grow what we have. Jeff Ramsay did this well in his memorial article that is here being referred to. I fully understand how he may have made the mistake that I here correct because the work attracted much attention here and abroad and corresponding recognition for the journalist in awards and other forms.

Jeff and I were quite close at the time and worked together on several fronts, notably in consultations with the Office of the President in matters of interest to freedom of the press. I thank him for the apt memorial article.

MASISI JOINS LEADERS CONDEMNING RUSSIA

Volodymyr Oleksandrovytch Zelensky, the now globally renowned President of Ukraine and President Mokgweetsi Masisi had a telephone conversation on 8th August.

President Masisi directed Botswana's support of Ukraine through condemnation of the invasion by Russia at the UN and other actions. In the conversation, he sought assurances that grain, notably wheat from Ukraine will find its way to Botswana. President Zelensky appreciated the support while providing the sought for assurances regarding the supply of wheat. Such an exchange between Botswana and Ukraine was the first in the history of their bilateral relations and may have surprised many. To set the context Botswana imported P4, 816, 900 in value of merchantable goods from Ukraine while exporting just a paltry P1018 according to UN COMTRADE statistics in 2021.

Surprisingly, there is no record of significant grain imports from Ukraine since 2016; in 2021 only P44 000 worth of cereals were imported from Ukraine out of a total of about P2 000,000 spent on cereals. Given the lack of dependency on Ukraine grain imports, why was it so important for President Masisi to call President Zelensky? Clearly President Masisi is simply joining the increasing list of world leaders that have had conversations with President Zelensky, desiring to appear on the right side of history as far as Botswana's foreign relations are concerned. Botswana did vote at the United Nations General Assembly on March 2nd to condemn and sanction Russia for its military actions, together with 140 other nations including 27 African countries leaving 17 abstaining. This was not domestically popular given the support Russia receives from many in Africa who characterise the conflict as a proxy war between Russia and NATO. While others characterise the invasion as imperialist, given the hard evidence of territorial acquisition in Eastern Ukraine. Onlookers and commentators will have to decide for themselves as history is made in Europe.



The BPF NEC met on the 9th of August 2022 to discuss the outcome of the negotiations it had with the UDC on Saturday the 6th August. The NEC recognized that further clarification was needed for its members and stakeholders on the issue.

BPF NEC Decision To Join The UDC

The BPF NEC met on the 9th of August 2022 to discuss the outcome of the negotiations it had with the UDC on Saturday the 6th August. The NEC recognized that further clarification was needed for its members and stakeholders on the issue.

In the meantime the BPF NEC will work with the UDC NEC as outlined in the statement in order to present comprehensive recommendations to its congress for ratification.

In this regard the NEC wishes to inform its

structures, its members and the nation at large that for the purpose of forming an election alliance with the UDC, it considers it necessary to work closely with it to achieve this.

Therefore the announcement of joining the UDC for this purpose is a matter that will be put to the up-coming congress for consideration to ratify. In the meantime the BPF NEC will work with the UDC NEC as outlined in the statement in order to present comprehensive recommendations to its congress for ratification.

To effect this, the BPF shall have four members sitting in the UDC NEC. These are the offices of President, Secretary General, National Chairman and Publicity Secretary. Further to this, the NEC decided its members shall be meeting leaders of various party structures on this subject matter.

Lawrence Ookeditse
Publicity Secretary
Botswana Patriotic Front



No 3% Withholding Tax on Retentions

by the landlord as security against any damages on the property. It is key that we understand that withholding taxes are not applicable on such amounts until their actual date of payment, as we will elaborate below.

As alluded to above, retentions generally serve as some form of security. Essentially, this means the money is kept and only utilised when the actual need arises. Accordingly, any withholding taxes applicable should be deducted on the net amount after excluding the retention. This is predominately based on the fact that a retention is essentially a capital amount held to hedge against defaults. For clarity, Tiro, a customer, may be required to exclude P10,000 retention when paying an invoice of P100,000 to XYZ (Pty) Ltd for construction services. In this case, it is key to note that Tiro will be required to deduct withholding tax on the net amount after deducting the retention i.e., withholding tax will

As alluded to above, retentions generally serve as some form of security. Essentially, this means the money is kept and only utilised when the actual need arises.

apply on P90,000. Withholding tax on the retained amount will be considered at the time when actual payment is done. This actually means Tiro will then apply the withholding tax on retention i.e., the P10,000, when he actually pays it to the said company

Whilst retentions do not trigger the 3% tax, the gross amount before exclud-

ing retention must be used for VAT, i.e. P100,000 in our example above. You can read more tax articles on our website, www.aupracontax.co.bw under the 'Tax Articles' tab.

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

A retention is basically an amount kept or withheld to serve as security or insurance against sub-standard services or other irregularities. Such retentions are most common in payments related to construction contracts and related services. On the other hand, arrangements involving rental of buildings may also require tenants to pay a certain fee that would be retained



Team Botswana recently competed at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Botswana sent 33 athletes (16 male and 17 female) to compete in eight different sport codes. Botswana had representatives in athletics, boxing, weightlifting, lawn bowls, squash, swimming, judo and cycling. Team BW walked away with two medals in the competition. Lethabo Modukanele (boxing) earned a bronze medal while the men's 4x400m relay team walked away with a silver medal.

Peer Reviews Survey Critical

As a firm specializing in market research and data analysis through surveys, feasibility studies, polls, among others, we hope to bring valuable insights through today's article as we focus on peer reviews in the workplace.

It is an undeniable fact that every business requires competent, efficient, and highly motivated staff. The simple fact that an employee is given a good salary does not necessarily mean that they will perform effectively on the job. Various other factors may pull down staff morale



and motivation at work.

For example, if a supervisor is rude and derogatory to other staff members, the morale in that group will obviously fall. Ex-

perts tell us that people leave people not companies. A comprehensive employee engagement study by Gallup dubbed "The State of the American Manager," revealed that 50% of Americans had left a job to "get away from their manager at some point in their career." In addition, the study also found that managers contributed to low employee engagement at work by a whopping 70%.

Closer home, CareerJunction concluded from their survey findings (2019) that one-third (33%) of South African employees from the 3,000 people who had participated in the survey, left their jobs at some point because of a bad boss.

To avoid a high staff turnover, it is important to periodically get your staff members to review each other in a very confidential and productive manner. As an example, an independent research firm can be brought into the picture to facilitate the

peer review exercise or conduct a deeper employee engagement survey where responses are collected anonymously. That way, the staff members are able to respond authentically without fear of being victimised as opposed to one that is conducted internally. Resultantly, top management gets valuable feedback. Armed with information on the levels of staff morale, business owners will be able to make crucial decisions which ensure that they retain critical and motivated staff.

Please contact us on +267 7187 0023 or research@easternman.co.bw for consulting or to join our free research WhatsApp group



FIRST CAPITAL BANK COMES OUT TO PLAY!



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First Capital Bank Botswana held a ceremony to officially adopt the 'Ithute Go Tshameka' Playgroup in Bontleng on Wednesday (27 July 2022). Ithute Go Tshameka- Learn To Play (LTP) received a sum of P50, 000 from First Capital Bank Botswana as a pledge towards its adoption for the 2022 third term.



Keynote Address; First Capital Bank CEO Mrs Reinette Van de Merwe

With a total number of 72 children currently enrolled in the playgroup, the pledge will cover their learning resources and daily meals.

First Capital Bank Botswana Chief Executive Officer, Reinette van der Merwe said that the bank intends to support and make an impactful contribution to the growth of communities that they serve. She also expressed, "through our engagements with LTP, we noticed the gap and need to

First Capital Bank adopts Bontleng's 'Ithute go Tshameka' Playgroup who use the power of play to inspire learning. Less than 7% of the children under the age of five years in Botswana have access to early learning opportunities.



Ithute go tshemake-Learn to Play playground session.

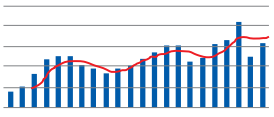
support early childhood development as less than 7% of the children under the age of five years in Botswana have access to early learning opportunities."

LTP was founded in 2017 to ensure equitable access to high quality early childhood education by harnessing the power of play as a means to facilitate, stimulate and inspire learning. Since its inception, LTP has established playgroups in five communities around the country focused on children under the age of five.

Priyanka Handa Ram, LTP founder, said "Learn To Play is so grateful that First Capital Bank recognizes the urgency of investing in holistic early childhood development to break the cycles of poverty, crime and illiteracy."



First Capital Bank CEO Mrs Reinette Van de Merwe handing over cheque to Ithute go tshemake-Learn to Play (LTP)



The banking industry was profitable in 2021, with net after-tax profit increasing by 24.4 percent from P1.5 billion as at the end of 2020 to P1.8 billion for 2021, the Bank of Botswana (BoB) 2021 Annual Report shows.

The Banking Industry was Profitable in 2021 - BoB

- Net after-tax profit increases to P1.8bn
- Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to gross loans and advances declined
- BoB ensured supply of clean banknotes and coins

GAZETTE REPORTER

The banking industry was profitable in 2021, with net after-tax profit increasing by 24.4 percent from P1.5 billion as at the end of 2020 to P1.8 billion for 2021, the Bank of Botswana (BoB) 2021 Annual Report shows.

According to the released recently report, the increase in net after-tax profit

largely reflects improved banking business activity. "Banks maintained good quality assets in 2021, with a decline in credit default rates," the report reads.

Risk to asset quality

"The ratio of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) to gross loans and advances declined from 4.3 percent in December 2020 to 4.2 percent in December 2021."

The report says there continues to be a

risk to asset quality associated with the high proportion of the relatively more expensive unsecured lending (at 72.5 percent of household credit in December 2021) in commercial bank credit.

"The average capital adequacy ratio (CAR) and liquid asset ratio (LAR) for the banking industry were 18.6 percent and 16.6 percent, respectively, in December 2021, both higher than the minimum

prudential and statutory thresholds of 12.5 percent and 10 percent, respectively, indicating that the banking industry was adequately capitalised and liquid," it notes.

Overall, the BoB annual report shows that the statement of financial position for the banking sector grew, with total assets increasing by 4.6 percent from P103.6 billion in December 2020 to P108.4 billion in December 2021.

With regard to liabilities, customer deposits increased by 3.6 percent, from P81.2 billion to P84.1 billion in the same period.

Customer deposits up

"Loans and advances, which constituted 63.6 percent of assets, rose by 5.1 percent to P68.9 billion in December 2021 compared with P65.6 billion in December 2020," it says. "With regard to liabilities, customer deposits increased by 3.6 percent, from P81.2 billion to P84.1 billion, in the same period."

The report shows that the overall performance of the banking industry was satisfactory in 2021 as banks complied with the prescribed statutory and prudential minimum thresholds for capital and liquidity and were therefore assessed to be operating in a safe and sound manner.

Meanwhile, BoB used the report to indicate that it continued to manage the supply of banknotes and coins to ensure availability of high-quality currency in circulation in the country.

"Furthermore, in line with the Clean Banknote Policy, the Bank took a decision to issue into circulation only new banknotes and coins, save for denominations with low stock cover," the report reads.

"Moreover, the Bank started receiving soiled, discoloured and damaged coin deposits from commercial banks on November 2, 2021 in a bid to maintain clean coins in circulation."

BoB says the number of banknotes in circulation decreased significantly by 12.3 percent from 49.6 million in 2020 to 43.5 million in 2021, reversing the upward trajectory recorded in the past years.



BOD makes Progress at SA Project

One target shows promise, two do not merit any further work

GAZETTE REPORTER

BSE-listed diamond explorer Botswana Diamonds (BOD) has announced advancement from its latest drilling campaign at its Thorny River diamond project in South Africa.

"We have finished exploration and now move toward mine development," said BOD Chairman John Teeling in statement released by the company recently. "We al-

ready have a good understanding of how the mine will look.

"The recent drilling identified the entry point for a mine. The next stage is to refine the mine model and to apply for a mining permit."

Mineable kimberlite

Teeling emphasised that the objective of the drilling campaign was to expand the mineable kimberlite for the purpose of mine planning. "Twelve reverse circulation

holes over five targets were drilled for a total of 536m," he said.

"Analysis of raw data shows that two of the targets resulted in the discovery of new sub-surface blows which will be added to the inventory, whilst one shows promise (having produced kimberlitic indicators) but needs further definition work and the remaining two targets do not merit further work."

Teeling noted that the in-hole kimberlite

intersections totalled 52 metres, the longest being a vertical intersection of 22m. "The two additional blows are on-strike and 200m and 700m east from the river and river extension blows," he said.

"We have finished exploration and now move toward mine development."

'Local Firms doubtful about Economic Growth'- BoB

- Companies expect weaker domestic performance
- Mining optimistic because of favourable conditions in global diamond market

GAZETTE REPORTER

The results of the recent (June 2022) Business Expectations Survey (BES) conducted by the Bank of Botswana (BoB) suggest that firms are pessimistic about business conditions compared to the previous survey (March 2022), this publication can reveal.

"The pessimism is reflected by firms' expectations of weaker domestic economic performance, hence lower inventories, reduced investment in buildings, plant and machinery, as well as 'other' investments, compared to the March 2022 survey," the BoB survey shows.

The BES is conducted by BoB and collects information on the domestic business community's perceptions about the prevailing state of the economy as expectations during the survey period. The survey presents business expectations about the current period (Q2:2022), the third quarter of 2022 (Q3:2022), and the 12-month pe-

riod (M12) from July 2022 to June 2023 (Q3:2022-Q2:2023).

Overall, the decline in business confidence is expected to have a negative impact on domestic economic performance.

Mining and Quarrying optimistic

According to the latest survey, firms in the Construction and Real Estate, Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Retail, Accommodation, Transport and Communications sectors were pessimistic about economic growth prospects in the second quarter of 2022, while Mining and Quarrying was

substantially optimistic, followed by the Finance, Professional and Administrative Activities.

"Positive sentiments in the former sector mainly reflect the expected continued favourable conditions in the global diamond market," the BES report.

Meanwhile, the BES continues to show that all sectors except Agriculture are optimistic about the third quarter of 2022 and the 12-month period to June 2023, possibly supported by the prevailing accommodative monetary conditions and implementation of the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP), among others.

"The pessimistic perception for the Agricultural sector is contrary to expectations that it should benefit from potential growth in horticulture due to the ongoing ban on some fruits and vegetables and financial support offered by government in the form of subsidies such as those on inputs and implements of production through the Integrated Support Programme for Arable

Agriculture Development (ISPAAD) Horticulture Impact Accelerator Subsidy," says the report.

Tight access to credit

Furthermore, the BoB survey indicates that firms anticipate tight access to credit across all markets. The survey says firms also expect cost pressures to remain high in the third quarter of 2022, mainly reflecting upward adjustments in fuel prices due to supply constraints arising from the Ukraine-Russia war.

"Overall, the decline in business confidence, is expected to have a negative impact on domestic economic performance," the report says. "Meanwhile, firms expect inflation to remain above the Bank's 3 - 6 percent objective range in 2022."

The survey show that firms expect overall output to expand by 3.8 percent in 2022, slightly below the projections of 4.2 percent by the Ministry of Finance and 4.3 percent by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the same period.

"Firms further indicated that they anticipate that GDP will increase by 3.1 percent and 3.5 percent in the second and third quarters of 2022, respectively," the BES survey shows.

Botswana's Food Imports amounted to Over P800K in May



Botswana's total imports in May were valued at P8.3 billion P871 386 363 of which was for food, says Statistics Botswana in its Food Imports Report of May 2022 released recently.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's total imports in May were valued at P8.3 billion P871 386 363 of which was for food, says Statistics Botswana in its Food Imports Report of May 2022 released recently.

"Cereals and Beverages, Spirits & Vinegar accounted for 19.7 percent and 16.1 percent of food imports, respectively," the report notes. "Dairy Produce, Birds' Eggs, Natural Honey, Edible Products of Animal Origin not Elsewhere Specified or Included, followed with 8.2 percent each."

"Cereals and Beverages, Spirits & Vinegar accounted for 19.7 percent and 16.1 percent of food imports, respectively," the report notes.

Cereals

The most imported types of Cereals were Wheat & Meslin, Other than Durum Wheat, Other than seed accounting for 47.4 percent.

"Maize, Other than Seed and Semi-Milled or Wholly Milled Rice, Whether or not Polished or Glazed, followed with a contribution of 32.3 percent and 15.3 percent respectively," the report shows,

For Beverages, Spirits & Vinegar, the most imported were Beverages, Fermented (e.g. Cider, Perry, Mead, Sake), accounting for 33.7 percent.

"Beer Made from Malt and Waters, including Mineral & Aerated, containing added Sugar or Other Sweetening Matter followed with 19.8 percent and 16.4 percent, respectively," the Statistics Botswana report indicates.

Power Metals making Headway in Molopo Project

GAZETTE REPORTER

London-listed exploration company seeking large-scale metal discoveries across its global project portfolio, Power Metals Resources, is making headway in its Molopo Farms Complex Project (located in southwestern Botswana) which targets a large scale nickel-platinum group element (PGE) discovery.

According to the company in a recent statement, spectral geophysics have been mobilised to the project to conduct two electromagnetic geophysics surveys to facilitate the precision targeting of planned diamond drill holes for a drill programme expected to commence in the autumn.

Third parties

“Power Metal technical team have compiled all project data into a data room to underpin forward project development and which is available for third parties who have expressed an interest in potential engagement on the Project,” the company said in the statement.

“Final negotiations proceeding with Botswana drill contractors for the upcoming planned diamond drill programme at the Project.”

The CEO of Power Metals, Paul Johnson, commented: “We are making very important progress as we look to reinvigorate the Molopo Farms Project, arguably one of the company’s major exploration success stories from 2020/2021.

“The main next step is planned diamond drilling focused on the discovery of economic nickel sulphides and following up on the highly positive results from the drill programme completed in early 2021. Molopo is a priority exploration project for Power Metals.”

The company noted that airborne geophysics previously completed confirmed an exploration model focusing on magmatic feeder zones within the Molopo Project.

“Significantly, the previous drill programme which concluded in 2021 intersected nickel-sulphides downhole with individual grades up to 1.69% Ni including 0.55g/t platinum (Pt) over 0.6m from

446.7m downhole,” it said in the statement.

The main next step is planned diamond drilling focused on the discovery of economic nickel sulphides.

“Follow-up petro graphical work undertaken identified primary nickel and copper sulphides (including pentlandite, bornite and chalcocite).”

How Used Clothes became Part of Africa’s Creative Economy – and Fashion Sense



In recent years the global secondhand apparel market for clothing and shoes has grown exponentially. In 2002, used clothing exports were worth US\$1.4 billion. Despite a slowdown during the COVID-19 pandemic, exports were close to US\$4 billion in 2020. Photo Credit Getty Images

Karen Tranberg Hansen
Professor Emerita, Northwestern University

In recent years the global secondhand apparel market for clothing and shoes has grown exponentially. In 2002, used clothing exports were worth US\$1.4 billion. Despite a slowdown during the COVID-19 pandemic, exports were close to US\$4 billion in 2020.

Some of this growth has been driven by well-known brands and high street retailers developing in-house clothing resale and establishing partnerships with digital secondhand

platforms to find new uses for pre-loved fashions, especially luxury fashions.

In the West, secondhand clothing has acquired a new cachet for its sustainability and its role in [circular economies](#). A circular economy links production and consumption to minimise waste through reusing, repairing, refurbishing, recycling as well as sharing and leasing. This has driven a trend that by far surpasses the growth of the overall apparel market.

In addition to reuse and upcycling

in the West, substantial volumes of used clothing donated to charitable organisations continue to be exported to countries in the global south, among them in Africa.

Textile waste

But the West’s over-consumption of clothing and the export it gives rise to is not without problems. Firstly, secondhand clothing imports in Africa generate millions of tonnes of [textile waste](#). Secondly, the popularity of the secondhand clothing trade has prompted arguments about its [adverse effects on domestic tex-](#)

[tile and clothing industries](#).

Time and again, controversies arise over whether to [ban imports](#). But smuggled imports of used clothing flow readily across Africa’s porous boundaries, making bans largely ineffective.

Attracting customers from diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds has developed as an accepted part of the overall clothing market (in Africa).

I [wrote](#) about the international secondhand clothing trade in a book published in 2000. My research was focused largely on Zambia. In the book I examined the interplay between environmentalism, charity, recycling and thrift. I also explored how secondhand clothes were about more than imitating Western styles and traced how items were altered into garments that fitted into local cultural norms of etiquette.

Over the last two decades, several processes with global scope have changed the landscape in unimaginable ways. This is true in Africa too. Despite these changes, I still think that rather than representing fashion dumping, current clothing practices demonstrate some of the cultural

How Used Clothes became Part of Africa's Creative Economy – and Fashion Sense

From Page 17



Attracting customers from diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds has developed as an accepted part of the overall clothing market. Photo Credit: Getty Images

and socioeconomic benefits of the used clothing trade. Holding significant value for those who create and pursue them, such clothing projects have transformative potentials that are far from trivial.

For a while, the global COVID-19 pandemic significantly reduced or closed production of clothing and apparel almost everywhere.

Changes in the global clothing landscape

The first big change has been the digital age which brought Internet access and new inspirations from transnational images, products and styles. It has also facilitated Internet commerce and innovations in both new and secondhand markets.

Secondly, fast fashion has affected clothing markets everywhere.

Thirdly, the [expiration](#) in 2005 of the World Trade Organisation's Multi-Fibre Arrangement enabled tariff-free entry for clothing and textiles manufactured in China into previously restricted markets on an unprecedented scale. Concerns about the growing import from

China soon eclipsed the public criticism of imported secondhand clothing, which continued to fill its own popular market niche.

And fourthly, new actors entered the global export of secondhand clothing. Among these were India and China.

For a while, the global COVID-19 pandemic significantly reduced or closed production of clothing and apparel almost everywhere. Problems at many points of the global commodity circuits and their upstream and downstream supply chains came into glaring view along with widespread retail closures and the piling up of excess inventory.

At one end, in South and Southeast Asia, poorly remunerated garment workers were not paid. At another, in France and elsewhere, some luxury brands incinerated unsold goods to prevent devaluing the brand name on resale markets. And brand retailers in the US and Europe sold deadstock (unsold inventory) to upcyclers to use in their design rather than ending as waste in landfills.

Survival strategies

Today in Zambia, as elsewhere in Africa, small-scale tailors and fashion entrepreneurs operate in a segmented clothing market that is far

less competitive than it is interactive as they diversify and shift their activities to get by. The secondhand clothing seller, the retailer of 'Chinese clothing', the upscale boutique operator in the shopping mall along with the tailor, the seamstress, and the up-and-coming designer are serving the different needs of their fashion-conscious customers.

The fashion potential from the creative clothing economy in African countries has not been tapped.

At the same time, they all are contributing to that overall well-dressed presentation and stylistic innovation for which many African countries are so well known. Their work entails an ongoing economic and creative struggle to make a living and professionalise the fashion scene. Most operate within their country's huge informal economy, lacking substantive state support or enduring sponsorships.

The fashion potential from the creative clothing economy in African countries has not been tapped. At the same time, secondhand

clothing has not fallen away from popular dress practice. Quite the contrary. Used clothes are being repurposed but with fresh fashionable spins. This sometimes involves turning recycled garments into upcycled outfits. Open-air tailors and seamstresses working from markets and homes as well as aspiring designers in fashion studies in Africa and beyond are busy sourcing readily available secondhand clothes for alteration and creative redesign into new garments and accessories.

Select secondhand clothing enters a special niche as vintage clothing while damaged garments are shredded and creatively repurposed.

Inferior quality

There is also a practical and economic aspect involved in this reuse of secondhand clothing. Consumers in many African markets consider imported garments from China to be of inferior quality to the clothes they find in secondhand markets.

Attracting customers from diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds has developed as an accepted part of the overall clothing market. Select secondhand clothing enters a special niche as vintage clothing while damaged garments are shredded and creatively repurposed. They are recycled into knotted and crocheted toys and woven into baskets, for example, and objects for interior decoration such as table runners and pillowcases.

And pop-up shops with creatively styled used clothing outfits appear during special events, attracting fashion conscious customers.

In addition, everyday fashions are changing as young people challenge constraining gender and religious dress norms, for example by wearing tight and short clothing in public, playing out their desire to dress as they like. Adapting imported used clothes to their cultural sensibilities about bodies and dress, they localise them in the process.



30 Jewels unearthed for Miss Botswana Crown

- Selection process digitalised
- Brando Keabilwe is Assistant GM of Miss Botswana 2022

The highly-anticipated Top 30 contestants vying to become Miss Botswana 2022 have officially been announced. But the development has ruffled a few feathers, with some maintaining Palesa Molefe should continue her reign.

Nevertheless, the organisers of the national pageantry are eager to assure members of the public that the hopefuls are an impressive and diverse group that was narrowed down by a skilled panel of judges introduced two weeks ago.

“Auditions closed 28 July and with so many beautiful and intelligent women in Botswana,” said Benjamin Raletsatsi of Advance Institute, who are the licence holders of Miss Botswana.

The development has ruffled a few feathers, with some maintaining Palesa Molefe should continue her reign.

Selection process

Raletsatsi noted that this year’s selection process was digitised to create an experience to use technology and the online space. The panel made their selection from entries by looking for “The Face” of Miss Botswana - Beauty with a Purpose in the images submitted.

In addition, contestants who had a motivating answer about why they wanted to

be the next Miss Botswana stood chances of selection. The selection criteria also favoured those who articulated themselves well in answering questions in the pageantry entry forms.

Said Raletsatsi: “This year, progression into the Top 15 will be determined by how the ladies perform by public vote (SMS line), Top 30 Selection Panel Gym Session, a professional photography session and social media. The four ladies with the most likes, shares and comments on their pictures will automatically progress to the Top 15.”

The Top 30 Miss Botswana contestants joined trainer Victor Leshomo for a session sponsored by Jack’s Gym last Friday.

Brando joins Miss Botswana team

Fresh from his former job as a morning radio show presenter, Brando Keabilwe was announced as Assistant General Manager of the Miss Botswana 2022 pageant. He is responsible for overseeing and managing daily business operations and developing growth strategies for Miss Botswana 2022.

Keabilwe will also be leading a team of creative professionals and overseeing the design layout and visual impact of marketing materials.

TOP 30 SELECTION PANEL

- Mpho Kuaho
- Tonderai Tsara
- Imaan Kader
- Sharon Mathala
- Malebogo Sesinyi
- Michael O’Keeffe
- Lekang Morapelo
- Motamma Sesinyi-Horadius

"Social Media is Your Stage"

... SA actress Lusanda Mbane tells creatives

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



While creatives decry lack of opportunities in the entertainment space locally and internationally, South Africa's award-winning actress, Lusanda Mbane, says the gap exists everywhere for artists, especially actors.

Mbane - who plays the villainous Boniswa Langa in TV soapie Scandal - was recently in Gaborone, courtesy of Makgabaneng International Creative Arts Festival. She urged creatives in the audience to make use of social media to showcase their talent as they build their value proposition. "It's no longer about what nation you come from," she said.

"It's about the activism of the artist and how they take their craft, put it together and brand it into an attractive package that people want to place value on."

Talent alone not enough

Mbane emphasised that it is not enough to have talent and to attend auditions and that building a value proposition is what will attract attention. Although it is a long-term focus, it certainly pays off once the recognition comes and people are ready to pay for the creative's services.

Citing herself as an example, Mbane said she acts every day, reads scripts, and creates content on social media to give herself an upper hand to obviate having to stand in audition rooms full of

other hopefuls for limited roles.

"From my perspective, the biggest challenge is that artists themselves don't know the value that they bring to the table," she said. "We go for auditions, stand in queues blending in with the rest of the world and it is difficult to stand out. These days, specifically at a time when acting as a craft has taken a further back seat, it's becoming even more challenging to stand out."

The creative space is a business

As an actress, radio host, entrepreneur, marketing and communications expert, Mbane's role at the festival was to share a part of her story with local creatives and to inspire them. She emphasised that the creative space is a business that should be crystallised, solidified, packaged, branded and taken to the world.

"My message is that as creatives, we are entertainers, disseminators of information and business owners," she said. "And when we come from two years of COVID-19, loss and depression, the world is looking to us to lift their spirits, which is something worth paying for. We are not just in the entertainment industry; we are in the entertainment business."

Fast facts about Lusanda Mbane

- * In 2009, she made her TV acting debut in Muvhango.
- * She is the SAA in flight safety voice-over artist.
- * She quit her corporate job for the creative industry.
- * She now gets paid as an actress, radio host, entrepreneur, for her Facebook posts, as a speaker, as a voice-over artist and to show up.

Emphasises adding value proposition to talent

"It's a show!" Makgabaneng kicks off Inaugural Arts Fest

Fest highlights the creative industry as the diversifying tool for the country's economy

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Award-winning radio drama group Makgabaneng kicked off the inaugural Makgabaneng International Creative Arts Festival (MICAF) at Fairgrounds in Gaborone last Friday.

MICAF, which is now an annual arts festival, seeks to create a platform for the creative industry to engage, network and receive insights into how to monetise the talents and crafts of artists.

"We expect to realise a direct benefit not only from our creative industries but also for the economy of Botswana," said the organisation's Marketing and PR Director, Obonye Malope, at the launch. "In addition, we will be able to contribute to branding our beautiful country as the home of talent."

The creative space as a busi-

ness

Running under the theme "The Creative Space as a Business, Understanding and Monetising Your Craft: It's a show!," the festival sought to highlight the creative industry as the diversifying tool for the country's economy.

The festival featured master classes, panel discussions, showcases and exhibitions aimed at developing the industry further by unearthing and nurturing more talents and igniting interest for development of the industry so as to reach international standards for global markets.

Said Makgabaneng Executive Director, Tony Buru: "MICAF seeks to help the creative industry with access to funding platforms and attracting funding opportunities, consequently creating a platform for collaborations. We are proud of our talent and want to brand and stamp our authenticity on our products."



"We will be able to contribute to branding our beautiful country as the home of talent."

DJ Tonic Soul

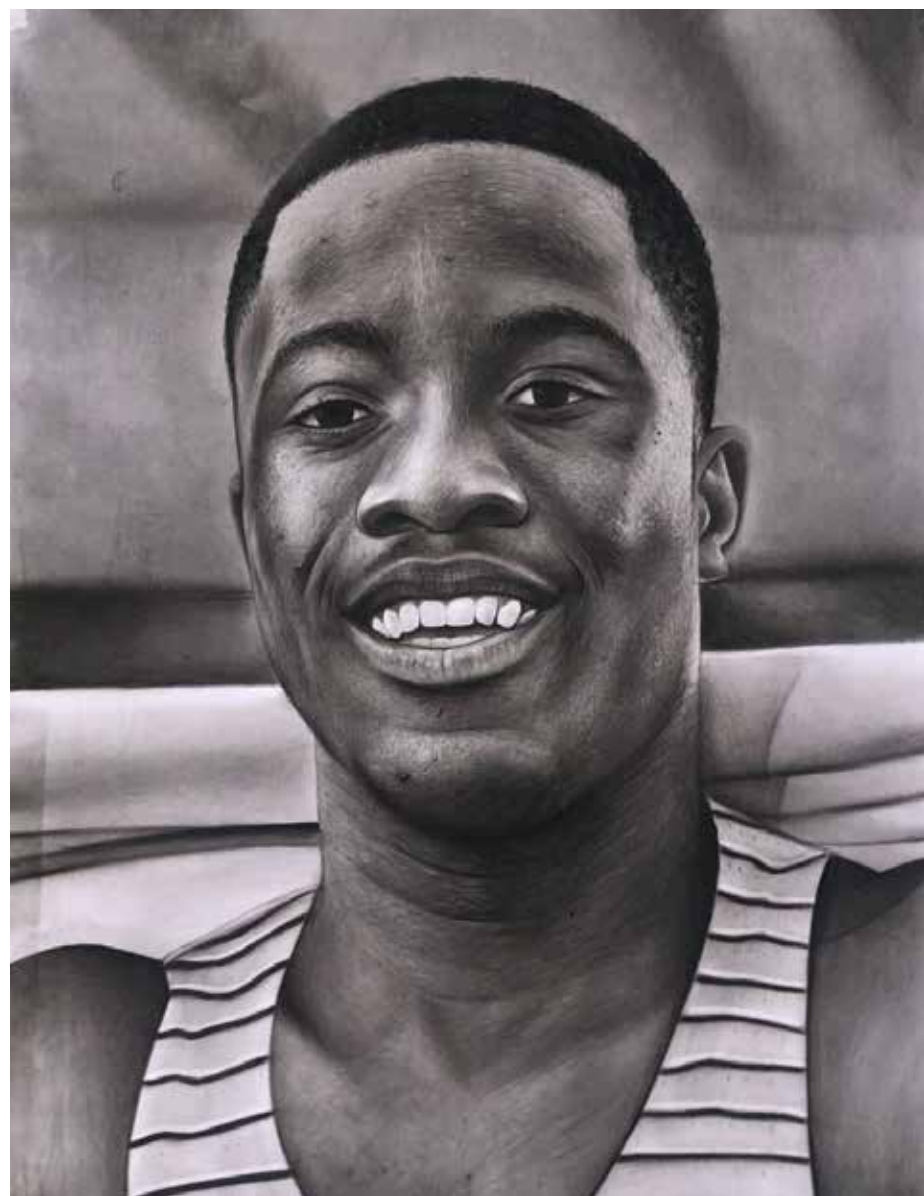
The arts festival ended with a Boutique Music Festival on Saturday headlined by Master KG, Pabi Cooper, DJ LaTimmy, Vee Mampezy, Dr. Vom, Gander

Ganda, Otis the Flow, DJ Keno, Chef Gusto's, Scavenja, Ms Laura, DJ Bafana, Ditiro, DJ Earth, DJ Tonic Soul and Tony-TPainz.

The last festivities of the festival was a Women in Business Seminar on Sunday facilitated by

South Africa's Lusanda Mbane and a gala dinner that provided the right atmosphere for networking, celebrating and acknowledging different sponsors and partners.

Letsile Tebogo's Championship Feat inspires Artist



Sprinter's hyperrealism displayed at the Main Mall for public appreciation

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Letsile Tebogo's world record breaking performance at the World Athletics Under 20 Championships last week has inspired hyperrealism artist Martin Sefako to produce an A0 size art piece of the sprinter in pencil on paper.

Tebogo clocked 9.91 sec in the 100m race after beginning to celebrate, like Usain Bolt, 20 metres to the finish line.

With the same amount of detail as a high-resolution photograph, the hyper realistic drawing is displayed for public appreciation at the "Tebogo Letsile Pop Up Gallery" at the Main Mall in Gaborone.

"Our young champion has lifted the Botswana flag so high, winning gold and silver medals," Sefako told Time Out. "It was important for me to capture this moment with my art so that it lives forever in the eyes and minds of Batswana."

Significance of art piece

The fine artist shared that the drawing took a total of 16 hours nonstop to complete, using charcoal pencils on paper. It garnered rave reviews online and could be snapped up any time because it is for sale.

Said Sefako: "The artwork signifies the power we have in all of us to reach greater heights. I was inspired by Letsile and I am

sure he inspires a lot of other people to use their God given abilities."

Artistic direction

Sefako's work focuses on portraits in pursuit of achieving hyper-realistic pencil drawings in which the face looms large as his favourite subject. He says this is because every person has their own story and capturing the person and their emotions in a drawing is a wonderful experience for him.

"I was inspired by Letsile and am sure he inspires a lot of other people to use their God given abilities."

Apart from faces, other human forms and figures add to his repertoire. "Making these types of drawing requires time and skill and the challenge of creating them on paper is an enjoyable process that I often get lost in," he said.

Emang Basadi asserts Gender Equality to Dibotelo Commission

- 1966 Constitution continues is blind to gender inequality
- Prohibition of dual citizenship is unconstitutional
- Customary and common law marriages should enshrine gender equality in property matters

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Making their contribution to the Commission of Inquiry into the Review of the Constitution (Dibotelo Commission) in Gaborone recently, Emang Basadi and political parties shared their two thebes worth on issues concerning citizenship, gender-based violence (GBV), discriminatory inheritance laws and practices, socio-economic rights issues and political participation of women.

"Emang Basadi Women's Association submission focused on the importance of equal rights to citizenship of women and men, their children and spouses, as is the trend in more modern con-

stitutions," said the Executive Director of Emang Basadi, Ida Mokereitane.

Prohibition of dual citizenship unconstitutional

The organisation's publicity secretary, Cheludo Botale, said their Emang Basadi supports the recent case involving Sithabile Mathe, Jonas Mathe, Sunniva Mathe, Edward Egner and Megan Kelosiwang that challenged the legality of compelling their children to choose between the citizenship of either parent before they become adults.

She pointed out that the prohibition of dual citizenship in Section 15(1) and 15(4) of the Citizenship Act No. 8 of 1998 shows how it is unconstitutional



"Botswana's 1966 Constitution continues to be blind to gender inequality and areas that mainly need to be reviewed and would strengthen equality and non-discrimination and promote gender equality."

and inconsistent with the Constitution of Botswana.

"Emang Basadi recommends that the Constitution of Botswana should have provisions that guarantee equal citizenship through marriage and that the constitution should include aspects of the right to citizenship in the recent judgments."

Gender equality

While the constitutions of Namibia (1990), South Africa (1996) and Zimbabwe (2013) have provisions on gender equality and provide formal and substantive equality, Botswana's does not and Emang Basadi recommends having similar provisions.

With regards to GBV, the women's organisation noted that Botswana is consistently identified as a country with high levels of the scourge and wants the

constitution to specifically mention GBV or domestic violence and the measures required to address the violation of women's rights. Emang Basadi also wants that Section 7 of the Botswana Constitution on protection from inhuman treatment enhanced.

Said Butale: "Discriminatory inheritance laws and practices should be outlawed while customary and common law marriages should enshrine gender equality in property matters, whether in community or out of community of property.

"Discriminatory inheritance laws and practices can lead to women receiving a smaller share compared to male relatives. Upon death or divorce, women can be subjected to discriminatory laws and practices that limit their access and ownership of marital property."

Socio-economic rights

Furthermore, Emang Basadi indicated that socio-economic rights in Botswana are not judicially enforceable to the extent that they are not provided for in the constitution. This lack of socio-economic rights in Botswana and other African countries is seen as an obstacle to ensuring the safety and well-being of marginalised populations.

In Emang Basadi's view, socio-economic rights are instrumental in ensuring that the state is able to provide quality life to all its citizens and that everyone reaches their full potential.

"Botswana's 1966 constitution continues to be blind to gender inequality and areas that mainly need to be reviewed and would strengthen equality and non-discrimination and promote gender equality."

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The Assistant Minister of Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture, Buti Billy, says the creative industry, through its value chain, can diversify the economy and create spillover jobs in the media (journalism), construction, transport, hospitality and tourism.

Minister Billy was responding to a question from the MP for Gaborone North, Mpho Balopi, about the health and prospects of the creative sector and what was there to help the creative its recovery after a stagnant two years of COVID-19 disruptions.

In particular, Balopi wanted to know if the minister was aware of the creative industry's value chain, its potential to create jobs and if there was a plan to assist the sector to reach its potential.

Feedback from creative

"Programmes are ongoing to help the creative sector," Billy answered. "We introduced the National Arts Council of Botswana that will hire its CEO soon (and) already have a Director of Research, creative strategy, a Director of



Billy says Govt is receiving Feedback from Creatives

Balopi wanted to know what was being done to help recovery of the creative sector after COVID disruptions

Legal Affairs and a Director of Corporate Affairs. The Arts Council will be used as a platform to better the creative industry as it is going to promote and regulate the sector."

The junior minister added that they have met the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) to identify available positions that can create employment and engaged with cre-

atives for feedback on the initiatives being undertaken.

"The 2020 Dubai Expo and the Forbes Under 30 Summit helped our youths to gain exposure and those who participated will help grow the sector and employment will be created," said Billy. "We have also changed the President's Day Competitions into the National Arts Festival and staged a

fashion show in Francistown to better the creative sector."

98 employees

Whereupon Balopi iterated his question, asking if the assistant minister was aware of the untapped value chain of other art disciplines outside music and the fine arts. In response Billy said they are currently buying content for NOW TV and contributing to

"We have changed the President's Day Competitions into the National Arts Festival and staged a fashion show in Francistown to better the creative sector."

the film industry's value chain.

"That is why we created the Arts Council because we want to better the creative sector to hire masses," he added. "This whole council will have 98 employees and they will be covering all the sectors of the creative industry."

INTENTION TO CHANGE MARRIAGE PROPERTY REGIME

(In terms of Section 8 (1) (f) of Married Persons Property Act, 2014)

- MOSES MANGALISO MUYALUKA** and **MALEBOGO MUYALUKA** married in community of property on the 24th March 2017, at Bobonong, intend to make an application to the High Court of Botswana for leave to change their marital property regime from in community of property to out of community of property.
- The parties intend to apply to the High Court of Botswana after the expiration of the three (3) weeks statutory notice from the date of first publication hereof.
- Any person, creditor or debtor, who may have an interest in the assets and/or liabilities of the parties' estate, should they have objections to the parties changing their property regime, are to inform the parties' Attorneys, **OSEI-OFEI SWABI & CO**, in writing, before the expiration of the said 3 weeks period, or make representations before the High Court of Botswana once the contemplated application is lodged.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 25TH DAY OF JULY 2022.


OSEI-OFEI SWABI & CO.
Attorneys Notaries & Conveyancers

OSEI-OFEI SWABI & CO.
Applicant's Attorneys First Floor,
Unit 18 Kgale Mews
P O Box 403506
GABORONE

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

In the matter between
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED
And
SEFO MANYEMA

CASE No. CVHFT 000 586/21

PLAINTIFF

DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff **PHILIP MAITSEO** to the Highest Bidder :

DATE OF SALE : 2nd September 2022
TIME : 09:00 a.m.
VENUE : Maun Police Station

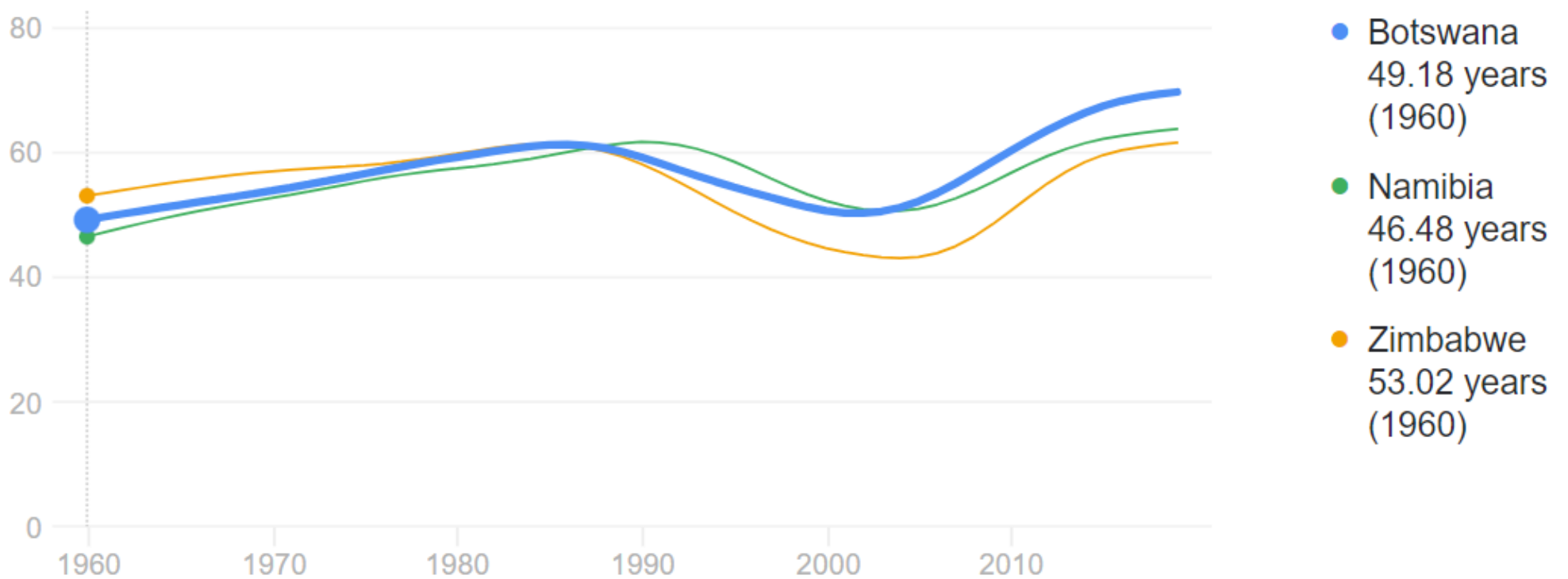
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Toyota Ipsam, Grey in colour, Registration No. B265BME, Chassis No. ACM215050424, Engine No. 2AZ0957837

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected with Deputy Sheriff Philip Maitseo on cell No. 75176140/71320924

CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guarantee cheques

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 8th DAY OF AUGUST, 2022

DEPUTY SHERIFF PHILIP MAITSEO
c/o **M MMOHE ATTORNEYS**
Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN



The Health of the Nation

DOUGLAS RASBASH

While economics maybe the bed rock of development, health is the foundation of the nation upon which its economics depends. Of course all governments recognise this but Botswana is one of only ten African nations that has free universal health care. Like all other nations, Botswana is emerging from the most profound health crises since that of HIV in the 1990's. Great credit must be given to the nation's health team for steering us through it, especially to its leader Hon Dr Edwin Dikoloti who unwittingly took the helm before the pandemic began and could not have known the immense challenges that he was to face four months after taking office. By the way, 8.5/1000 reported cases in Botswana died, compares to 11/1000 worldwide. However, this item is not about the Pandemic but how well the national health services have performed generally. Besides HIV/AIDS, the most common causes of ill health and fatalities are Tuberculosis, Cardio Vascular, neonatal disorders and Diabetes. Other health indicators such as infant mortality are important. Related issues such as obesity and nutrition cannot be overlooked, while mental health and social disorders need consideration. Furthermore, days lost at work through sickness is important, relating to the productivity and economic health.

Botswana still sadly pass-away all too frequently at a very young age invariably denying the nation of the skill and experience it cannot afford to lose.

The most common cause to pre-old age and non-accidental death is Cardio Vascular Disorders CVD accounted for 133.5 deaths per 100,000 compared to 330 per 100,000 in Africa and was ranked 65th worldwide.

The most common cause to pre-old age and non-accidental death is Cardio Vascular Disorders CVD accounted for 133.5 deaths per 100,000 compared to 330 per 100,000 in Africa and was ranked 65th worldwide. TB which at 34.54 per 100,000 compares to 29.7 per 100,000 in Africa and is 30th highest TB death rate in the world. Diabetes and related complications accounted for 60.2/100,000 deaths worldwide but was much higher at 99.86/100,000 in Botswana in 2020 ranking in ninth high-

est worldwide. So it seems that for TB and Diabetes much more work needs to be done to get the numbers down. Infant mortality remains quite high at 36 deaths per one thousand deaths in 2020 compares to forty-two death per 1000 live births which is the average for Africa. This rate should be much lower given the relatively high performing economy in Botswana. Worldwide infant mortality is 28/1000 and is one of the key indicators in the formulation of the influential Human Development Index along with longevity.

Absenteeism or days lost at work due to health and associated reasons is 8.4 days per year in Botswana compared to 2.9 days per year worldwide. Most certainly wellness of workers needs a broader definition than HIV containment, covering all eight of the dimensions of wellness which are physical, emotional, social, intellectual, environmental, spiritual, vocational and financial.

There are worrying signs of worsening social ill health such as exceptionally high rates of rape suicide and divorce that could be attributed to rapid urbanisation, the loss of traditional social structures as well as chronic unemployment. Social scientists can be resourced to better understand such contemporary phenomenon and act to contain and reverse the trends.

Regarding general health nutrition which can be measured using the Global Hunger Index GHI based on established dietary

guidelines which is to say the intake of a calories vitamins proteins needed to sustain a healthy lifestyle. The 2020 GHI scored Botswana 22.6 / 100 and ranked the country as 80th out of the 107 countries for which sufficient data was available. The accompanying report categorised the nutritional status as being serious. One of the obvious impacts of poor diet in younger women are low birth weights (15.6%), stunting in infants (30.7%) and wasting (7.3%), the African average is 6%. Obesity on the other hand in children is 10% and in adults 32.1% while regionally it is 20.7%. Considering the high level of economic development achievement such a classification is both perplexing and worrisome, because Botswana is not food secure and is exposed to climate change risks. Research has shown that drug use is on the rise with 42% of students admitting to taking marijuana.

Assuredly, the best proxy for the health of Botswana is life expectancy which increased from 51 years in 1966 to 70 years in 2022. Botswana having an edge on its neighbours Namibia and Zimbabwe, and is well ahead of African life expectancy of 56 years. This is an impressive achievement due to the evolution of its medical services, especially its personnel and infrastructure but also improving life styles and general wellness.

That our youth will live to more than seventy years is a certainty, provided undermining social issues, such as unemployment are solved. Keeping people at the heart of government policy is a pre-requisite to sustained improvement of the health of the nation in the future.

Russia and Africa: a future-bound partnership



**SERGEY LAVROV,
RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER**

On the eve of my visits to several African countries, I would like to share my reflections on the prospects for Russia-Africa relations in the current geopolitical context with esteemed readers.

Today, African states play an increasingly important role in the global politics and economy, take an active part in solving key modern-day problems. Their solidarity voice sounds more and more harmoniously in world affairs.

Russia has consistently advocated Africa's strengthened position in the multipolar architecture of a world order which should be based on the principles of the UN Charter and take the world's cultural and civilizational diversity into account. In this context, we welcome the successful development of such integration structures as, for example, the African Union, East African Community, Southern African Development Community, Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of West African States and Intergovernmental Author-

ity on Development (IGAD). We consider the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area as an important step towards the true economic independence of the continent, its final liberation from any manifestations of discrimination and coercion.

Russia-Africa ties are based on the time-tested bonds of friendship and cooperation. Our country who has not stained itself with the bloody crimes of colonialism, has always sincerely supported Africans in their struggle for liberation from colonial oppression, provided practical and often gratuitous assistance to the peoples of the continent in the formation of their statehood, creation of the foundations of national economies, defense capabilities build up, and training of qualified personnel. Today we stand in solidarity with the African demands to complete the process of decolonization and support relevant initiatives on the UN platform.

The development of a comprehensive partnership with African countries remains among the top priorities of Russia's foreign policy. We are willing to contribute to its further growth - in line with the strategic decisions taken in late October 2019 at the first

Russia-Africa Summit in Sochi.

At the same time, I would specially emphasize: our country does not impose anything on anyone or tells others how to live. We treat with great respect the sovereignty of the States of Africa, and their inalienable right to determine the path of their development for themselves. We are firmly committed to the "African solutions to African problems" principle. Such an approach to developing inter-State ties dramatically differs from the "master - slave" logic imposed by former metropolitan countries, which reproduces the obsolete colonial model.

We know that the African colleagues does not approve of the undisguised attempts of the US and their European satellites to gain the upper hand, and to impose a unipolar world order to the international community. We appreciate the considered African position as to the situation in and around Ukraine. Although unprecedented by its scale the pressure from beyond has not brought our friends to join the anti-Russian sanctions. Such an independent path deserves deep respect.

For sure, the current geopolitical situation requires certain

adjustment of the mechanisms of our interaction: first of all, there is a question of ensuring seamless logistic and tuning the system of financial settlements to make them secure from the outer interference. In cooperation with its partners, Russia takes steps to enhance the use of national currencies and payment systems. We are working to gradually reduce the share of dollar and euro in mutual trade. We stand generally for establishing an efficient financial system that is proof against the potential impact from the unfriendly States.

The task of bringing Russian and African economic operators to each other's markets and encouraging them to participate in large-scale infrastructure projects also comes to the fore. We assume that, as conducted, the second Africa - Russia summit will facilitate settling those and other tasks. Together with our African friends, we have got down to working through its content.

Food security issues are currently high on the international agenda. We are well aware of the importance of Russian supplies of socially important commodities, including food, to many countries around the world. We

are mindful that these supplies play an important role in preserving social stability as well as in achieving the benchmarks of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

I would like to emphasize that the speculations of Western and Ukrainian propaganda that Russia allegedly "exports hunger" are completely unfounded. In fact, these are yet another attempt to shift the blame to others. It is well known that already during the time of "coronacrisis" the collective West, using the mechanism of currency issuance, "absorbed" commodity and food flows, worsening the situation in the developing countries dependent on food imports. That is when the grave situation on the food market began to take shape. Western sanctions imposed on Russia in recent months have further exacerbated negative trends.

It is essential that all our African friends understand that Russia will continue to fulfill in good faith its obligations under international contracts with regard to exports of food, fertilizers, energy and other goods vital for Africa. Russia is taking all measures to this end.

Moscow will continue to pursue a peace-loving foreign policy and play a balancing role in international affairs. We are in favor of broad interstate cooperation based on the provisions of the UN Charter, first of all the principle of the sovereign equality of states. We will continue to strengthen productive interaction with foreign partners who in their turn are willing to cooperate with us.

In this context, we assume that relations between Russia and Africa, whether political, humanitarian or trade and investment, are of an intrinsic value and do not depend on fluctuations in the international environment. It is good to see that our African friends have a similar understanding. Together we will be even stronger.

EMBASSY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
IN THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

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

In the matter between:

FAKUTO INVESTMENTS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED
And
KEPALETWE RAEMAN KHAN
CARNIVAL FURNISHERS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 526/21

Plaintiff

1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the following movable property of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff Bathusi Billy to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 26th August 2022
PLACE : Old Magistrates Court, Ntsho House, Francistown
TIME : 1030 Hours
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Mercedes Benz, silver in colour, Registration No. B 308 AZE, Samsung Water Dispenser Fridge 660 litres, silver in colour, Hisense mirror Fridge, 670 litres, 3 Piece Lounge Suite, brown in colour, 3 Piece Lounge Suite, brown in colour, 9 Pieces Dining room set, Italian Dresser, silver in colour, Deep Freezer, 530 litres, Hisense fridge, 420 litres, 2 x bedroom suite, black in colour, 2 x Sleeper couch, brown in colour, Hisense Television 40 Inch, black in colour

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheques only.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS THE 2ND DAY OF AUGUST 2022

VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS
Ditau Street, Plot 4660, Area G, P. O. Box 37, Francistown
Telephone No. 241 3421

Deputy Sheriff Bathusi Billy
Telephone No. 71607940/75462791

APPLICATION FOR LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of **DEED OF TRANSFER No. 1581/2008** dated the 4th day of July 2008 passed in favour of **SEAN MARK PILLAY** in respect of the under mentioned property:

CERTAIN : Piece of land being Lot 32129 Gaborone;

SITUATE : In the Gaborone Administrative District;

MEASURING : 612m² (Six Hundred and Twelve Square Metres);

WHICH PROPERTY: Is held under a Deed of Transfer **No. 1581/2008** dated the 4th day of July 2008, made in favour of **SEAN MARK PILLAY**

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

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 29TH DAY OF JULY 2022.

RELAY TEAM BAGS SILVER

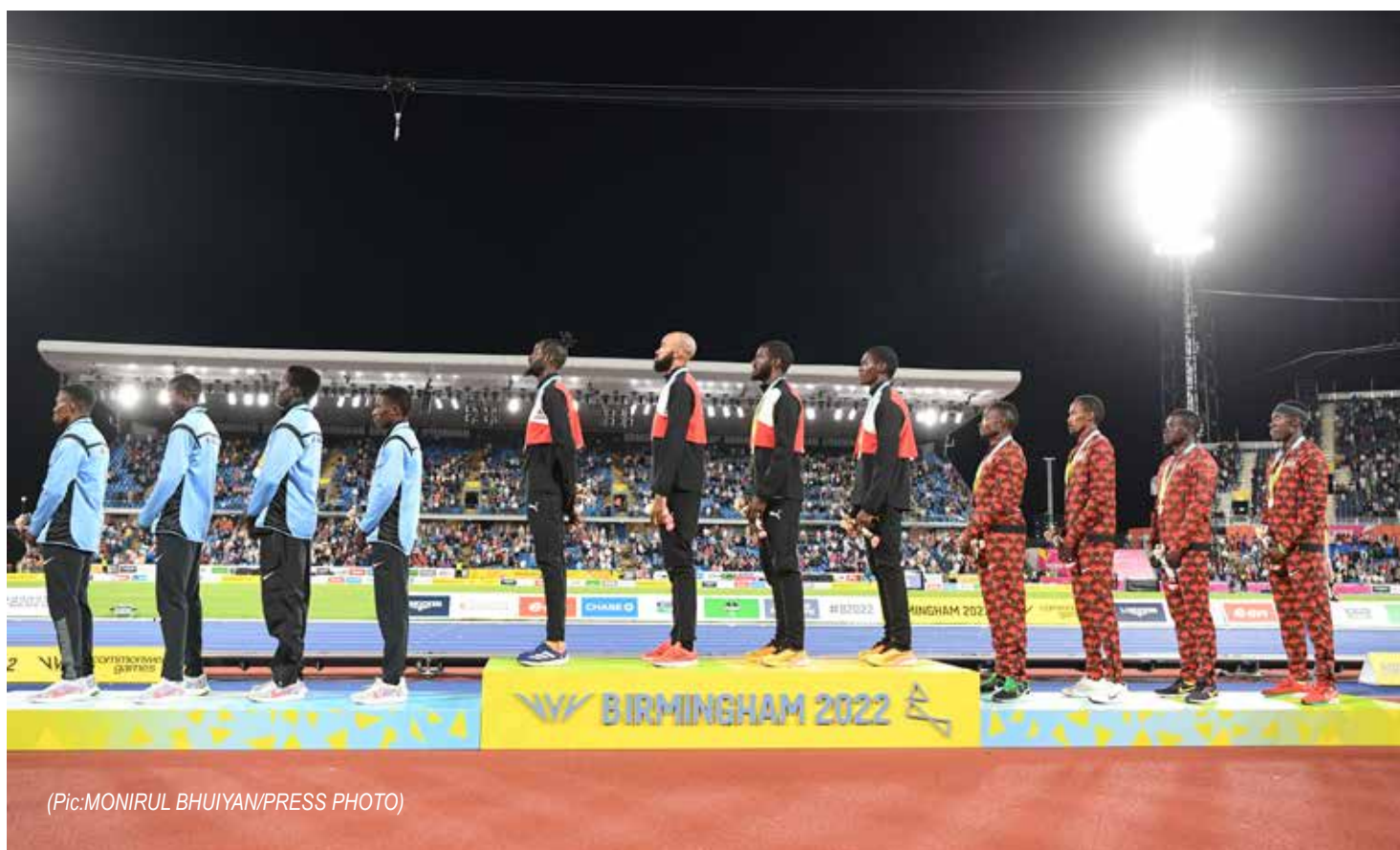
BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana men's 4x400m relay team recorded yet another podium finish in an international competition as they grabbed a silver medal in the men's 4x400m final at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. The quartet of Leungo Scotch, Bayapo Ndori, Anthony Pesela and Zibane Ngozi managed to finish second to finish behind Trinidad and Tobago in the final.

The quartet of Leungo Scotch, Bayapo Ndori, Anthony Pesela and Zibane Ngozi managed to finish second to finish behind Trinidad and Tobago in the final.

Ndori for the win

Botswana finished with a time of 3:01.85.



(Pic: MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

Scotch started the race for Botswana and he handed off the baton in the sixth place. Ngozi then improved Botswana's position as he surged past his competitors to assume the third position.

His impressive surge was crucial to the team's success as he ensured that he kept Botswana in contention for a podium finish. Pesela then maintained Botswana's third spot in the race before making a lung bust-

ing sprint to speed past Jamaica's Jevaughn Powell to assume the second spot. Pesela then handed the baton to Ndori who then cemented Botswana's second place as he maintained a steady run that kept him close to winning the race.

A bit short of the 2018 gold

The current team's silver medal is an impressive medal haul bearing in mind the

tough start they had in the final due to being placed in the notorious lane four. The fourth lane requires runners to turn their pace against a curve and this is usually tough. Botswana's class of 2022 did not manage to emulate their 2018 predecessors (Isaac Makwala, Onkabetse Nkobolo, Leaname Maotoanong and Baboloki Thebe) who won a gold medal in the 2018 Gold Coast edition.



Dithlokwe has been a solid member of the club's rearguard since joining them in January 2020

DITLHOKWE IMPRESSES HUNT

BONGANI MALUNGA

Zebra's captain Thatayaone Dithlokwe has erased memories of last season's nightmare end to the season which had seen him injured and frozen out of first team action by interim coach Andre Arendse at DSTV Premiership. Dithlokwe, now under the tutelage of Gavin Hunt, appears to have regained his place in the club's first team.

He was always the first name of former coach Kaitano Tembo's team sheet before his departure.

Regaining the team's trust

The defender was named in the starting line up in Hunt's first game back at the club as they drew 1-1 against Chip-pa United. He started the game with Thulani Hlatshwayo being his central defensive partner.

Dithlokwe had to play as an emergency goalkeeper in the 90th minute after his teammate Ricardo Goss was sent off for violent conduct after lashing out at a Chip-pa United player. Fortunately for Dithlokwe, he did not concede a goal in the final moments of the game as the score remained 1-1. By being in goal, Dithlokwe displayed his ability to sacrifice and stand up for the team during moments of adversity.

Dithlokwe has been a solid member of the club's rearguard since joining them in January 2020. He was always the first name of former coach Kaitano Tembo's team sheet before his departure. The defender then made only one appearance in the final four games of the season after returning from injury. His sole appearance under Arendse was a three minute cameo in a draw against Moroka Swallows.



(Pic: Botswana National Olympic Commity FACEBOOKPAGE)

First Medal for women's boxing makes history

becomes the Botswana's first ever female boxer to win a medal in the Commonwealth Games

BONGANI MALUNGA

Lethabo Modukanele became Botswana's only competitor to record an individual medal haul at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Modukanele earned a bronze medal at the competition after advancing to the semifinals of the women's minimumweight category.

The local boxer had easily disposed of her Sri Lanka counterpart Nadeeka Pushpakumari in the quarterfinals. She then proceeded to the semifinals where she was stopped by English opponent Demie Jade Resztan.

Female pioneer

Modukanele created a special moment of history as she became Botswana's first ever female boxer to win a medal at the

Commonwealth Games. By garnering a bronze medal, the female boxer has registered Botswana's seventh boxing medal in the history of the competition. She has followed in the footsteps of many illustrious local boxers who have made a mark in the competition.

A history of Botswana's boxers at the Games

Botswana has an impressive list of boxers who have picked up medals in the Commonwealth Games over the years. The first boxer to win a medal was France Mabiletsa in the 1994 edition as he walked away with a bronze medal in the men's light heavyweight category.

Modukanele earned a bronze medal at the competition after advancing to the semifinals of the women's minimumweight category

Lechedzani Master Luza earned a silver medal in the men's flyweight category in the 2002 edition held in Manchester, England. Gilbert Khunwane (men's lightweight) also walked away with a bronze medal in the 2002 competition. The Melbourne 2006 competition saw Mmoloki Nogeng win a bronze medal in the men's bantamweight category. Four years later in Delhi Tirafalo Seoko (bantamweight) and Oteng Oteng (flyweight) earned silver and bronze medals respectively.

GU VS VITA FOR CAF OPENER!

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana Premier League champions Gaborone United will face Democratic Republic of Congo club AS Vita in the preliminary (first) round of the 2022/2023 CAF Champions League. The clubs will lock horns for a place in the second round of the competition which will be the last round before the lucrative group stage.

GU will take on AS Vita on the weekend of 9-11 September (first leg) while the second leg will take place on the weekend of 16-18 September. The winner of the GU and AS Vita tie will take on RC Kadiogo or Asante Kotoko in the second round.

Moyagoleele will be aiming to become only the third Botswana club to reach the CAF Champions League group stage, they will be aiming to emulate Township Rollers and Jwaneng Galaxy.

More than a decade away

The Reds will make their return to the CAF Champions League after 13 years away from the competition. They made a lasting impression in the competition as they grabbed the headlines by eliminating Soweto giants Orlando Pirates in the preliminary round in 2009.

GU proceeded to the first round after eliminating Pirates, they eliminated Curepipe Starlight of Morocco in the first round with an emphatic 6-0 aggregate win. GU's 2009 run was ended by Zimbabwean club Dynamos FC in the second round.

The club will be hoping to get over the second round hurdle this time around as they have continued to strengthen their team. The addition of Mothusi Cooper will make the club a much more formidable team as the experienced midfielder has gained valuable experience in Zambia and Morocco in recent years.

(Pic: MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)



COMMONWEALTH GAMES

HISTORIC MEDAL FOR WOMEN'S BOXING!

Lethabo Modukanele's win at her first Commonwealth Game appearance is the country's first medal in women's boxing and Botswana seventh overall in the sport at the annual competition.



400X4 SILVER

A ROARING START TO
THE NEW 400 METRE
RELAY TEAM