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BDP Bigwigs Clash Ahead of Crucial Congress

Since his fall from power last year, BDP president Mokgweetsi Masisi has struggled to maintain control as rebellion brews within his party. While senior party figures continue to launch veiled attacks, accusing him of abusing his authority, persecuting members, certain tribes and their leaders, Masisi in an interview preferred 'no comment' on attacks, while chairman Slumber Tsogwane fired back, warning critics against portraying themselves as saints.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Former president Mokgweetsi Masisi has chosen "no comment" on members veiled attacks on his leadership style, refraining from explaining why he has not taken disciplinary action against his critics as the current president of the Botswana Democratic Party.

As the BDP heads toward its fix-or-break congress in May, deep divisions threaten to fracture the already strained party. Factions are scrambling for campaign messages that will resonate with party members, with many pushing the narrative that Masisi's misrule led the party astray, culminating in its massive and unprecedented electoral defeat in the 2024 historic elections.

"We lost the elections, and I don't think finger-pointing will help us in any way. We must focus on the congress and the next elections."

"Our agreement with the people was that they should vote us out if we abandoned our promises and pursued our own interests—and they did just that. Nothing surprising," said party stalwart Daniel Kwelagobe recently. He blamed the party's constitution, which grants excessive powers to the president, recalling that founding president Sir Seretse Khama long warned about this flaw. "We did not lis-

ten. He warned that a time will come when a lunatic would occupy the seat and do as he pleases," he added.

Calls for Reconciliation

Former party secretary general Mpho Balopi, who is vying for the BDP presidency, and former Minister for State President Kabo Morwaeng have called for the party to apologize to those who suffered injustices under Masisi's rule.

"We need to go and apologize to all victims and those we wronged," said Balopi. Morwaeng echoed this, adding that what happened to Dr. Edwin Dikoloti reminded him of his own political ordeals.

Victims

Among the notables cited as such victims is Kgosi Mosadi Seboko of BaLete, who was ousted from her position as a member of the Pan-African Parliament; former finance minister Dr Thapelo Matsheka, who was arrested on serious charges that were eventually dismissed by the courts as baseless; and former president Ian Khama, who was expelled from the party and later mounted a spirited and successful campaign against the party in revenge.

Others, such as the BaNgwato, were denied access to their Kgotla by the administration, while Dr Edwin Dikoloti was expelled after defeating Masisi's alleged preferred candidate in the party's primary elections and went on to embarrass the party as an independent candidate in the general elections.

Insubordination and defiance

Meanwhile, Khama recently stated that the parallel agenda being pursued by some BDP members shows signs of insubordination and defiance against their leader.

Asked about his inaction in the face of members who have openly defied his leadership, Masisi offered no explanation and replied "I reserve my comment."

Adding his voice to the brouhaha, Slumber Tsogwane - the BDP chairman who was the country's vice president under Masisi - said critics of the Masisi government should reflect on their contributions during Masisi's presidency.

"They must stop portraying themselves as saints. They must know that while as they point fingers at us, some of their other fingers are pointing back at them," he said. "We lost the elections, and I don't think finger-pointing will help us in any way. We must focus on the congress and the next elections."

Meanwhile, a former member of Masisi's central committee recently took to a party WhatsApp group to suggest that if efforts are made to suspend critics, the party should begin by reinstating those who have been purged at the congress.

Political observers say Masisi's influence and support within the BDP have waned significantly, leaving him too emasculated to enforce discipline. Some believe that instead of attempting to regain control, Masisi may need to start preparing for his eventual exit from the party.



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Masisi Offloads His Livestock

Former president Mokgweetsi Masisi has moved to liquidate some of his livestock and recently sold around 40 cattle along with some small stock . StaffWriter **TEFO PHEAGE** reports

Former President Mokgweetsi Masisi recently sold some of his livestock to members of the public.

In an interview with Botswana Gazette Masisi downplayed the significance of the sale, “I recently had a kraal sale of no more than 40 cattle at the most,” said the former president. “The small stock sold was less than 20 and I cannot consider this as offloading by any measure,” He added.

“These are done publicly...”
“In any event, these are done publicly and are open to any interested buyer. Payments are processed through the bank, except for the few who pay in cash. I still have to do a full reconciliation as I was away on one of the days of the sale”, He explained.

“I recently had a kraal sale of no more than 40 cattle at the most. The small stock sold was less than 20, and I cannot consider this as offloading by any measure. In any event, these are done publicly and are open to any interested buyer.”

“I can assure you there is no attempt to avoid or deceive anything or anybody. For slaughter animals, I usually sell to the BMC who process their payments through the bank too. This year I have not yet sold to the BMC as I traditionally do.”

This publication has established that Masisi has tasked his older brother, Brigadier Thulaganyo Masisi (rtd), to oversee the sales.

“People sell all the time”
Asked about the development, the retired general stated: “What business do people have when we sell that which belongs to us? Is there anything wrong in selling your livestock? People sell all the time.”

It is understood that Masisi recently sold sheep, goats and cattle at Mmatseta, a village near Kopong and Mmo-pane in the Kweneng District.

A known breeder, Masisi has previ-

ously been linked to controversial government cattle deals, including a contentious purchase of bulls from the United States. However, his government always maintained that everything was done above board and for the benefit of Batswana.



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BPP Expels Minister Ntsima ,Two Cllrs

The three were accused of defying party rules and subsequently failed to attend their disciplinary hearings

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Peoples Party (BPP) has expelled its sitting MP for Francistown South, Tiroeaone Ntsima, along with two councillors for alleged misconduct.

Ntsima, who is also a cabinet minister and previously served as the party’s secretary general, was expelled this week following a 45-day suspension.

The Councillor for Monarch Central in Francistown West, Dorcus Nakedi Moemedi, and the Councillor for Tlogatloga in Gaborone South, Vivian Ramokapane, were also expelled.

Code of conduct

In the letters of expulsion addressed to the trio, the BPP – which is a contacting member of the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) - accuses them of defying the party’s disciplinary rules and regulations.

“The BPP sent you a letter inviting you to attend a disciplinary hearing following your suspension from the party,” reads the letter in part.



The Botswana Peoples Party (BPP) has expelled its sitting MP for Francistown South, Tiroeaone Ntsima, along with two councillors for alleged misconduct.

“Regrettably, you decided not to attend the hearing and abstained, thereby defying the central committee’s instruction as per the party’s constitution and disciplinary code of conduct.

Misconduct

“According to the party’s code of conduct, by failing to attend the hearing, you have by your conduct ceased to be a member

of the BPP.

“This letter therefore serves to officially pronounce or inform you of your expulsion from the party with immediate effect, consistent and in accordance with its powers derived from Section 6(k) of the constitution.”

The trio had been serving suspensions for misconduct. Ntsima was suspended last December for

constitution of the party.

“It is true we have expelled Ntsima, Moemedi and Ramokapane,” he said in an interview. “In fact, they self-expelled because they failed to attend their disciplinary hearings.

Automatically

“The letters that invited them to the hearings warned that their membership would terminate automatically in accordance with the constitution if they failed to attend. Therefore, since they failed to attend, the party formalised their expulsions.”

At the time of going to press, UDC spokesman Moeti Mohwasa had yet to respond to *Gazette* enquiries regarding implications for Ntsima’s cabinet post that was allocated under the coalition agreement.

Maundeni Blames Executive, Not Parliament, for “Lawmaking Failures”

The academic says President Boko’s persistent criticism of Parliament is misplaced because it is the executive, not Parliament, that bears the primary responsibility for making laws

TEFO PHEAGE

Political science academic, Professor Zibani Maundeni, has pushed back against President Duma Boko’s persistent criticism of the performance of Parliament because the executive - which Boko heads - is responsible for driving the lawmaking process.

Maundeni’s remarks come as Boko continues to lambast Parliament, accusing it of failing to effectively discharge its legislative functions.

Drafting bills

However, Maundeni maintains that Boko’s frustration is misplaced because the executive, not Parliament, bears the primary responsibility for lawmaking.

“Parliament just passes laws among other functions,” he said in an interview. “MPs may make proposals here and there, but it is largely the executive’s duty.

“The executive plays a crucial role in initiating legislation, drafting bills and approving them before presenting them to Parliament.

Beyond lawmaking

“The President is also an MP. I therefore think he should focus more on his executive role rather than solely blaming Parliament, although there is nothing fundamentally wrong with reminding MPs to focus on their core responsibilities.”

Maundeni emphasised that the role of Parliament extends beyond lawmaking as it also

has “a responsibility to hold the executive accountable through parliamentary debates, questioning ministers and committee oversight”.

He urged both MPs and the executive to take their roles seriously and ensure they perform their duties diligently before criticising one another.

“The President is also an MP. I therefore think he should focus more on his executive role rather than solely blaming Parliament”

Balance of power

“There is nothing wrong with criticising, and leaders should take time to reflect on constructive feedback,” he said.

Boko ‘s persistent attacks on the effectiveness of Parliament have sparked a broader debate on the balance of power between the executive and the legislature.

Opposition MPs this week expressed concerns about the President’s persistent criticism.

Nevertheless, President Boko believes that Parliament should focus on passing progressive laws that drive national development rather than spending “too much time” asking questions, many of which he considers unworthy.



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LGBTQ+ Persons Left Stranded as US Court Reinstates Funding

Activists say access to healthcare should be a fundamental right for all regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation

GAZETTE REPORTER

The exclusion of LGBTQ+ persons from a recent US Supreme Court ruling that overturned President Donald Trump’s aid cuts has raised concerns about worsening stigma and discrimination against the queer community in Botswana.

The ruling, which reinstated funding for humanitarian aid globally, has led to the resumption of various services, including those provided by Tebelopele, an organisation offering health services across the country.

However, LGBTQ+ activists fear that queer individuals, already facing significant barriers to healthcare, are being left out.

Social stigma

A research study titled “Risk Factors to Mental Health Challenges Among the LG-BTI+ Community in Gaborone, Botswana” found that access to healthcare remains a significant challenge for LGBTQ+ persons due to discrimination and societal stigma.

The Director of Success Capital, Dumi Gatsha, expressed concern that many suspended services tailored for LGBTQ+ in-

dividuals have not been restored. “Religious and cultural beliefs make it difficult for us to access services,” Gatsha said, emphasising that while US aid previously helped provide inclusive healthcare services, the current situation has left many queer individuals struggling.

Self-stigmatising

According to Gatsha, LGBTQ+ persons often experience discrimination at public health facilities where nurses and staff may judge them based on their gender identity or sexual orientation.

This in turn discourages them from seeking medical assistance, including treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Gatsha noted that the fear of discrimination has led to self-stigmatisation among many LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly those who identify as nonbinary.

“Many queer persons may self-stigmatise and avoid seeking healthcare altogether because they feel unwelcome,” Gatsha said.

Mental health issues

“For example, a nonbinary individual may not feel comfortable discussing STI symptoms in an environment where healthcare workers struggle to understand their identity.”



The exclusion of LGBTQ+ persons from a recent US Supreme Court ruling that overturned President Donald Trump’s aid cuts has raised concerns about worsening stigma and discrimination against the queer community in Botswana.

The exclusion of LGBTQ+ persons from aid programmes also exacerbates mental health struggles.

Research from the School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Science at North West University in South Africa highlights that queer individuals often avoid counselling and mental health services due to stigma, leading to increased cases of depression and anxiety.

Further discrimination

“For survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) or rape within the queer community, the situation is even worse,” Gatsha noted.

“They often feel unworthy of quality care, and after enduring long-term abuse,

many choose not to report incidents due to fear of further discrimination.”

As humanitarian aid programmes resume in Botswana, activists urge policymakers and healthcare providers to ensure that LG-BTQ+ persons are not left behind.

Deliberate steps

They argue that access to healthcare should be a fundamental right for all, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

While the US Supreme Court ruling provides hope for many communities worldwide, concerns remain that LGBTQ+ individuals will continue to struggle unless deliberate steps are taken to address systemic discrimination in healthcare and social services.

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"Masisi's Behaviour Was Unsuitable For The Presidency"- Academic Paper

A newly published academic paper has attributed the fall of the BDP on former president Mokgweetsi Masisi's "blatant arrogance" and "penchant for offensive language" and argues that his behaviour was unsuitable for the presidency. StaffWriter **TEFO PHEAGE** reports



An academic paper by Christian John Makgala, a Professor of History and Political Economy at the University of Botswana (UB), published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group in a journal, has partly blamed the Botswana Democratic Party's (BDP) electoral loss on former president Mokgweetsi Masisi's "blatant arrogance" and "penchant for offensive language" at political rallies and towards village elders, further concluding that

this conduct "alienated many people". Titled 2024 Botswana Election Dynamics and Presage for Future Government and Governance, Makgala asserts: "Intolerance of opponents both inside and outside the BDP and the use of the intelligence agency to harass and humiliate them became commonplace. State apparatus and trumped-up charges were also deployed in a war of attrition against Khama, forcing him to flee to South Africa in

late 2021. **Inequality** Party elders who attempted to intervene and advise Masisi on improving his relationship with Khama and other matters were ignored. Like Khama, he was described as intolerant by the 2022 Bertelsmann Stiftung report while the 2022 World Happiness Report ranked Botswana among the world's unhappiest people. According to the 2022 World Bank report, economic inequality in Botswana re-

mained one of the highest globally". According to the paper, "Masisi displayed behaviour unsuitable for the presidency, continuing to use offensive language publicly, including during crucial negotiations with De Beers over diamond licences in 2023." It continues: "De Beers is the country's primary investor, and his conduct was criticised as reckless 'resource nationalism'. The sharp decline in diamond sales in the international market, which negatively impacted government finances and led to discussions of austerity measures, was attributed to Masisi's remarks regarding negotiations with De Beers."

As the election approached, he theatrically revealed state secrets about past negotiations with De Beers in an attempt to spite Khama at a political rally, attracting condemnation from critics for violating his presidential oath."

State secrets "Reports indicated that government coffers were so depleted that there were fears civil servants might not receive their salaries. As the election approached, he theatrically revealed state secrets about past negotiations with De Beers in an attempt to spite Khama at a political rally, attracting condemnation from critics for violating his presidential oath." Makgala says the BDP primary elections were unusually held very late, and the

multitude of protests by losing candidates citing irregularities were ignored by the party leadership, except for one constituency where Masisi's finance minister and purported presidential successor had **lost dismally.** "The winner was suspended by the party leadership, eliciting significant public anger against Masisi. The suspended member left the BDP and contested the election as an independent candidate, which he won by a substantial margin," writes Makgala.

Zimbabwe ties The author points out that another blemish on Masisi was his ties to the unpopular Zimbabwean president Emmerson Mnangagwa and his aggressive push for cross-border movement using national identity cards instead of passports. Professor Makgala writes that this "angered many Batswana, especially amid rising crime linked to the influx of undocumented Zimbabweans since the collapse of Zimbabwe's economy in 2000".

According to the author, "tensions grew when Botswana's Independent Electoral Commission was found to have secretly benchmarked with the discredited Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, raising suspicions of election-rigging in favour of the BDP". This concern, Professor Makgala writes, was intensified by an official from the ruling ZANU-PF party pledge of support for the BDP's re-election at its September 2024 manifesto launch. "The situation worsened with claims of Zimbabwe's interference in the South African and Mozambican elections in May and October 2024, supporting the ruling parties there," the paper reads further.



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Cleaners’ Go-Slow Cripples Nyangagwe Hospital

Nurses at Nyangabwe Referral Hospital in Francistown are overstretched because cleaners and porters are on a go-slow after they went for three months without being paid

GAZETTE REPORTER

Nurses at Nyangabwe Referral Hospital (NRH) are working under increased pressure due to a go-slow by porters and cleaners after their employers failed to pay their salaries for three months.

The workers are employed by Dolla-maid Cleaning Services and staged a protest over unpaid wages for January and February, which led to porters joining in the go-slow.

While the employees returned to their posts, they have adopted a go-slow approach until their outstanding payments are settled.

“Since (this) began, wards, consultation rooms, and common areas have not been cleaned, leading to accumulation of waste and unbearable stench.”

“There is no motivation”

In an interview, one of the protesting workers, (name know to this publication), explained their frustration thus: “Though we’ve returned to work, we’re not doing our jobs to the fullest.

“There is no motivation to clean the patients’ mess. Sometimes the patients vomit on the floor and it is our job to clean it up. But we’re doing it slowly because we haven’t been paid and there is nothing to motivate us.

Nurses have found themselves compelled to take on the extra duties. The hospital’s daily operations have been disrupted, affecting both staff morale and patient care.

The Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) has called on the government to intervene, warning that the go-slow has created an untenable situation with both healthcare workers and patients in the deteriorating hygiene standards.

Unbearable stench

“Hospitals require the highest standards

of cleanliness to prevent infections,” said BONU. “Since (this) began, wards, consultation rooms, and common areas have not been cleaned, leading to accumulation of waste and unbearable stench.

“Nurses are already overburdened with patient care and cannot take on cleaning and portering duties.”

At the time of going to press, hospital spokesperson, Wada Pedzani, had not responded to *Gazette* enquiries.



Botswana President Advocate Duma Boko accompanied by the BSE board chair Neo Mooki, BITC chief executive officer Keletsositse Olebile touring the stalls during the High level business engagement forum with the theme “Mapping a new collaboration: Building the new Botswana “ in Gaborone (Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)



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Not All Parliamentary Questions Are Frivolous – Saleshando

Contrary to President Duma Boko’s assertion that MPs should desist from raising “frivolous” questions in Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando, holds that questions are necessary for feedback on development projects and policy shift



BONGANI MALUNGA

Questions presented in Parliament play a significant role in holding the executive accountable and for updates on development projects, the Leader of the Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando, has said.

The assertive president of the Botswana Congress Party was responding to President Duma Boko’s recent remarks that MPs should shift their attention from asking “frivolous” questions in Parliament and focus on making impactful laws.

Level of discourse

Boko said this in his speech at a fundraising gala dinner of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) in Gaborone last week.

The President challenged MPs to raise their level of discourse and desist from spending much time on motions and questions that have a short-term impact.

“Let us not go to Parliament and ask frivolous questions,” Boko said. “You go to Parliament to ask when the window of some school out in some far-flung area will be fixed.

Progress reports

“The role of Parliament is to make laws for the good governance and the peace of this Republic.”

However, Saleshando thinks differently. In an interview with *The Botswana Gazette*, the Leader of the Opposition said questions raised by MPs reflect the interests of their constituencies.

He asserted that limiting MPs to making laws without asking for progress reports on development projects would leave a gap in feedback for their constituencies.

Satisfied

“I am satisfied with the quality of the questions posed by the BCP MPs in Parliament,” he said. “The questions allow us to advance the interests of the constituencies we represent.

“Updates on development projects are given in response to questions. We are also able to influence possible policy shifts through the questions. President Boko needs to address the frivolous questions that UDC MPs are raising privately with his team.”



JOB VACANCY

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- Conduct financial analysis and provide actionable insights and recommendations to management.
- Coordinate internal and external audits, ensuring all records and reports are audit-ready.
- Oversee payroll processing, monitor payroll costs, and provide cost analysis as required.
- Develop, implement, and improve financial policies, controls, and procedures to enhance financial efficiency.
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Opposition to Re-table UDC Previous Motions in Parliament

Analyst believes the UDC will support motions it tabled when in the opposition because it is a people-driven leftist formation



Opposition parties in Parliament are bringing pressure to bear on the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) by bringing back motions that the UDC tabled when its MPs were on the left of the aisle.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Opposition parties in Parliament are bringing pressure to bear on the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) by bringing back motions that the UDC tabled when its MPs were on the left of the aisle.

According to their movers, the motions are tabled with hopes of getting the same vigour of support that they received from the UDC when it drove them from the ranks of the parliamentary opposition.

The MP for Kgatleng East, Mabuse Pule, was the first to revive one such motion while the MP for Selibe-Phikwe West,

Reuben Kaizer, is the latest to announce his intention to follow suit.

Kaizer's BCL drive

Kaizer's motion has already been noticed and is expected to be tabled any time in Parliament.

His motion will seek to empower the government to enable former employees

of BCL Mine to purchase BCL houses at subsidised rates. The ex-BCL employees became jobless overnight when the mine was suddenly closed at the end of 2016.

The motion will also call for a purchase scheme not limited to rent-to-buy, turnkey, or any other social welfare scheme to enable the ex-employees or occupants to buy the houses.

New calibration of Parliament

While the motion was previously brought by former UDC legislator Dithapelo Keorapetse and was rejected by the majority Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), Kaizer is pinning his hopes on the new calibration of Parliament for support.

Kaizer has told *The Botswana Gazette* in an interview: "This motion was initially tabled by the UDC while still in the opposition but the majority of the BDP rejected it. Since the UDC believed in the motion, I am reviving it in the hope that they will support me."

"Besides, I believe this Parliament is different from the previous one that was in the habit of rejecting even sensible motions. I now want to see if those who are now in government will assume the same stance."

Same stance

Kaizer said he has been holding off on the motion because he expected the UDC to reintroduce it.

Reached for comment, political analyst Professor Zibani Maudeni stated that as a leftist government, the UDC should support such motions.

"Leftist governments are usually friendly to the people and try by all means to protect workers' rights," he said. "I therefore believe that the UDC is still of the same stance on such motions."

DDT College, Students Clash Over Strike

The management of DDT College has warned the SRC against causing unrest without stating its complaints but the SRC says it asked for a meeting with management

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Student Representative Council (SRC) at DDT College of Medicine in Gaborone has been accused of causing unrest within the campus.

The management of the college has warned the student leaders against disrupting classes and disturbing students who continue to attend classes while the SRC seeks a meeting with the institution's management.

"The college is determined to provide quality education to all learners without any interference," reads a letter from the administration to the SRC released on Monday this week.

No need

"What you are doing is playing with learners' future and as you might be aware that the country needs healthcare professionals ... As the school, we will meet your needs as and when necessary."

"Note that our country is in real need of funds. Therefore, it cannot just spend on the learners who just come to college and mount demonstrations when there is

no need.

"The SRC has failed to come before the school management and put down in writing or verbally student concerns ... If there are complaints from the SRC, liaise with the SLO and Co-Vice Chancellor to solve such problems."

"Any demonstration will be unlawful and is against the college culture, policies and regulations."

Cyber laws

"Running around, spreading propaganda and rumors on social media is a violation of the cyber laws of Botswana and even saying there will be a strike, is a thing that learners must stop and stay away from."

"Any demonstration will be unlawful and is against the college culture, poli-

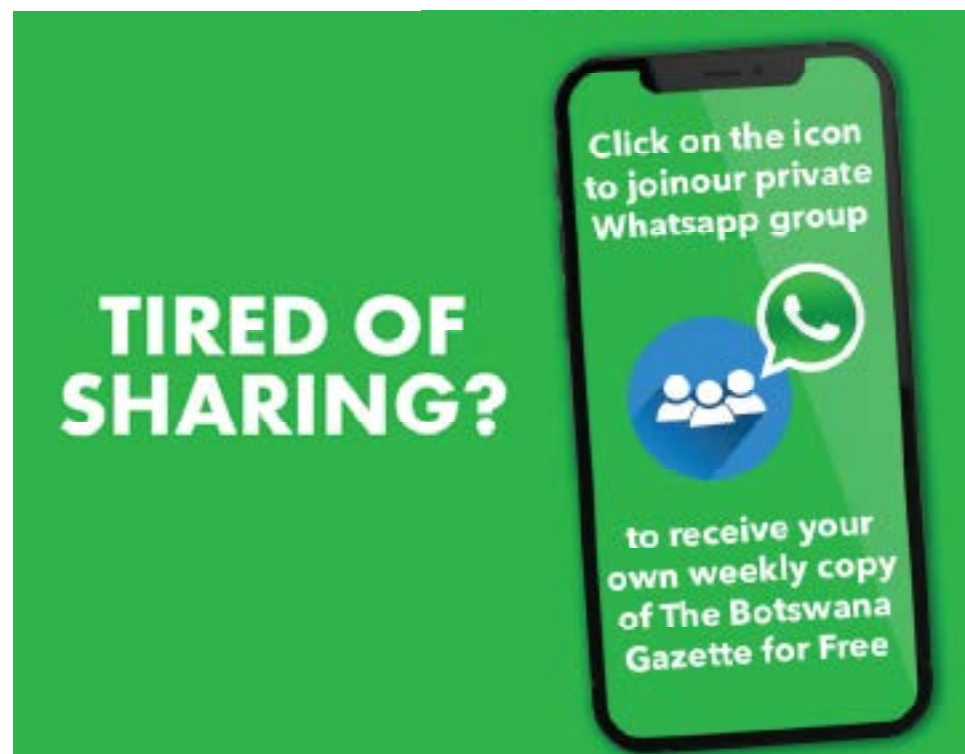
cies and regulations. Disturbance of any other learner from learning is a misconduct which might lead to suspension or expulsion from the college, depending on the gravity of the matter."

"Note all learners are expected to attend their classes and registration will be taken."

State of the institution

However, a letter signed by the president of the SRC, Gilbert Motlhabi, on 7 March 2025 requested a meeting with management on 12 March.

"The students have expressed a great need to meet the top management in its entirety on issues of great concern to them about the state and status of the institution," the SRC letter reads in part.



Hunting Generated P42M Despite International Opposition

While the issuance of hunting licences is a wildlife management tool and a source of revenue generation for community trusts, Botswana continues to grapple with international opposition and upholding its own policies



BONGANI MALUNGA

Despite strong opposition from the United Kingdom (UK) and Germany, the government raked in P42 million from selling hunting licences during the 2024 hunting season, Parliament has heard.

Botswana allocates hunting licences as a conservation and wildlife population control measure, but the policy has been largely criticised to a point where the UK and Germany are about to ban importation of hunting trophies.

Canada and Belgium are

among countries that have completely banned trophy imports.

Economic benefits

This came to light when the Minister of the Environment and Tourism, Wynter Mmolotsi presented his ministry’s Committee of Supply Speech for Development Budget Proposals for the

2025/2026 financial year recently.

He told Parliament that Botswana’s wildlife population management results in optimum economic benefits for community trusts.

Botswana issues 400 elephant hunting licences per year for the period of April to November with community trusts benefitting from international hunters purchasing the licences.

Millions of pula

“For the 2024 hunting season, the community quotas generated the sum of P42 863 423,” Mmolotsi said.

“Furthermore, a total of P15 633 950 was realised from the sale of special elephant quotas to support elephant conservation and community-led projects within the elephant range.

“The country is facing opposition from animal rights organisations to our policy of sustainable wildlife utilisation of using hunting as a management tool and empowerment to local communities.

“The ministry, working with the hunting industry and affected community trusts, stepped up ef-

forts to counter this growing opposition to sustainable hunting through engagements carried out in the UK and Germany.

“The country is facing opposition from animal rights organisations to our policy of sustainable wildlife utilisation of using hunting as a management tool and empowerment to local communities.”

Int’l engagement

“The ministry will continue to engage the international community on the importance of sustainable utilisation to our economy and the conservation of our wildlife populations.

Mmolotsi told the House that poaching and human-wildlife conflict are challenges that the government continues to struggle with.

He noted that poaching incidents have increased by 16 per cent for the period under review while human-wildlife conflict cases have reduced from 9010 to 6325 in the last two calendar years.

Congolese Delegation in Botswana for Diamond Sector Cooperation

This is the second large-scale Congolese delegation to visit Botswana since President Félix Tshisekedi’s last year

GAZETTE REPORTER

A delegation composed of the Coordinator of UGP-MIBA, MIBA, and experts organised by the project management unit for the revival of MIBA (UGP-MIBA) is on a six-day visit ending to Botswana to explore strengthening diamond sector cooperation between the two countries.

This marks the second large-scale Congolese delegation to visit Botswana since President Félix Tshisekedi’s trip in 2024, a visit said to have opened avenues for deepening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Strengthening exchanges

During the ongoing visit focusing on mining, the delegation engaged in discussions with the Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Minerals and Energy and other key institutions.

The delegation was led by Joëlle Kabena, the Coordinator of UGP-MIBA, and Jeremie Kalala, the Deputy Coordinator of UGP-MIBA.

The goal is to improve economic and commercial viability while ensuring stability in global industrial and supply chains.

Addressing the hosts, Kabena highlighted President Tshisekedi’s commitment to strengthening exchanges with Botswana.

Kalala outlined UGP-MIBA’s action plan, emphasising the im-

portance of conducting certifications, assessing deposit capacities with partners, and enhancing security within MIBA’s concessions.

Corneille Mbikayi, Technical Director of MIBA, provided insights into the company’s current operations, affirming its readiness to collaborate with all stakeholders to revive MIBA through Botswana’s expertise.

Global supply chains

The goal, he said, is to improve economic and commercial viability while ensuring stability in global industrial and supply chains.

Representatives of Botswana’s mining and business sectors expressed their willingness to strengthen cooperation with the DRC through UGP-MIBA, signalling potential future partnerships in the diamond sector.





Bash Connektor Positively Contributes to Social Impact

Bash Connektor, a marketing company with a twist founded by Basadi ‘Bash’ Masimolole, hosts TatsoConnekt Leading Women Brunch 2.0 on Saturday 29, March 2025 at Gabane Pottery.

This year’s connecting storytelling theme, “Causes of Self-Doubt for Women Executives and Entrepreneurs: Mechanisms to Cope with Imposter Syndrome.”

A Passion for Social Impact

Bash’s dedication to bridging the gap between social enterprises and financiers is how Bash Connektor was originally conceptualized with first Covid - 19 lockdowns.

Fast forward to year 2025, I decide to return to my passion of consulting for (Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) be heard and seen differently hence choice to curate and host TatsoConnekt Leading Women Brunch 2.0 at Gabane Pottery as Bash Connektor CSI.

Gabane, a small village on the outskirts of Gaborone, is home to Gabane Pottery. The pottery center was established in year 1985 by Germans as a way to creating employment for Gabane residents.

Bash’s first encounter with Gabane Pottery was with 40th Botswana Independence Celebrations whilst Graduate Trainee at Standard Chartered Bank Botswana. We actually bought glazed glasses for the Independence Golf Tournament from Gabane Pottery.

A Vision for Sustainability and Growth

“Bash Connektor with this social impact initiative is committed to curating and hosting experiential stakeholder engagements and team-building with a difference as a way of empowering Gabane Pottery.

Social enterprise has always been close to my heart, and we are proud to partner with Gabane Pottery to bring this vision to life as a start.”

Bash Connektor extends an invitation to individuals and corporates to purchase tickets for TatsoConnekt Leading Women Brunch 2.0 at P1,500.00 per person.

Value (boleng.bomosola) of TatsoConnekt Leading Women Brunch 2.0

High VALUE - Low VOLUME experience

A healing, growth, networking safe space where guests will connect over pottery making & painting, gastronomy (fine food) paired with connecting stories of overcomers.

***Inclusive of limited bar on tap.**

Who should attend / buy tickets for TatsoConnekt Leading Women Brunch 2.0

1. Individuals INTENTIONAL on investing in healing, growth & networking

2. CORPORATES - International Women’s Month gifting idea for employees OR external stakeholders being media, customers, clients, suppliers, etc

3. CORPORATES - Idea to run social media competitions with purchased tickets.

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Sex Workers Hope Gaolathe's Belgium Visit Aids Decriminalisation

Belgium, where sex work was legalised in June 2022, serves as an example of how governments can implement policies that prioritise the safety and rights of sex workers



Sex workers' rights group Sisonke Botswana is optimistic that Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe's visit to Belgium will influence policy changes for decriminalisation of sex work in Botswana.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Sex workers' rights group Sisonke Botswana is optimistic that Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe's visit to Belgium will influence policy changes for decriminalisation of sex work in Botswana.

Belgium, where sex work was legalised in June 2022, serves as an example of how governments can implement policies that prioritise the safety and rights of sex workers.

The country is immediately south of the Netherlands where sex work and brothels were legalised in October 2000.

Violence, stigma, discrimination

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government has positioned itself as a champion of human rights, and sex workers' advocates hope that this stance will extend to policies affecting their livelihoods.

Sisonke Botswana has long decried the criminalisation of sex work, argu-

ing that it has subjected many to violence, stigma, and discrimination.

A report titled "Sex Workers and Violence in Botswana" highlights the dehumanising experiences that sex workers endure, which includes abuse by clients and law enforcement officers.

Clients and police

According to the report, sex workers in Botswana frequently face beatings, theft and sexual violence, with law enforcement officers and clients cited as primary perpetrators.

Sisonke Botswana holds that decriminalisation would enhance safety, reduce exploitation, and promote access to healthcare and justice for sex workers.

The organisation believes that removing legal barriers would help foster cooperation between sex workers and law enforcement to combat human trafficking and other crimes.

Hopes

The Director of Sisonke Botswana, Tosh Legoreng, sees Ndaba's visit to Belgium as an opportunity to learn from international best practices regarding sex work policies.

"Belgium has implemented progressive approaches that prioritise the health, safety and human rights of sex workers, and we believe this visit could contribute to shaping policies that reflect dignity, inclusion, and protection for all in Botswana," she said.

"We believe that respecting the rights of all individuals, including sex workers, would align with Botswana's commitment to human rights and social justice."

Tosh is hopeful that the trip will inspire meaningful policy discussions, leading to inclusive legal frameworks that protect sex workers in Botswana.

Improved health outcomes

Sisonke Botswana argues that global trends show that decriminalisation leads to improved health outcomes and reduced violence against sex workers.

The organisation maintains that legal reforms would not only protect sex workers but would also strengthen Botswana's commitment to human rights and social justice.

"We believe that respecting the rights of all individuals, including sex workers, would align with Botswana's commitment to human rights and social justice," Legoreng said.

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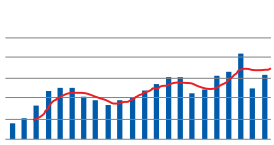
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StanChart Expects Profit Before Tax To Rise By Over P40m

The bank has projected a rise of between 10% and 20%, which equates to an increase of P40m to P81m over P403m reported for the same period in 2023



Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Mpho Masupe

GAZETTE REPORTER

Standard Chartered Bank Botswana anticipates a significant increase in its profit before tax (PBT) for the year ending 31 December 2024.

The bank's board has projected a rise of between 10 percent and 20 percent, which equates to an increase of P40 million to P81 million over the P403 million reported for the same period in 2023.

The forecast increase in profits is part

of the bank's annual performance review, which was disclosed in a cautionary statement filed with the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE).

On or before 31 March 2025

In the statement, the bank – which is a

prominent player in Botswana's financial sector – informed shareholders of the expected rise in PBT and provided guidance on the upcoming financial results.

"The Board of Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Limited wishes to advise shareholders that the audited consolidated Profit Before Tax for the year ended 31 December 2024 will be approximately between 10 percent to 20 percent higher than the P403 million reported for the year ended 31 December 2023," the statement read.

It added that the full financial results will be made available on or before 31 March 2025.

Subject to change

However, the bank noted that the figures provided in the trading statement are subject to change, cautioning investors that the actual results could differ from the current projections.

"Accordingly, shareholders and investors are advised to exercise caution when dealing in the company's securities until a full announcement is made," the statement continued.

Standard Chartered Bank Botswana has a rich history in the country, having first opened its doors in Francistown in 1897.

11 branches

It became the first bank in Botswana and expanded its reach with branches in Lobatse, Mahalapye and Gaborone throughout the 20th century.

Today, the bank operates 11 branches and four express banking centres, with a large network of direct sales representatives (DSRs).

Standard Chartered Bank Botswana offers a wide range of products and services across retail, corporate, and institutional banking.

Cross-border transactions

Its retail banking division provides transactional, wealth management, and lending services while its corporate and institutional division offers products such as cash management, trade services, and corporate finance advisory.

The bank leverages its extensive global network to deliver expertise in cross-border transactions, fixed income and currency markets.

French Company Moves to Take Full Control of MultiChoice Group

Once approved, the merger will expand Canal+'s influence in Botswana where it currently has no direct presence or revenue

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Competition and Consumer Authority (CCA) of Botswana has confirmed that it has received a merger notification for the proposed acquisition of up to 100 percent of the ordinary shares of MultiChoice Group Limited (MCG) by French media powerhouse, Groupe Canal+ SAS.

The proposed transaction will give Canal+ sole control over MCG, marking a pivotal change in the region's broadcasting and entertainment sector.

Canal+, a leading French multimedia company with operations in Africa, Asia

and Europe, is poised to dominate the African audiovisual market, including Botswana, through its acquisition of MCG.

Dominant player

According to the CCA, this merger will enable Canal+ to exercise full control over MCG's operations, a move that aligns with the company's broader strategy to strengthen its position in Sub-Saharan Africa.

MultiChoice Group, incorporated in South Africa and listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, is a dominant player in the African entertainment space.

Through its subsidiary, MultiChoice Botswana, MCG offers a wide range of services, including satellite TV, digital ter-

restrial TV, and video-on-demand services across 50 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Section 50(3) of the Competition Act 2018 invites third parties, even those not directly involved in the merger, to submit relevant documents to assist (the) investigation.

MCG's largest shareholder

The company holds a strong presence in Botswana where it controls MultiChoice

Botswana, a key entertainment service provider.

The deal will enable Canal+ to fully control MCG's operations, including its significant stake in MultiChoice Botswana.

At the time of the merger notification, MCG's largest shareholder was Canal+, with a 45.20 percent stake, followed by institutional investors such as Public Investment Corporation, M&G Investments, and Allan Gray.

Though the merger notification has been received, it will undergo scrutiny by the CCA in line with Botswana's competition regulations.

Investigation

Section 50(3) of the Competition Act 2018 invites third parties, even those not directly involved in the merger, to submit relevant documents to assist the investigation.

According to the filing Canal+ is indirectly controlled by French conglomerate Bolloré SE and operates extensively through its subsidiaries in various global markets, but does not have any direct presence or revenue in Botswana.

The merger, once approved, will likely expand Canal+'s influence in Botswana where it has no current turnover.

Botswana's Sovereign Credit Outlook Downgraded To Negative

Even so, strong institutions, a historically prudent management of resource wealth, relatively low - albeit rising - debt burden and robust external balance sheet contribute to Botswana's resilience

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

S&P Global Ratings has revised Botswana's sovereign credit outlook from stable to negative, citing mounting external and fiscal pressures driven by a downturn in global diamond demand.

The 14 March 2025 decision reaffirmed Botswana's long- and short-term sovereign credit ratings at 'BBB+/A-2' but warned of potential downgrades if the country failed to rein in its fiscal deficit.

"The negative outlook reflects our view that weak global demand for diamonds and depressed prices will likely keep Botswana's export and fiscal flows subdued, complicating the government's fiscal consolidation agenda," the report states.

Lab-grown diamonds

"The negative outlook also reflects that Botswana's external and public balance sheets could erode further."

Botswana's economy, which contracted by an estimated 3.3% in 2024, has been hit hard by a sharp decline in diamond trading and mining activities. The report attributes the downturn to weakened demand from China and increasing competition from lab-grown diamonds.

Official data show that the diamond sector, which accounts for about 70% of Botswana's exports and nearly a third of government revenue, shrank by 23.4% in the first three quarters of 2024.

Falling diamond tax

The contraction in GDP, coupled with falling diamond tax and royalty revenues, has led to widening fiscal deficits. S&P estimates the 2024-2025 fiscal year will close with a deficit of 9.0% of GDP, exacerbated by significant spending in the run-up to Botswana's October 2024 general elections.

Despite the new government's commitment to fiscal restraint, the 2025-2026 budget projects another substantial shortfall of 7.6% of GDP.

Botswana has historically maintained a strong fiscal position, with past surpluses allowing the government to build substantial financial reserves.

However, these buffers have eroded in recent years. The country moved from a net asset position of 6% of GDP in 2023 to a net debt position of 3% in 2024, with forecasts indicating that net general government debt could climb to 19% of GDP by 2028.

Revision of outlook possible

S&P warns that Botswana's sovereign rating could be lowered if the country's fiscal and external performance deteriorates further.

"This could happen, for instance, if diamond demand and GDP growth do not recover from their current lows, leading to further weakening of Botswana's fiscal and external buffers," the report states.

However, the agency also notes that an improvement in global diamond demand and prices could prompt a revision of Botswana's outlook back to stable.

To Page 18



Neo Mooki, Board Chair, BOTSWANA STOCK EXCHANGE during the High level business engagement forum with the theme "Mapping a new collaboration: Building the new Botswana" in Gaborone on 18 March 2025. BOTSWANA STOCK EXCHANGE (BSE), BITC and Business Botswana bring different stakeholders together for the conference. (Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

Vacancy

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Applications should be addressed to:

Head of Shared Services
National Development Bank
P O Box 225
Gaborone

NB: ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE RESPONDED TO.



Food, Service Costs Drove Inflation to 2.7% In February

The continuous rise in food prices is a major concern, particularly for lower-income households that spend a significant portion of their income on essential goods

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana's annual inflation rate rose to 2.7 percent in February 2025, marking a 0.2 percentage point increase from the 2.5 percent recorded in January.

According to the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) report released by Statistics Botswana, the increase was primarily driven by rising costs in food and non-alcoholic beverages, which contributed 0.8 percentage points to the overall inflation rate.

Additionally, the Miscellaneous Goods & Services category contributed 0.7 percentage points, highlighting the broad-based nature of price increases.

Across all regions

Inflationary pressures were felt across all regions in Botswana. Cities and Towns recorded an inflation rate of 2.3 percent in February, up from 2.1 percent in January.

Urban Villages saw an increase from 2.5 percent in January to 2.7 percent in February. Rural Villages experienced the highest inflation rate, rising from 3.0 percent in January to 3.2 percent in February.

The national CPI index itself rose 0.3 percent, moving from 135.0 in January to 135.4 in February.

Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages were among the key inflation drivers, with the index increasing by 0.8 percent from 149.8 in January to 151.0 in February.

Food prices lead

The most significant price hikes were recorded in Fruits (1.7 percent), Bread and Cereals (1.0 percent), Coffee, Tea and Cocoa (0.9 percent), Vegetables (0.8 percent), Meat (fresh, chilled, and frozen) (0.7 percent), as well as Mineral Waters, Soft Drinks, and Fruit and Vegetable Juices (0.7 percent).

The continuous rise in food prices is a

major concern, particularly for lower-income households that spend a significant portion of their income on essential goods.

Beyond food, several other categories saw price increases in February. The Clothing and Footwear index rose 0.4 percent, increasing from 124.8 in January to 125.2 in February.

Domestic Tradeables

Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco prices increased 0.4 percent, driven by a 0.4 percent rise in alcohol prices and a 0.2 percent increase in tobacco costs. The All-Tradeables index climbed 0.4 percent from 141.3 in January to 141.9 in February.

Domestic Tradeables - goods produced locally - saw inflation rise from 4.6 percent to 4.8 percent, while Imported Tradeables increased from 1.6 percent to 1.9 percent, reflecting the impact of global market dynamics on Botswana's economy.

The Trimmed Mean Core Inflation Rate,

which excludes volatile price changes, increased by 0.2 percentage points to 2.4 percent in February, up from 2.2 percent in January.

Core inflation

Meanwhile, core inflation excluding administered prices - which filters out government-regulated costs - rose to 3.8 percent, up 0.3 percentage points from January's 3.5 percent.

The steady increase in core inflation suggests that price pressures are becoming embedded in the economy, raising concerns over long-term consumer purchasing power and economic stability.

With food prices being a significant driver of inflation, Kago Ngwato, an economist, emphasised the importance of targeted measures to stabilise the market. "The government can take several steps to manage food price inflation and ensure stability for consumers," he said in a recent interview.

Subsidised food production

He suggested subsidising agricultural production to reduce costs for farmers by providing support for fertilisers, irrigation and seeds. "By promoting local food production, we can decrease reliance on imported goods, which are vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuations," Ngwato explained.

Another measure could be temporary import tariff reductions on essential food products, helping to ease costs for consumers, particularly during local supply shortages.

Strengthening food storage and transport infrastructure could also play a crucial role as better supply chain management would minimise losses from spoilage and reduce distribution costs. "Market regulation and price monitoring are also critical," Ngwato noted.

A national food reserve

"Enhancing competition and oversight can prevent excessive price markups. While price controls could be an option, they must be applied carefully to avoid discouraging production."

Additionally, he advocated for strengthening food reserves and strategic stockpiles to act as a buffer against supply shocks. "Having a well-managed national food reserve can ensure price stability, especially during periods of scarcity," he said.

With inflation creeping upward, policy-makers and economic analysts will closely monitor monetary policy interventions and global economic trends to determine the potential impact on future inflationary movements in Botswana.



Botswana President Advocate Duma Boko appreciating Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) chairman Motlatsi Molapisi while addressing during the UDC fund raising gala dinner in Gaborone on 15 March 2025. (Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

Botswana's Sovereign Credit Outlook Downgraded To Negative

From Page 17

A longer-term ratings boost could be achieved through structural reforms aimed at diversifying the country's export and tax base beyond the diamond sector.

Narrow industrial base

S&P forecasts that Botswana's economy will return to growth in 2025, buoyed by a recovery in global diamond demand and increased government spending. The report projects real GDP growth to average 3.9% per year from 2025 to 2028.

Despite its economic challenges, Botswana's credit ratings remain supported by strong institutions and a historically prudent management of resource wealth.

"It is imperative for government and related institutions to remain steadfast in implementing structural and policy reforms and the restoration of fiscal discipline."

The country's relatively low, albeit rising, debt burden and robust external balance sheet also contribute to its resilience.

However, S&P cautions that Botswana's economic vulnerabilities stem from its narrow industrial base. The country's heavy reliance on diamonds leaves it exposed to external shocks, reinforcing the need for economic diversification.

Policy frameworks

Responding to the S&P report, the Bank of Botswana (BoB) has emphasised the need for urgent structural reforms. "These ratings highlight the importance of maintaining strong institutions and policy

frameworks that deliver macroeconomic stability," it said in a statement.

BoB called on the government to accelerate economic diversification, rebuild fiscal buffers, and maintain fiscal discipline. "It is imperative for government and related institutions to remain steadfast in implementing structural and policy reforms and the restoration of fiscal discipline," the statement reads.

As Botswana navigates a fragile economic recovery, the success of its policy adjustments will determine whether it can stabilise its credit outlook - or face further financial headwinds.

BotswanaPost Champions Letter-Writing And Ocean Conservation

Educators are encouraged to help learners draw connections between Botswana's ecosystems and global ocean health, ensuring that their letters reflect both local and international perspectives



According to Tebogo Lebotse Sebebo, BotswanaPost's Chief Corporate Affairs and Sustainability Officer, the initiative serves a dual purpose: nurturing young talent and instilling an appreciation for environmental stewardship.

GAZETTE REPORTER

In celebration of 150 years of service, BotswanaPost is championing the timeless art of letter-writing through its Kwala Tempa Posa initiative.

This is an effort that aligns with the 54th Universal Postal Union (UPU) International Letter-Writing Competition for Young People.

As a key player in the country's postal and digital communications sector, BotswanaPost has long evolved from traditional mail runners to a modern operator offering DigiPost, Virtual Post Boxes, Virtual Teller Machines, and Posa'it - digital innovations designed to enhance convenience.

"Imagine You are the Ocean ..."

However, despite its technological strides, the organisation remains committed to preserving the written word and inspiring young minds to engage in meaningful storytelling.

This year's UPU competition is open to pupils and students aged 9 to 15 years, carries the theme, "Imagine You are the Ocean. Write a Letter to Someone explaining Why and How they should take Good Care of You."

The competition invites young writers to give voice to the ocean, reflecting on its beauty, the threats it faces, and the collective responsibility to safeguard marine ecosystems.

Environmental stewardship

Though Botswana is a landlocked coun-

try, local students are encouraged to connect their understanding of rivers and wetlands - such as the Okavango Delta - to the broader global conversation on ocean conservation.

According to Tebogo Lebotse Sebebo, BotswanaPost's Chief Corporate Affairs and Sustainability Officer, the initiative serves a dual purpose: nurturing young talent and instilling an appreciation for environmental stewardship.

"BotswanaPost's Kwala Tempa Posa initiative recognises the importance of nurturing young talent and igniting the habit of writing letters, introducing them to this long-standing tradition while they imagine, reflect and take action for a sustainable future," she said.

To experience the ocean

BotswanaPost is calling on parents and teachers to play an active role in guiding students through the creative process. Educators are encouraged to help learners draw connections between Botswana's ecosystems and global ocean health, ensuring that their letters reflect both local and international perspectives.

At the national level, three winning letters will be selected and students awarded prizes during World Post Day celebrations in October 2025. The top letter will go on to represent Botswana at the global UPU competition where it will compete against submissions from 192 UPU member countries.

The first-place winner will receive a fully sponsored trip to experience the ocean firsthand. The second- and third-place winners will embark on educational trips to Botswana's wetlands where they will learn about their ecological significance and their role in global ocean health.

Global recognition

BotswanaPost has seen past success in this global competition. In 2011, Charlene Tlagae, then a Form 2 student at Crescent English Medium School, secured third place internationally.

More recently, Onkarabile Amantle Letso Moome of Maikano CJSS won Botswana's national competition and continued her streak of excellence, earning seven As and two Bs in her Junior Certificate results, making her the top student at her school.

While Botswana has not placed internationally in recent years, BotswanaPost remains hopeful that this year's competition will inspire young writers to craft compelling letters worthy of global recognition.

The power of the written word

In an era dominated by instant messaging and digital communication, BotswanaPost's initiative underscores the enduring power of the written word. The Kwala Tempa Posa initiative not only rekindles interest in letter-writing but also instils a sense of advocacy and responsibility in young people.

As the organisation marks its own 150th anniversary, it remains dedicated to fostering literacy, education and environmental consciousness through this global competition.

Simplicity as a Business Strategy

BDIH hosts innovation talk with Fred Schlegel



The Botswana Digital & Innovation Hub (BDIH) recently welcomed Professor Fred Schlegel, a strategic management and innovation expert from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, for an engaging Coffee Session on how businesses can leverage simplicity to drive success.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Digital & Innovation Hub (BDIH) recently welcomed Professor Fred Schlegel, a strategic

management and innovation expert from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, for an engaging Coffee Session on how businesses can leverage simplicity to drive success. Addressing a diverse au-

dience of entrepreneurs and business leaders, Schlegel emphasized that companies often become entangled in unnecessary complexities that overshadow their primary goal—solving customer problems efficiently. He explained that stripping down processes to their essential elements not only enhances customer satisfaction but also allows businesses to offer better value at competitive prices.

The Power of Less

Schlegel highlighted how businesses can benefit from adopting a minimalist approach, arguing that excessive processes, unnecessary features, and overcomplicated messaging often add little value while increasing costs. He introduced his SIMPLE Framework, a strategy focused on eliminating inefficiencies, refining product offerings, and ensuring clear communication. He encouraged business owners to take a step back and assess whether every aspect of their operations truly serves their customers' needs.

"We have a natural tendency to add more

to a process, assuming it improves value," Schlegel said. "However, excessive features, costs, and labor often provide marginal returns. The key to sustainable success lies in simplifying and focusing on what truly matters."

Engaging Entrepreneurs and Industry Leaders

The session sparked a lively discussion among attendees, who explored how businesses—from small enterprises to large corporations—could apply these principles to drive efficiency and customer satisfaction. Among the notable guests was former Miss Botswana, Palesa Molefe, who joined in the conversation on how streamlined business models can be a game-changer for startups and established brands alike.

Fostering Innovation in Botswana

The event underscored BDIH's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in Botswana. It also highlighted the organization's ongoing collaboration with Indiana University's GLOBASE (Global Business and Social Enterprise) Program, which has been connecting MBA students with international business consulting opportunities since 2009. Through this partnership, BDIH continues to provide platforms for knowledge-sharing and practical business insights that empower local entrepreneurs.

Stanbic Bank Leads Virtual Assets Conference

Stanbic Bank Botswana hosts industry-first event on AML/CFT and digital finance



Stanbic Bank Botswana has taken a significant step in the financial sector by hosting its inaugural Virtual Asset Conference on March 12, 2025. Themed “Harnessing Virtual Assets for Enhanced AML/CFT Strategies: Navigating Opportunities and Challenges,” the event brought together industry leaders, regulators, and global experts to discuss the evolving role of virtual assets in financial security and inclusion.

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Focus on Financial Inclusion

The conference drew participants

from financial institutions, law enforcement agencies, and regulatory bodies, with discussions centered on virtual assets’ impact on financial inclusion, economic growth, and innovation in Botswana. Keynote speakers and panelists examined regulatory collaboration, cybersecurity, and risk management, paving the way for a secure and transparent digital asset ecosystem.

Stanbic Bank Botswana’s Chief Executive, Chose Modise, underscored the need for collaboration, stating: “As a nation, we cannot afford to take a pas-

sive approach. By strengthening AML/CFT frameworks, reinforcing regulatory oversight, and encouraging collaboration between banks, regulators, and technology providers, we can build a secure and resilient financial sector.”

Regulatory Perspectives and Industry Insights

The Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) was a key participant, with Head of Licensing Ogoni Tshoswane providing insights into law enforcement, risk assessment, and financial crime prevention strate-

gies. Panel discussions covered critical topics such as the role of crypto assets in organized crime, public-private partnerships, RegTech solutions, and strategies to future-proof AML/CFT measures in the virtual asset space.

“The rapid rise of virtual assets comes with new risks, from cyber threats to financial crime vulnerabilities.”

Empowering Clients on Digital Finance

The event also highlighted Stanbic Bank Botswana’s efforts to educate clients on responsible digital finance practices. Sessions focused on cybersecurity and building resilient frameworks in partnership with regulators and financial institutions, reinforcing the bank’s commitment to ensuring a safe digital financial environment.

“Stanbic Bank Botswana is honored to be at the forefront of Botswana’s digital finance transformation,” Modise said. “We are committed to cultivating an inclusive, resilient financial landscape that benefits all Batswana.”

Stanbic Bank Botswana’s Head of Compliance, Titose Musa, emphasized the bank’s proactive stance on security, stating: “The rapid rise of virtual assets comes with new risks, from cyber threats to financial crime vulnerabilities. We are enhancing our cybersecurity measures, deploying blockchain analytics, and investing in AI-driven compliance tools.”

TIRED OF SHARING?

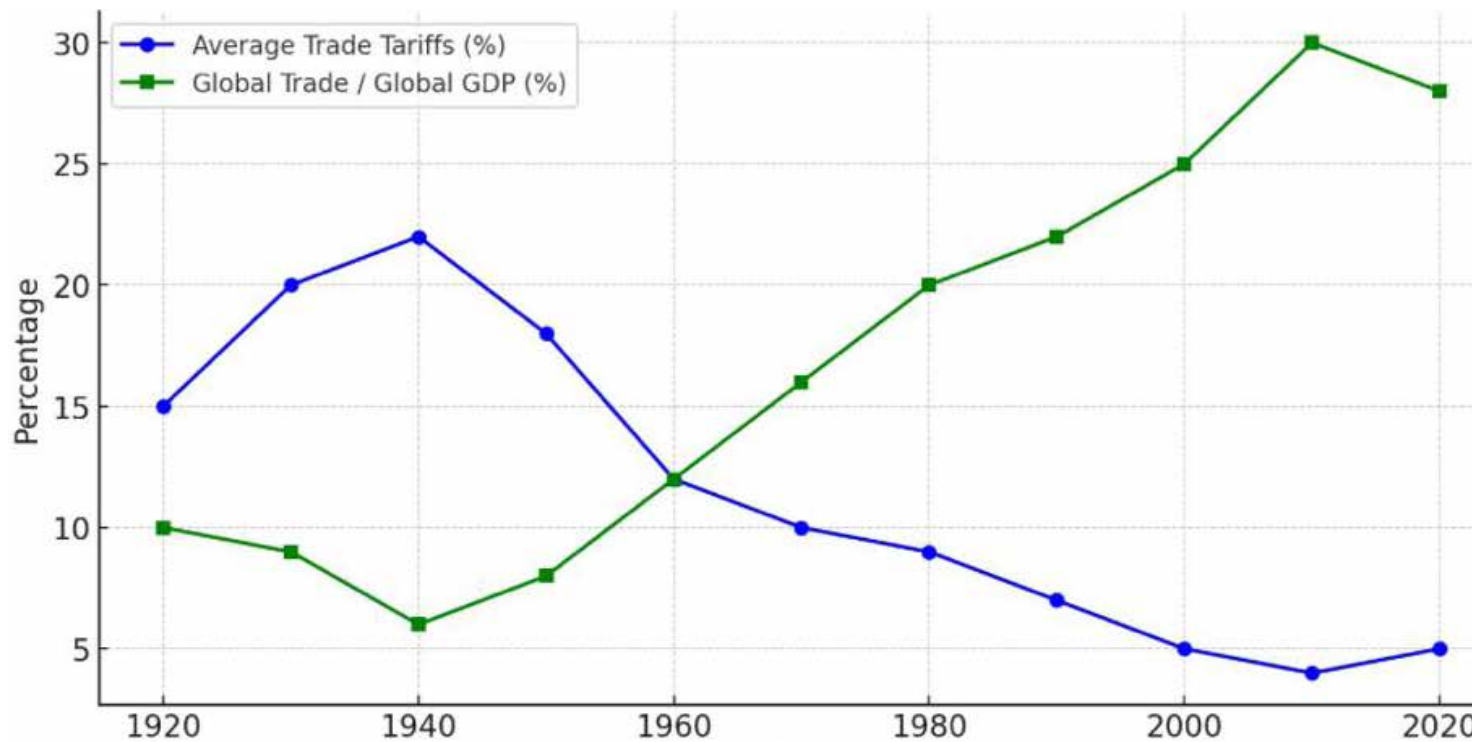
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Trade Wars: Increasing Tariffs Causes Only Self-Harm

As if increasing debt and falling demand for diamonds and revenue drawn from the sale of the stones were not enough for Botswana's second republic, a trade war started by the USA is spreading to many countries and undermining economic recovery



DOUGLAS RASBASH
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

This item aims to show that only bad comes from increasing trade tariffs. In order to illustrate the impact of trade tariffs on the economy, *The Botswana Gazette* has produced an analysis of changes in overall average global tariffs and global trade as a proportion of global Gross Domestic Product over the last 100 years. The inverse relationship could not be more obvious. For each 20-year period when tariffs increased, the trade/GDP ratio reduced. It is remarkable just how clearly this occurs.

The Self-Harming Cycle of Tariff Wars: Lessons from History

The relationship between trade tariffs and global trade openness is a tale of economic cause and effect - one that policymakers often ignore at their peril. As history shows, when tariffs rise, global trade shrinks, damaging economic growth. The United States, once a champion of free trade, now flirts with the same self-destructive policies that deepened past economic crises. A glance at the historical trends is illuminating. In the early 20th century, global tariffs were high, peaking during the Great Depression when protectionist measures like the US Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930 triggered retaliatory duties worldwide.

The result? A collapse in global trade, with exports as a percentage of GDP plummeting. After World War II, wiser heads prevailed. The establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947 initiated a steady decline in global tariffs, paving the way for a golden age of trade. By the 1980s and 1990s, the formation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and sweeping trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) of the US, Mexico and Canada in 1994 and the European Union in 1956 helped global trade to soar to unprecedented levels. As tariffs fell to historic lows, trade as a share of global GDP reached nearly 30% by 2010. But recent

years have seen a troubling reversal.

The US and the Return of Trade Wars

Under the new Trump administration, the United States reignited a wave of protectionism, slapping tariffs on Chinese goods and sparking retaliatory measures.

A trade war induced global economic contraction would make economic recovery more difficult because Botswana does not have a resilient economy.

The US-China trade war (2018-2020) saw tariffs jump to levels unseen in decades, directly harming American industries. The impacts are already being felt. US farmers are losing billions in exports as China imposed retaliatory tariffs on soybeans, pork and other agricultural products. Manufacturing is suffering from higher input costs, making American goods less competitive.

Consumers paid more as tariffs raised prices on imported goods, effectively functioning as a hidden tax. The Biden administration had largely kept these tariffs in place, despite clear evidence of economic self-harm. The ongoing rhetoric around "economic security" risks further isolating the US from global trade networks.

Why Tariff Wars Are Always a Losing Game

Tariffs are often politically popular, marketed as tools to "protect domestic industries" and "punish unfair trade practices". But as history - and our graph - shows, they tend to backfire. Firstly, this is be-

cause retaliation is inevitable as affected countries always respond in kind, hurting domestic exporters. Higher costs for consumers arise because tariffs drive prices of everyday goods up.

Moreover, supply chains get disrupted in a globalised economy, especially affecting businesses reliant on imported materials. Job losses are also unavoidable because industries that depend on trade often shed more jobs than those "saved" by tariffs. The fundamental reality remains that when tariffs rise, global trade shrinks and economies suffer.

Bad News for Botswana Too

From our graph, it has been deduced that if tariffs increased from 5% to 10% global GDP would contract by \$15 trillion. A global economic contraction would have significant repercussions for Botswana's economy, despite its small size and limited global trade footprint. Demand for natural diamonds, already under pressure from lab grown diamonds, would reduce further. Tourism would also be seriously affected.

If a trade war disrupts global supply chains, import costs could rise, leading to inflation. Higher prices for fuel and food would particularly hurt low-income households, reducing their purchasing power. Foreign investment is crucial for Botswana's diversification efforts in sec-

tors like renewable energy, manufacturing and finance. A trade war could discourage multinational corporations from investing in emerging markets, slowing Botswana's industrialisation. Global financial uncertainty may also reduce access to credit and foreign loans.

Botswana is part of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) where shared tariff revenues significantly contribute to its budget. A global slowdown could reduce trade within the region, cutting SACU revenue inflows and forcing Botswana to either increase borrowing or reduce public spending. A trade war induced global economic contraction would make economic recovery more difficult because Botswana does not have a resilient economy.

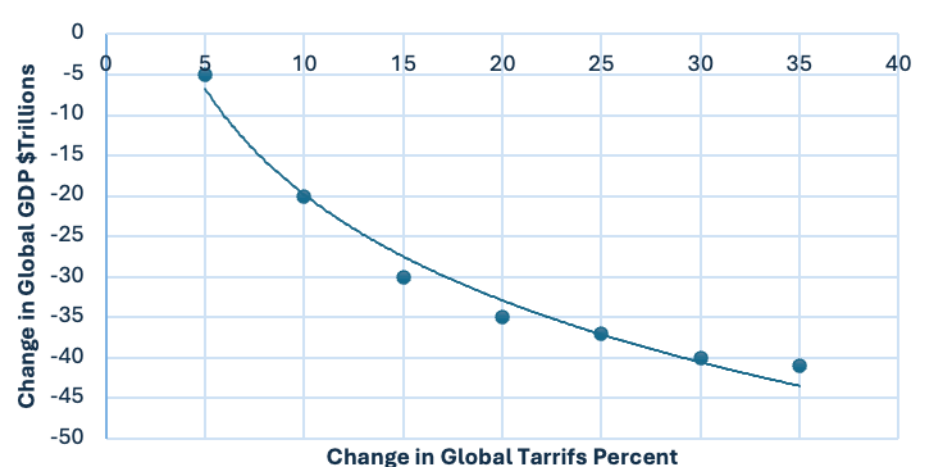
A silver lining

To navigate such a crisis, Botswana should expand intra-African trade, invest in self-sufficiency (e.g. renewable energy and agriculture), and enhance digital services to participate in non-tariff-dependent global markets. A global trade war would negatively impact Botswana through lower exports, higher import costs, reduced investments and weaker SACU revenues, making economic resilience and diversification critical. A global trade war could serve as a catalyst for boosting intra-African trade by compelling African nations to reduce dependence on external markets and strengthen regional economic ties.

However, this would require proactive policy adjustments and infrastructure improvements. A trade war involving major economies like the US, China, and the EU would disrupt Africa's traditional export markets for commodities such as minerals, oil and agricultural products. This could push African countries to seek alternative buyers and suppliers within the continent, accelerating regional trade under agreements like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). With higher tariffs and supply chain disruptions affecting imports from global markets, African nations might prioritise local production and sourcing from neighbouring countries. This could strengthen regional industries, particularly in agriculture, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals, fostering supply chain resilience.

Reduced reliance on global trade could incentivise African nations to explore regional currency settlements and alternative financial systems to reduce dependence on the US Dollar and the Euro. However, governments must proactively address trade barriers to ensure sustained economic benefits. This trade war poses distinct threats to Botswana, but creates new opportunities by compelling faster development of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The impact of tariff changes on GDP





Botswana Maritime Services: Why Botswana Should Establish a Shippers' Council and Invest in Shipping and Logistics

If Switzerland, Ethiopia and other landlocked countries can own shipping lines and dominate global trade logistics, nothing prevents Botswana from following suit, writes **DOUGLAS RASBASH**

As a landlocked nation, Botswana relies heavily on international shipping and logistics for its trade. While it may seem unconventional for a landlocked country to engage in maritime activities, Switzerland, Ethiopia and other nations have successfully owned or controlled shipping lines, ports and logistics services.

In the race to diversify, we must think out of the box. The first step towards advancing maritime interests would be to establish a Shippers Council - a vital institution that could help the country navigate global trade more strategically.

What is a Shippers Council?

A Shippers Council is an organisation that represents the interests of importers, exporters, manufacturers, and traders by addressing issues related to shipping, freight, logistics, and international trade policies. These councils often advocate for better transport infrastructure, negotiate with shipping lines and port authorities, and influence trade policies to enhance national competitiveness.

Botswana currently relies on foreign shipping lines and port operators, leading to high costs. A Shippers Council can negotiate bulk discounts, advocate for competitive pricing, and reduce inefficiencies

in the supply chain. The Council can work with port authorities in Mozambique, Namibia, and South Africa to improve cargo clearance times, reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks, and streamline customs procedures. The Council can lobby the government to improve transport policies, reduce import/export restrictions, and advocate for Botswana's interests in international trade negotiations.

Botswana is already part of key regional corridor developments, e.g. the Trans-Kalahari Corridor, the Walvis Bay Corridor, the Maputo Corridor. A Shippers Council can strengthen these trade routes and advocate for additional transport infrastructure. The Council would take a lead in educating local businesses and policymakers on best practices in global logistics, supply chain management, and shipping regulations and promote domestic logistics and shipping enterprises.

Switzerland owns MSC (Mediterranean Shipping Company), the second-largest shipping line in the world, despite having no coastline. Ethiopian Shipping & Logistics Services Enterprise (ESLSE) operates maritime services through Djibouti. Bolivia and Mongolia are also landlocked but own shipping companies and have port agreements with neighbouring coastal na-

tions. Botswana can secure port agreements and negotiate long-term preferential agreements with ports like Walvis Bay, Maputo and Durban for dedicated Botswana cargo handling.

Botswana could also consider co-investing in port terminals to reduce handling fees and congestion. Botswana can increase its interests in inland dry ports and logistics hubs and facilitate customs clearance inland rather than at congested coastal ports. The country could leverage regional and global trade agreements through SADC, SACU, EAC, ECOWAS and AfCFTA frameworks to strengthen Botswana's position in regional and global logistics and engage in joint ventures with experienced international shipping firms.

Strategic Advantages for Botswana

Economic diversification through reducing reliance on mining and creating a new sector in logistics, transport, and international trade would be among the perks of having a Shipping Council for purposes just outlined. Reduced trade costs because Botswana currently pays a premium for shipping services - owning or co-owning logistics assets can cut costs. Shippers Councils enable stronger bargaining power and can negotiate better trade terms. Developing a shipping and logistics sector would gener-

ate employment across multiple industries in transport, warehousing, customs and finance.

Key Takeaways for Botswana

1. Establish a Botswana Shippers Council.
2. Advocate for lower freight rates, improved trade logistics, and better port agreements.
3. Invest in maritime logistics.
4. Consider co-owning port terminals in Mozambique, Namibia, or South Africa.
5. Explore leasing ships or partnering with a shipping line for key exports like beef and minerals.
6. Develop inland dry ports.
7. Streamline customs clearance in Gaborone, Francistown and Palapye to improve trade efficiency.
8. Secure long-term port agreements.
9. Negotiate preferential trade corridors and port deals for Botswana's imports and exports.

Botswana can secure port agreements and negotiate long-term preferential agreements with ports like Walvis Bay, Maputo and Durban for dedicated Botswana cargo handling.

By following these strategies, Botswana can reduce trade costs, improve export competitiveness, and establish itself as a key logistics player in Southern Africa, just like other landlocked nations that have successfully developed maritime interests. If Switzerland, Ethiopia and other landlocked countries can own shipping lines and dominate global trade logistics, there is no reason Botswana cannot follow suit.

Establishing a Shippers Council is the first step towards securing better trade deals, reducing costs, and developing a national logistics powerhouse that can serve both Botswana and the broader Southern African region.

Trump's Human Rights Rollback: A Global Threat

The former U.S. president's policies on gender, immigration, and women's rights are fueling discrimination, erasing identities, and emboldening oppressive regimes worldwide. What does this mean for universal human rights?

BRADLEY FORTUIN

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the United Nations (UN), protects and promotes the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups by recognising that all people are born free and equal. It guarantees rights without discrimination based on, but not limited to, sex, gender or any other social status. It was adopted by states at a global level immediately after the horrors of World War II to ensure such atrocities and the events that led up to them do not occur again. The UDHR ensures everyone's right to live safely, free from discrimination, hate, and violence, and to be treated with dignity under the law.

America's Withdrawal: A Blow to Global Rights?

The United States' indication that it would be withdrawing from the UN puts a question mark on human rights protection. The continuous priority of democratic and constitutional human rights is under threat. As we have witnessed, the US is one of the largest contributors to the UN's budget, and its withdrawal places global human rights protections in question, especially with regard to access to health services.

Will this move give power and rise to human rights violations? What will be the long-term impact on grassroots community movements? Are vulnerable and marginalised groups safe?

Spreading Misinformation, Fueling Hate

Over the past few weeks, the world has witnessed a disturbing shift in leadership, one that not only rolls back protections for everyone, including vulnerable and marginalised groups, but also has the potential to fuel hate, spread misinformation and division, and incite violence. Donald Trump's return to power has been marked by an alarming series of executive orders targeting immigrants,



Trump's position on gender diversity has found eager supporters, including many in Africa who advocate for a rigid, binary definition of gender.

migrants, LGBTIQ+ people, and women—all under the guise of “realigning American values.”

Erasing Identities

Trump's position on gender diversity has found eager supporters, including many in Africa who advocate for a rigid, binary definition of gender. His 20 January 2025 executive order, *Defending Women from Gender Ideology and Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government*, was nothing short of an attack on transgender people and all persons who choose to live in a manner where they are not defined and boxed in by their attributed gender.

This order spreads disinformation by claiming that gender identity is false and deceitful, legitimising hate speech. By insinuating that gender diversity is a threat, it creates an environment where transphobia will likely thrive without consequences. With one stroke of the pen, Trump reinforced conservative, exclusionary gender norms and gave legitimacy to those who seek to erase transgender identities.

A Ripple Effect Across Borders

The consequences of this executive order are slowly being felt far beyond the US. In Nigeria, conservative leaders have hailed Trump's decision as validation of their own laws, which, according to reports, already criminalise same-sex sexual activity between men and women, as well as gender expression for transgender persons.

A 2024 report by Nigerian advocacy group *The Initiative for Equal Rights* highlighted that LGBTIQ+ people already face regular discrimination and violence. These executive orders are likely to result in a rise in hate crimes towards gender-diverse persons. Framing gender identity as a “dangerous ideol-

ogy,” Trump is not only spreading disinformation but also legitimising hate speech and possibly creating a global ripple effect that threatens the safety and dignity of transgender and gender-diverse people.

“Framing gender identity as a ‘dangerous ideology,’ Trump is not only spreading disinformation but also legitimising hate speech and possibly creating a global ripple effect that threatens the safety and dignity of transgender and gender-diverse people.”

Xenophobia in Full Swing

Transgender people are not the only ones under attack. Immigrants and migrants are also targeted as Trump endlessly signs executive orders. One of his over 80 executive orders is realigning the US refugee admissions program, which frames migrants and refugees as threats to national security, thereby reinforcing dangerous xenophobic rhetoric.

Trump has long pushed the false narrative that migrants are a burden on resources, a danger to public safety, and a threat to the so-called “true American

identity.” This rhetoric does more than just close borders—it dehumanises refugees and fuels violence against migrants, directly contradicting human rights protection mechanisms such as the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*.

Misogyny Over Human Rights?

Trump's disregard for women's rights is nothing new. A 2018 article in *The Guardian* reported how Donald Trump's attitudes and policies have undermined women's rights through derogatory remarks, sexual misconduct allegations, and policy rollbacks. The reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule and its cuts in funding for health services is likely to disrupt essential sexual and reproductive health services for many women around the world.

This will leave women who are already on the margins of exclusion further exposed to human rights violations such as forced pregnancies due to denial of safe abortion and contraceptive services.

An *Afrobarometer* report from December 2023 revealed that gender-based violence remains a top concern in Africa, with 14% of respondents stating that violence against women and girls is “very common” in their communities. Trump's policies and rhetoric only serve to exacerbate these realities, reinforcing harmful stereotypes, restricting bodily autonomy, and undermining decades of progress in advancing women's rights.

The leader of the free world's rhetoric and actions reinforce systems that discriminate against women and disregard the protection of all women.

Bradley Fortuin is a consultant at the Southern Africa Litigation Centre and a social justice activist.



She emphasises the need for positive masculinity, ensuring that patriarchal norms no longer fuel gender-based violence.

Lesego Chombo Featured On BBC News Africa

At just 26, Lesego Chombo is redefining leadership in Botswana and beyond, proving that youth and gender are not barriers to achievement. She recently cemented her place as a force for change when she took on global gender issues at the 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) in New York

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Lesego Chombo's journey has been nothing short of remarkable. Once a hopeful contestant dreaming of Miss World glory, she now stands as Botswana's Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, commanding the attention of international media and policymakers alike.

Her recent BBC News Africa feature shone a spotlight on her inspirational rise from pageantry to politics. Reflecting on her time as Miss World Africa, Chombo stated: "I was fully convinced that I am going to be Miss World, that being Miss World was my God-given purpose."

Her true purpose

But her true purpose turned out to be something far greater, leading the fight for gender equality and youth empowerment. At just 26 years old, Chombo is Botswana's youngest minister, a feat that has not come without its chal-

lenges.

Addressing the pressures that women face in leadership in the interview, she noted: "A woman can't be young and in leadership, that's what people say. But when you do something and do it well, being a woman or being young will never be enough to stop you."

With her appointment, she has become a symbol of possibility for young girls across the country. She is proving that leadership has no age limit and that women also belong at the decision-making table.

Taking on GBV

While her rise to power is inspiring, Chombo is also tackling some of Botswana's most pressing issues, including the alarming rise in gender-based violence (GBV) and Batswana are looking to Chombo for urgent action.

She acknowledges the gravity of the situation. "It hurts to know that it could be me next," she said. But instead of accepting GBV as

an unfortunate reality, Chombo is pushing for a cultural shift starting with education.

"We want to teach children what GBV is to ensure that we prevent that culture from the root," she stated.

Positive masculinity

Her vision extends beyond awareness campaigns, hence she is working with the Ministry of Health to address the mental health and societal structures that perpetuate violence. She emphasises the need for positive masculinity, ensuring that patriarchal norms no longer fuel gender-based violence.

Chombo's influence has now reached the global stage. She recently travelled to New York to attend the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), a crucial platform shaping global gender equality policies.

Speaking at the EnterprenHer side event alongside Namibia, South Africa, and De Beers Group, she highlighted the success of the AWOME programme, which is empowering female entrepreneurs in Botswana.

Expectations

She also took centre stage at the AU High-Level Dialogue on Ending Violence Against Women where she spoke in her capacity as Chairperson of the African Union's Specialised Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (STC on GEWE).

Chombo's leadership is a bold statement that young women deserve to lead and that real change starts with action. As she returned home on 18 March (yesterday), expectations are high.

A Month of Francophone Delights

Alliance Française of Gaborone is celebrating Francophonie with a series of events and activities from 7 to 29 March this year

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Month of March in Gaborone is one of a cultural feast with the Alliance Française of Gaborone (AFG) hosting an exciting lineup of events in celebration of Francophonie Week.

From film screenings and music to educational issues and vibrant cultural experiences, this year's festivities are transporting attendees across the Francophone world from the bustling streets of Senegal to the artistic pulse of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

With a focus on language, art and community, the 7 to 29 March celebrations are bringing the diversity and unity of French-speaking cultures worldwide to

the fore.

Interscholastic trivia

At the heart of Francophonie is a commitment to linguistic and cultural exchange, and this year the Alliance Française of Gaborone is ensuring that both young learners and seasoned Francophiles take part. Schools will compete in a thrilling interscholastic trivia challenge on March 25 where students will test their knowledge of the French language and culture.

Victorious participants stand a chance to win school memberships, discounts on DELF exams, and French library resources, reinforcing the role of education in strengthening global connections.

Film lovers are in for a treat with two critically acclaimed screenings. The celebrations be-

gan on 7 March with the award-winning *Atlantique*, a hauntingly beautiful drama that won the Grand Prix at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival.

Kinshasa street scene

On 8 March, the focus will shift to the DRC with the screening of *Système K*, an electrifying documentary about Kinshasa's street art scene where artists use creativity as a tool for social change. These films are more than just entertainment; they are a window into the lived realities of the Francophone world.

For those looking to socialise and practise their language skills, the Café des Langues on 14 March was an interactive evening of language-themed games and networking. Whether you are fluent or just starting your French

journey, this event was a lively and engaging way to meet new people in a multilingual setting.

"The 2025 edition will take you on a journey from Congo to Senegal, offering a diverse mix of cultural and educational events for artists, students, teachers and curious spectators alike."

On 22 March, the second-hand market will bring a community feel to the celebrations, offering a space for people to buy and sell

treasures, all while embracing the spirit of sustainable shopping. With free entrance, it is the perfect opportunity to explore and connect with fellow culture enthusiasts.

Closing the celebrations on 29 March, the Rumba Concert promises a night of hypnotic rhythms and irresistible energy, headlined by Kapenda Katuta and Ngwazuma Stars. The concert, set to run from 6pm to 9pm, will be a vibrant showcase of Congolese musical heritage, ensuring that Francophonie Week ends on an unforgettable high note.

From Congo to Senegal

"The Francophonie is a globally recognised annual celebration dedicated to promoting the French language and Francophone cultures worldwide," the Director Alliance Française of Gaborone, Angélique Saverino, told *Time Out*.

"The 2025 edition will take you on a journey from Congo to Senegal, offering a diverse mix of cultural and educational events for artists, students, teachers and curious spectators alike."

How Création Botswana Is Shaping The Future of Fashion

With insights from Paris-based upcycling pioneer Amah Ayivi and Cape Town's luxury fashion expert Tamburai Chirume, local designers were provided with a blueprint for success in an increasingly competitive industry

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The future of Botswana's fashion industry is being rewritten. Création Botswana's exclusive masterclass, *The Business of Fashion: From Vision to Venture*, brought global industry experts to Gaborone to equip local designers with the knowledge and strategies to build sustainable, market-ready brands.

With insights from Paris-based upcycling pioneer Amah Ayivi and Cape Town's luxury fashion expert Tamburai Chirume, the recent event provided a blueprint for success in an increasingly competitive industry. This was important because beyond aesthetics, the fashion industry is a multi-billion-dollar business driven by strategy, branding and innovation.

Turning trash into treasure

As a matter of fact, this was the key message at Création Botswana's masterclass that was held at the National Museum and Art Gallery in Gaborone

last week. The session explored brand building, sustainability, and global market access featuring two internationally acclaimed experts, each sharing their journey from passion to profitable enterprise.

Amah Ayivi, the visionary behind Paris-based brand *Marché Noir*, captivated attendees with his epic journey of transforming African vintage clothing into high-fashion collectibles. His brand was born of love for vintage clothing and he quickly realised that what the world discarded as "trash" could be reimagined as treasure.

"I didn't study fashion," he shared. "I started with style."

Fashionable and profitable

Ayivi built his business model around sustainability and craftwork, proving that African heritage can be both fashionable and profitable. He advised designers to analyse the market before launching a collection, to diversify income streams beyond just selling clothes, and to expand into community building, online



The country's fashion industry is on the brink of a transformation. With the right strategies in place, local brands can thrive on the international stage.

sales, and creative collaborations, as well as using storytelling to attract an audience, just as he did by promoting his brand's ethos on Instagram before sustainability became a mainstream trend.

"The fashion world is all about desire," he said. "But behind it, there are financial realities. If you want to sustain your brand, you must create an ecosystem around it."

The power of African luxury

From Cape Town, Tamburai Chirume, co-founder of ONEOFEACH, shared how her African luxury brand is redefining heritage craftsmanship with contemporary design. She highlighted Africa's longstanding tradition of sustainability, urging designers to focus on the business side of fashion to ensure that their brand is not just creative but is financially viable.

She encouraged brand storytelling because today's customers

don't just buy clothes but buy a brand's journey, impact, quality and branding to change the global narrative that African fashion lacks refinement. "African fashion is rising," Chirume stated. "But we must address issues like branding and finishing. We need to prove that high-quality products can come from Africa."

Building a fashion movement

Beyond a one-time event, Création Botswana's initiative is building a movement. The Director of Alliance Française, Angélique Saverino, outlined the roadmap for upcoming training sessions:

- April – An immersive learning trip to South Africa, focusing on design, distribution, and marketing.
- May – Mastering brand development and collection design.
- June – Training in brand communication, promotion and strategy.

• July – The final phase where designers will present their business-ready fashion collections.

Building a movement

"This is not just a training course but is also a movement," she said. "We are building a community of fashion entrepreneurs dedicated to innovation, creativity and business success."

As Botswana's designers absorb these lessons and expand their reach, one thing is clear: the country's fashion industry is on the brink of a transformation. With the right strategies in place, local brands can thrive on the international stage.

As Création Botswana's masterclass proves, the future of African fashion is sustainable, market-driven, and limitless - and it starts with bold entrepreneurs who dare to build beyond the runway.

A Wild Year Ahead: Wilderness Charts a Bold Path for Tourism

"At Wilderness, we changed the mindset from 'we can't' to 'can't we?'" said Kabelo Binns on the comprehensive impact of OWS at the company's annual stakeholder event held in Gaborone recently where the essential message was that there is something for everyone at the world's most famous delta



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

"Are you ready for a wild year?" This was a fitting preview of the Okavango Wilderness Safaris' (OWS) bold vision for 2025 that was un-

veiled at the company's annual stakeholder event in Gaborone recently.

The gathering brought together cabinet ministers, partners, industry leaders, and the media

to reflect on OWS's transformative contributions to conservation, community upliftment and sustainable tourism while setting the stage for an ambitious future.

Children in the Wilderness

The CEO of HATAB, Lily Rakorong, praised OWS's longstanding contributions, noting that the company has been at the forefront of Botswana's tourism sector since the early 1980s.

She highlighted Children in the Wilderness, a programme that has become a true testament to tourism as a tool for development, shaping future conservationists and empowering local communities. Rakorong emphasised that OWS's growth from mobile safaris to luxury camps reflects the

industry's potential.

However, she urged expansion beyond Chobe and Ngami districts into Gantsi and Kgalagadi as regions with untapped tourism potential. "Tourism can provide the much-needed jobs that Botswana requires," she said.

Diamonds in the Okavango

The Chairman of the OWS Board, Kabelo Binns, reinforced the enduring power of tourism, likening Botswana's natural beauty to diamonds in the Okavango - valuable, sustainable and scalable.

He addressed the misconception that the Delta is inaccessible, stating: "There is something for everybody. Our properties cater for all, from budget-conscious travellers to luxury seekers."

Binns also reflected on OWS's commitment to communities, particularly during COVID-19 when the company had no rev-

enue but still provided over 50,000 food hampers per month to struggling villages.

OWS has also tackled drought relief, built schools and empowered local farmers, shifting the industry landscape. "A decade ago, most of our guides, pilots, and managers were not Batswana," he said.

From "we can't" to "can't we?"

"Today, our entire guiding team and all our general managers are locals. We even have female pilots. Who says we can't? At Wilderness, we changed the mindset from 'we can't' to 'can't we?' and the industry has followed."

Caretaker Managing Director Joe Matome reaffirmed OWS's commitment to creating a lasting impact, driven by its three core pillars of Educate, Empower and Protect.

As OWS gears up for an exciting year ahead, its focus remains clear: to redefine sustainable tourism, uplift communities, and ensure that Botswana's natural wonders remain accessible for generations to come.

Botswana's IP Revolution In Full Swing

From cracking down on counterfeits to empowering creatives and attracting foreign investors, Botswana is on a path to becoming a powerhouse of innovation and IP excellence

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Propelled by the new government's commitment to innovation and economic transformation, Botswana is experiencing a seismic shift in its intellectual property (IP) landscape. At the forefront of this transformation is the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA), which is aggressively strengthening IP protection, commercialisation and enforcement.

In an exclusive interview, CIPA Caretaker Registrar General, Joel Ramaphoi, outlined how Botswana is positioning itself as a model for IP-driven economic growth.

Coalition

One of CIPA's most significant strides has been formation of a powerful enforcement alliance with key agencies, including the Botswana Police Service, the Botswana Unified Revenue Service, Local Trademark Agents, Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority, Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority, Multichoice Botswana and the

Competition and Consumer Authority.

This coalition has led to the confiscation of millions of pula's worth of counterfeit goods, including P1.4 million worth of fake Apple products, counterfeit Soviet shoes, and illegal decoders and related accessories during the first two months of 2025.

"These enforcement operations have sent a strong message to retailers that violating intellectual property laws will not be tolerated in Botswana," Ramaphoi stated.

By eliminating fake goods from the market, CIPA aims to protect consumers and create a fair business environment, ensuring that the economy thrives on genuine innovation and ethical trade practices.

Breaking monopolies

With the new government recognising IP as a key driver of economic growth, Botswana is undergoing structural changes that favour local entrepreneurs and innovators. In the 2025 Budget Speech, the government committed to breaking monopolies in sectors such as poultry,

retail and automobile industries, enabling citizens to create and protect new brands.

This entails promoting a franchise economy, which will allow Botswana to access franchise business models, thereby increasing IP registrations in trademarks and copyrights. Establishing a National Fund of Funds, a financing model aimed at supporting startups, companies and entrepreneurs who invest in intellectual property assets, is a key part of this.

"With these reforms, we expect to see a surge in new brands, patents, and innovations that will be protected through the IP system," Ramaphoi stated.

Botswana a rising star

Botswana's commitment to international IP standards has positioned it as a rising star in the global IP ecosystem. CIPA actively engages with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) to ensure that Botswana's IP framework aligns with international best practices.

"WIPO has recognised Botswana as a model for IP in developing nations, and we are currently piloting the IP Model Office, an online platform that will enhance IP services," Ramaphoi revealed.

Botswana's role in global treaty negotiations, including the landmark WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, and Associated Traditional Knowledge, cemented its commitment to global IP governance further.

Empowering creatives

The creative industry remains one of the biggest beneficiaries of the new IP policies. However, digital platforms like TikTok and Facebook, which generate rev-



enue for creators in other countries, have yet to extend the same benefits to Botswana's content creators.

Because of this, the government is exploring new legislation to monetise digital content, ensuring that local creatives benefit from their work.

"Unlike other industries, this sector may not have the necessary tangible property to use as collateral for accessing funding. Being a sector that is largely driven by trademarks and copyright, it is our expectation that the government will consider IP in the modalities of providing financial resources to catapult growth in the sector," he said.

In addition, the Levy on Technical Devices Fund is set to fund 89 creative projects across music, film, publishing, animation, theatre and the visual arts with an investment of P67 million.

This initiative will elevate copyright-based industries, making them more competitive in both local and international markets. But despite these advancements, Botswana's IP ecosystem still faces key challenges.

IP education in schools

The lack of IP literacy outside of legal studies at the University of Botswana has limited genuine understanding and utilisation of

IP laws. To address this, CIPA is advocating for inclusion of IP education in national curricula and has launched targeted awareness campaigns.

Moreover, fragmentation within the IP ecosystem has led to confusion over roles in IP enforcement, commercialisation and funding. To streamline operations, CIPA has categorised the ecosystem into five key groups: IP Generators, Capacity Building, Enforcement, Funding, and Commercialisation entities.

This structured approach will break down silos, create synergy and foster a seamless IP environment.

A future built on IP

Botswana's IP revolution is thus in full swing under the new government, CIPA, and global partners driving a transformation that will redefine the nation's economic future.

From cracking down on counterfeits to empowering creatives and attracting foreign investors, Botswana is on the path to becoming a powerhouse of innovation and IP excellence.

As Ramaphoi aptly put it: "This is more than just enforcement. It's about securing Botswana's future as a leader in intellectual property protection and commercialisation."

Foretaste Of City Lights Set For 29 March

This event is designed to give revellers a sampling of the grand City Lights Festival that will officially signal the New Year on 31 December 2025



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Gilbert Promotions will illuminate Gaborone with an electrifying prelude to one of its most anticipated calendar events months before the carnival.

Scheduled for 29 March 2025 at Gaborone Club, the City Lights Festival Activation is designed to give revellers a foretaste of the grand City Lights Festival, which will officially ring in the New Year on 31 December 2025.

Star-studded lineup

According to Gilbert 'PP' Seagile, the brains behind Gilbert Promotions, the activation has an eclectic lineup featuring the likes of Mthunzi, DJ Ngwazi, Lebo Molax, Lioness Ratang, Mgarimbe, Bangu,

ATI, Chokoma, Ubuntu Band, and Chef Gustos in a night that promises an unforgettable experience.

"City Lights is meant to be an international event that brings the world to the city of Gaborone," Seagile told *Time Out*. While the festival was cancelled in 2024 due to poor stakeholder buy-in and need for heavier marketing, Seagile says they are taking a strategic approach this time around.

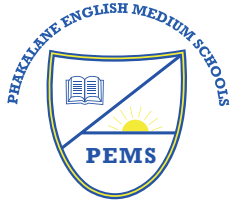
A can't miss New Year eve celebration

The activation event is just the beginning of a larger marketing campaign that will see City Lights Festival being promoted across Southern Africa and Europe. Seagile is determined to position Gaborone as a prime destination for international revellers looking for a spectacular way to welcome the new year.

Set to return to its traditional 31 December slot, the City Lights Festival promises an immersive lifestyle experience with a stellar entertainment lineup, fun-filled activities, and a premium party atmosphere.

"City Lights is meant to be an international event that brings the world to the city of Gaborone."

Advance tickets are going for P100 while gate tickets will be available for P150 while children pay P50 to enjoy the family fun day.



AIM WHERE EAGLES SOAR

PHAKALANE ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS

Join our dynamic Eagles team at Phakalane English Medium Schools. We pride ourselves in moulding industry pioneers and change makers in their journey of life long Education. Make an impact in educating global citizens.

1. Applications are invited for the following; Primary School teachers:

- Class teachers for upper and lower Primary (x4)
- Computers (x2)
- Setswana (x2)
- English(x2)
- Music (x2)

- Physical Education(x1)
- Swimming Coach(x1)
- Art (x1)
- Teacher Librarian (x1)

Minimum qualification:

- Diploma in Primary Education.
- Bachelor of Education (BED) degree / Masters in Education (MED) will be an added advantage

Minimum work experience: 3 years teaching experience

2. Applications are invited for the following: Early Childhood teachers experienced in teaching pre-school children of ages between 2 ½ years to 7 years.

Minimum qualification:

- Diploma in Early Childhood Education
- A degree in Early Childhood Education will be an added advantage

Minimum work experience: 2 years teaching experience

For all the above positions, kindly attach: Copies of your

- Certificates
- Transcripts
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Cover letter
- Copy of Identity document
- Reference letters

Job Summary: Prospective teachers will be required plan, prepare, and deliver engaging lessons, assessing student learning, maintaining a positive and safe classroom environment. They will be required to collaborate with parents and colleagues to foster student development.

Email all correspondence to : vacancies@phakalaneinternational.co.bw

Physical Address : Plot 21475 Magang Avenue, Phakalane, Gaborone

Postal Address : Private Bag BR 307
Gaborone

Contact number : 3907010

Closing Date : 1st April 2025

Please note: No physical applications will be accepted. All applications should be sent via the school email or postal address; referencing the position being applied for.

Due to the number of applications that we normally receive, we will ONLY REPLY to short-listed applicants



AIM WHERE EAGLES SOAR

PHAKALANE ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS

Join our dynamic Eagles team at Phakalane English Medium Schools. We pride ourselves in moulding industry pioneers and change makers in their journey of life long Education. Make an impact in educating global citizens.

1. Applications are invited from suitable and experienced Secondary School subject teachers. We offer IGCSE, Internationally recognised syllabus, in the following subjects:

- French (x2)
- Mathematics (x3)
- English(x2)
- Geography (x2)
- History(x2)
- Accounts(x1)
- Business Studies(x2)
- Development Studies(x1)
- Commerce,(x1)

- Computers (x2)
- Science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology)(x3)
- Physical Education (x1)
- Drama(x1)
- Music(x1)
- Art (x2)
- Guidance and Counselling (x1)
- Setswana (x2)

Minimum qualification:

- Diploma in Secondary Education
- Bachelor's degree / Master's Degree in Education (MED) will be an added advantage.

Minimum work Experience:

- Two years teaching experience required
- Experience in teaching IGCSE will be an added advantage

Job Summary : Prospective teachers will be required plan, prepare, and deliver engaging lessons, assessing student learning, maintaining a positive and safe classroom environment. They will be required to collaborate with parents and colleagues to foster student development.

Email Address : vacancies@phakalaneinternational.co.bw

Physical Address : Plot 74128 School Road, Phakalane, Gaborone

Postal Address : Private Bag BR 307
Gaborone

Contact number : 3975991

Closing Date : 1st April 2025

Please note: No physical applications will be accepted. All applications should be sent via the school email or postal address; referencing the position being applied for.

Due to the number of applications that we normally receive, we will ONLY REPLY to short-listed applicants

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTROLLED TRANSACTION IN TERMS OF SECTION 34 OF THE TRIBAL LAND ACT, 2018

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that the following controlled transaction is proposed:

THE SELLER : SELEBALENG PHALALO

THE PURCHASER : MONIQUE ELS

CERTAIN : 60% Shares on the Company called GOODMAN RESOURCES (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED in respect of the following properties:

1. Piece of Land being Lot 3944, Lecheng;
Situates at Lecheng (Cadastre 435) in the Bamangwato Tribal Territory Measuring 10,5130 Ha (Ten comma Five One Three Zero Hectares)

2. Piece of Land being Lot 3945, Lecheng;
Situates at Lecheng (Cadastre 435) in the Bamangwato Tribal Territory Measuring 10,4650 Ha (Ten comma Four Six Five Zero Hectares)

3. Piece of Land being Lot 8839, Palapye;
Situates in the Ngwato Tribal Area Measuring 840m² (Eight Hundred and Forty Square Metres)

4. Piece of Land being Lot 8840, Palapye;
Situates in the Ngwato Tribal Area Measuring 840m² (Eight Hundred and Forty Square Metres)

CONSIDERATION : P120,000.00 (One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pula).

SUBJECT : To the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement of Sale of Shares, which may be inspected at the Offices of Van Niekerk Attorneys, Ditau Street, Plot 4660, Area G, P. O. Box 37, Francistown.

BE PLEASED TO TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that:

a) All Botswana citizens interested in entering into a similar transaction in respect of the above property shall be given priority notwithstanding the agreement reached by the above-named parties regarding the controlled transaction.

b) Should any person wish to object to this proposed controlled transaction, notice of the objection with reasons thereof be addressed to the Ngwato Land Board, with copies to the undersigned (Van Niekerk Attorneys) within thirty (30) days from the date of publication thereof.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS THE 14TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024

VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS,
Ditau Street, Plot 4660, Area G, P. O. Box 37, FRANCISTOWN

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

CASE No. CVHFT 000 445/21

In the matter between
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED
And
JASON SIZWE KEANU PHOMETSI

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 **STANLEY SIKALESELE MBOLAI** to the Highest Bidder:

DATE OF SALE : 9th May 2025
TIME : 08:00 a.m.
VENUE : Tribal Lot 43081, Tsanekona Ward, Maun
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Tribal Lot 43081, Tsanekona Ward, Maun
SITUATE : at Maun Village in the Batawana Tribal Territory
MEASURING : 509m2 (Five Hundred and Nine Square Metres) which property is held under Notarial Deed of Cession No FT MA 340/2016 dated the **5th day of December 2016** in favour of **JASON SIZWE KEANU PHOMETSI**

The property comprises of an erected three bedroomed house with ensuite bedroom, two other bedrooms, kitchen, sitting room, toilet and shower and some improvements thereon.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected with Deputy Sheriff Mbolai on cell No. 71635200/4925987

CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guarantee cheques

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH,2025

DEPUTY SHERIFF STANLEY SIKALESELE MBOLAI
C/O M MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN

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

CASE No. CVHFT 000 294/14

In the matter between
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED
And
MATHAMA JOO INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD
JONATHAN MAPHANE

PLAINTIFF

1ST DEFENDANT
2ND 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 **STANLEY SIKALESELE MBOLAI** to the Highest Bidder :

DATE OF SALE : 9th May 2025
TIME : 11:00 a.m.
VENUE : Tribal Lot 16414, Thitoyamokole Ward, Maun
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Tribal Lot 16414, Thitoyamokole Ward, Maun
SITUATE : at Maun in the Batawana Tribal Territory
MEASURING : 1210m2 (One Thousand Two Hundred and Ten Square Metres) which property is held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FTL 512/2010 dated 16th day of August 2010 entered into between **TAWANA LAND BOARD** and **JONATHAN MAPHANE**

The Property comprises of a house with three bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen, toilet and bathroom water system, screen wall and other improvements therein.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected with Deputy Sheriff Mbolai on cell No. 71635200/4925987

CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guarantee cheques

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH,2025

DEPUTY SHERIFF STANLEY SIKALESELE MBOLAI
c/o M MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL AND
TRANSFER IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that action retlhotswe has entered into a purchase and sale agreement with Sikhumbuzo Dhlamini respectively(the transition),in respect of the below mentioned properties namely:

Certain piece of land being residential,
Situates at Letlhakeng in the Kweneng tribal territory,
Measuring : 3,02*21,28*36,06*25,02*36m;
Held under agreement of grant of lease for residential plots

(hereinafter “the lease”): hereafter referred to as(“property”)

Consideration of the transaction amount to **BWP 30,000.00(three hundred and fifty thousand pula)** excluding any vat/transfer duty consequential to the transaction.

Notwithstanding the transaction, priority is hereby given to any citizen of Botswana interested I entering into a similar transaction in respect of the properties.

All persons objecting to the transaction are hereby requested to such objections with reasons,in writing, with letlhakeng sub-land board, Private bag 006,Molepolole,within **thirty(30)days** from the date of this notice.

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY
OF A LOST DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of lost Deed Of Fixed Period State Grant No: 1797/2013, dated 4th of September 2013, in favour of **GEORGE COETZEE** in respect of the following property.

CERTAIN : piece of land being Lot 4308, Jwaneng

SITUATE : in Jwaneng Extension 10

MEASURING : 510m² (Five hundred and Ten Square Metres)

AS WILL MORE FULLY APPEAR : From General Plan D.S.L No.505/90 surveyor by Land Surveyor J.Z Brejt in July-August and December 1990 and approved by the Director of Surveys and Lands on 12th December 1991.

WHICH PROPERTY : is held under Deed Of Fixed Period State Grant No: 1797/2013 dated 4th of September 2013 in favour of **GEORGE COETZEE**.

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

Dated at Kanye this 10th day of March 2025

THAPELO MPHALA ATTORNEYS
Applicant's Attorneys
Lot 306(Next to South Court Inn Hotel)
Mmasekou
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Kanye


THAPELO MPHALA
ATTORNEYS
CONVEYANCERS • NOTARIES

CHANGE OF PROPERTY REGIME

PURSUANT TO SECTION (8)1 of the married Persons Property Act, 2014 : NOTICE is hereby given that **Morulaganyi Mc Donald** and **Kefilwe Leah B Ntloeakhumo** married in community of property on the **08th September 2012 in Molepolole**, wish to change their property regime to out of community of property.

The parties intend to apply to their High Court of Botswana after the expiration of the 3 consecutive weeks from the date of the publication thereof.

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 before the expiration of the said three weeks period, or make representations before the hight court of Botswana once the contemplated application is lodged.

DATES AT GABORONE THIS 7TH DAY OF MARCH 2025

KEFILWE LEAH NTLOEAKHUMO AND MORULAGANYI NTLOEAKHUMO
P O BOX 622, MOLEPOLOLE

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Botswana Bowling Association Sees Steady Growth

While BNSC and BNOC have been credited for much of the growth of bowling in Botswana that has seen the national bowling team named the National Team of the Year at the 2024 Botswana Sports Awards, corporate sponsors like Debswana, Lucara and Okavango Diamond Company were singled out for special mention in an exclusive interview with an executive of Botswana Bowling Association

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Long regarded as a sport for the elderly, lawn bowling in Botswana is shedding its old image and at-

tracting a diverse range of players.

The Botswana Bowling Association (BBA) is making significant strides in development, with its vice president, Marea

Modutlwa, saying the sport is “moving in the right direction.”

Speaking in a telephone interview, Modutlwa noted that BBA has worked hard to ensure that bowling is no longer viewed as an exclusive pastime for older players.

As a testament to the growing appeal of the sport, Botswana’s national team now includes athletes of various ages. “For the longest time, bowling was seen as a sport for the elderly,” she said.

Major int’l competitions

“But we have been working behind the scenes to change that perception, and we now have players of different ages even at the national team level.”

Modutlwa credited the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) for its continued support, which has enabled the national team to compete on

major international stages.

“The BNOC has been very supportive,” she said. “They recognise us, and we were able to participate in the past two editions of the Commonwealth Games because of that.”

Commonwealth Games

While BNOC facilitates Team Botswana’s participation in the Olympic Games, it is also responsible for the country’s involvement in the Commonwealth Games where Botswana made its debut in 1974.

The Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC) has also played a crucial role in the sport’s expansion. Two years ago, bowling was added to BNSC’s Re Ba Bona Ha grassroots development programme, aimed at nurturing young athletes.

“We have seen tremendous support from BNSC,” said Modutlwa. “They have significantly increased our grant over the past two years, which has helped us a lot.”

Sponsorship challenges

But while institutional backing has been instrumental in bowling’s progress, financial sustainability remains a challenge.

Modutlwa acknowledged that some corporate sponsors, including Debswana, Lucara, and Okavango Diamond Company, have been generous in supporting local sports beyond just the popular codes.

However, she noted that many sports federations struggle with sponsorship due to leadership structures that rely on volun-

teers.

A proud moment

“The challenge is that most sporting codes are run by volunteers,” she said. “These individuals have other commitments, which means they can only give partial attention to things like securing sponsorships.”

“For the longest time, bowling was seen as a sport for the elderly. But we have been working behind the scenes to change that perception.”

Despite these hurdles, Botswana bowling reached a major milestone this year. For the first time in its history, the women’s national bowling team was named the National Team of the Year at the 2024 Botswana Sports Awards, hosted by BNSC.

“It’s a proud moment for us,” Modutlwa said. “This award reflects the hard work we have put in to grow the sport.”

BHA Strengthens Coaching and Player Development for 2025

There is much player development and investing in coaching education at Botswana Hockey Association

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Hockey Association (BHA) is ramping up efforts to elevate the sport nationwide, launching both player selections and a landmark coaching course as part of its broader development strategy.

As part of its talent identification process, BHA has begun selecting players for national team opportunities. “We are looking forward to a competitive year ahead and are inviting eligible players to showcase their skills,” BHA said in a statement.

To qualify, players must be registered with a BHA-affiliated club, academy or school.

Eswatini and Zimbabwe

The 2025 competition calendar features the U-14 Indoor Hockey Test Series in July, a home event in Gaborone against Eswatini aimed at identifying young talent.

In August, junior players will travel to Zimbabwe for the Ju-

nior Hockey Series, a four-nation regional tournament featuring U-13, U-16, and U-18 age groups.

Senior players will also be in action at the Senior Indoor Hockey Test Series in Eswatini, an event that BHA describes as crucial for building a strong national team.

Beyond player development, BHA is investing heavily in coaching education.

FIH Level One Coaching

From 24 to 26 January 2025, Botswana hosted the FIH Level One Coaching Course at Clifton College in Francistown in collaboration with the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Academy and the Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC).

The initiative brought together 15 passionate players, teachers and coaches from various regions across Botswana, as well as South Africa, demonstrating the sport’s growing regional influence.

The programme was led by



Coach Moses Kagochi, an FIH Level 5-certified expert from the Netherlands.

“This initiative is a key step in aligning Botswana’s coaching standards with international best practices,” BHA stated, emphasising its role in strengthening the junior development pathway and

supporting BNSC Vision 2028.

“This is just the beginning”

Participants engaged in theory lessons, practical demonstrations, and game analysis, ensuring that they gained both technical and strategic knowledge.

At the end of the three-day course, all 15 attendees earned

their FIH Level One Coaching Certificates, a milestone that is expected to enhance grassroots hockey in the country.

“This is just the beginning,” BHA noted. “We are planning FIH Umpiring and Level Two Coaching Courses later in 2025 to continue this progress.”

Orange Botswana Renews Letsile Tebogo Partnership

Orange Botswana has extended its partnership with Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo, reaffirming its support for the sprinter as a brand ambassador. The renewal follows Tebogo’s historic 200m gold medal win at the 2024 Summer Olympics, marking Botswana’s first Olympic gold. Since turning professional, Tebogo has achieved multiple milestones, including being named the 2024 World Athletics Male Athlete of the Year. Orange Botswana CEO, Néné Maïga, praised the athlete as a role model and symbol of perseverance, stating that his success aligns with the company’s values of excellence and breaking boundaries. The telecommunications provider has been a consistent supporter of Tebogo since first partnering with him three years ago. The renewed agreement ensures Tebogo continues to represent Orange Botswana as he competes on the global stage, most recently in the Athletics South Africa Grand Prix Series.



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VUNANI WOMEN'S SPORTS AWARDS SLATED FOR SATURDAY

Fourteen awards will be presented to trailblazing athletes and sports administrators, as well as to sports journalists across print, radio, photography and television for their outstanding contributions to the growth of women's sports in Botswana over the past year



GAZETTE REPORTER

Sports minister Jacob Kele-beng will preside over the highly-anticipated third edition of the Vunani Annual Botswana Women Sports Awards

that is due at Lekidi Football Centre in Gaborone on Saturday.

The awards will see 14 awards presented to trailblazing athletes and sports administrators, as well as to sports journalists across print, radio, photography and

television in recognition of their contributions to the growth of women's sports in Botswana in 2024.

The founder and CEO of Inside BW Women Sports, Kesego Kebelaele-Okie, has emphasised the

broader mission of the awards. Inside BW Women Sports is organising the event.

Three special awards

"There will be three special awards given to corporate entities and individual sports enthusiasts who have dedicated their time and resources to gender parity in sports," she said in an interview.

One of the special awards, the Champion for Equality Award, will recognise a local company that has integrated women's sports into its strategic deliverables.

The awards have grown in prestige and financial backing, with local corporate sponsorship exceeding P525,000 this year. The headline sponsor, Vunani Fund Managers, has committed P200,000 annually to the event.

Dignitaries

Since its inception in 2023, the ceremony has become a highlight on Botswana's sporting calendar, attracting top government officials and industry leaders.

Among the dignitaries expected to attend are the Minister of International Relations Pheny Butale, the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, the Mayor of Gaborone Oarabile Motlaleng, as well as executives from Absa, FNBB, Btv, BFA, BNSC, BOMAID, and Exclusive Life Insurance.

Fierce competition

Some of Botswana's most promising female athletes will vie for top honours in key categories. The Young Promising Athlete

Award will see tennis sensation Malak Macheng face off against track star Sethunya Majama and chess prodigy Maya Otimile.

For Sportswoman of the Year, the nominees are Ekua Youri (tennis), Oratile Nowe (athletics), and Natalie Banda (chess). The He for She Champion category, which honours male allies in women's sports, features Ofentse Bakwadi (karate), Collar Masi-makoko (athletics), and Podungwane Lesole (chess).

The Umpire of the Year award is expected to be a particularly hotly contested category, with Gaone Poane (tennis), Dorothy Okatch (basketball), and Ritah Nthaga (tennis) all vying for the honour.

Gender parity

The Administrator of the Year award will have to be decided between Sharon Keakae (Special Olympics), Ounami Mhotsha (golf), and Tshegofatso Malepa (table tennis).

However, two major categories - Sportswoman with Disability of the Year and Coach of the Year - will not be awarded this year due to a lack of nominees.

As Botswana continues to make strides in elevating women's sports, the Vunani Awards stand out as a testament to the progress and recognition that female athletes and their supporters are receiving.

The night promises to be both a celebration and a reminder of the work still ahead towards achieving gender parity in sports.

6Series Taekwondo Championship Showcases Emerging Talent

It featured athletes divided into three categories: Cadets (Under 14), Juniors (14-17), and Seniors (18+), with the Senior category attracting considerable attention for its fierce matchups

GAZETTE REPORTER

Notable victories at the 2024 edition of the 6Series Championship Final that was held at the University of Botswana Student Centre over the weekend came from Mompoti Wantwa triumphing over Keeleeng Baaleng in the Senior Male 2nd bracket and Karabo Kula over Tshepang Kooreng in the Senior Female category.

The Cadet division also showcased promising talent, with Buhle Itumeleng defeating Onnielwe Banyana in the Female Cadet bracket and Ronald Motseosi overcoming Kagiso Gasereng in the Male Cadet category.

The championship thus stood out as a testament to the rising star power in Botswana's taekwondo scene. It brought together athletes from various age groups, all striving to elevate the sport in Botswana and push local

talent to world-class level.

Legacy

It featured athletes divided into three categories: Cadets (Under 14), Juniors (14-17), and Seniors (18+), with the Senior category attracting considerable attention for its fierce matchups.

"This championship is not just about competition; it's about building a legacy and fostering world-class athletes in Botswana," said Tumelo Motshegare, spokesperson for the Botswana Taekwondo Federation (BTF), in an interview after the event.

"We saw amazing performances across all categories, and the energy in the Cadet bracket was especially infectious. It is clear that taekwondo in Botswana has a bright future ahead."

Optimism

As the championship wrapped up, the atmosphere was filled with optimism for the future of taekwondo in the region. Motshegare spoke about the ongoing commitment to developing athletes for future international competitions.

"One of our main goals is to prepare our athletes for the African Zonal Games later this year in Mozambique," he said. "It's an exciting opportunity for them to test their skills on the continental stage."

However, despite the excitement and promising performanc-



es, challenges persist. One notable concern is the issue of limited resources, particularly in terms of athlete equipment and financial support.

"The challenges are real ..."

"The challenges are real, and we are actively seeking sponsors to help us cover these gaps," Motshegare noted.

"Sponsorship will play a cru-

cial role in ensuring the continued growth of taekwondo in Botswana, particularly as we prepare for the next 6Series tournament in June. Without this support, it is hard to take the sport to the next level.

Gender disparity

In terms of participation, the championship saw a positive turnout, though the persistent gender disparity was apparent. Male athletes made up a significant majority of around 80 per cent.

"This championship is not just about competition; it's about building a legacy and fostering world-class athletes in Botswana."

"We need to work towards encouraging more female participation in the sport," Motshegare emphasised. "The future is bright, but it is important we ensure that genders are equally represented."



Bagwasi Targets Title After Stunning First-Round TKO Victory

Kagiso "Reptile" Bagwasi was pitted against Moyo, who is a highly regarded and previously undefeated fighter. The result was a decisive early stoppage that sent a strong message to the boxing world

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana's welterweight boxing star Kagiso "Reptile" Bagwasi has positioned himself for a title challenge following a dominant first-round technical knockout (TKO) victory over South African contender, Almighty Moyo.

His trainer and manager, Dusan Cakic, believes the emphatic win proves that Bagwasi is ready for bigger fights.

The bout, held at The Storm boxing event in Sandton, South Africa last Saturday, pitted Bagwasi against Moyo, who is a highly regarded and previously undefeated fighter. The result was a decisive early stoppage that sent a strong message to the boxing world.

In the right direction

"This was a highly rated fight against a very tough opponent who had been undefeated for a long time," Cakic said in an interview. "This guy that Bagwasi defeated was regarded as a serious prospect in South African professional boxing."

"For Bagwasi to win the way he did gives a very good impression and shows that we are headed in the right direction."

Bagwasi's performance, Cakic added, was a testament to years of disciplined preparation and relentless training.

"This did not just happen overnight or by luck," he emphasised. "It took years of hard work to get to this level."

Path to a title fight

Cakic, who coaches at Drad Noxing Club in Gaborone, is optimistic that Bagwasi's latest victory will open new doors in the sport.

He anticipates more invitations for fights in South Afri-

ca and beyond, with a title shot potentially materialising before the end of the year.

"If we can secure one more fight, I am confident he will be ready to challenge for a title," Cakic said. "He is a very good boxer, and we've been preparing for a moment like this for years."

The challenge, he noted, is getting those opportunities. Unlike amateur boxing where fighters are frequently matched up, professional boxing operates on invitations.

"If we can secure one more fight, I am confident he will be ready to challenge for a title."

Hurdles

Securing bouts abroad, especially for fighters from smaller boxing nations like Botswana, remains difficult. "In professional boxing, you get invited maybe once or twice a year," he said.

"When that happens, you have to make a very good impression - just the way Bagwasi did. It's also not easy to fight outside your home country. There are many factors that can work against you, including officiating."

Despite these hurdles, Cakic is hopeful that Bagwasi will step into the ring again soon, possibly within the next three weeks.

Momentum

He emphasised the depth of talent at his club, saying Botswana has several fighters ready to make their mark internationally.

With momentum on his side, Bagwasi is closer than ever to realising his championship ambitions.

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