



27.
**GREEN
DINING**

FLOOD WARNING, SAME PROBLEMS

As southern Botswana braces for floods, questions mount over whether authorities have applied lessons from the past or it's business as usual.

2.



Cartels Fuel Drug Crisis?

Ex-CMS chiefs warn drug cartels could derail December medicine supply plans.

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Flood Warning, Same Problems

As Botswana's south braces for floods, questions mount over whether the country's grand climate plans under NDP-12 translate into real protection or just paperwork.



“Floods don't destroy infrastructure neglect does.”

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment has issued a flood alert for southern Botswana, urging communities to “remain vigilant” as heavy rains threaten to submerge low-lying areas. But the warning has revived an uncomfortable national debate: how prepared is Botswana when preparedness often means having only buckets and mops at the ready?

A PATTERN REPEATING ITSELF

Last year's deluge displaced thousands in Gaborone and the Central District, and this year's warnings come with similar urgency. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) says contingency plans are “in place,” yet critics argue that local authorities remain reactive rather than ready. The modest storms overwhelm drainage in major towns, exposing chronic neglect of stormwater networks and poor

urban planning.

PROMISES WITHOUT PROTECTION

At the centre of the debate is the National Development Plan 12 (NDP-12), Botswana's much-publicised blueprint for climate resilience. While the Plan speaks of “mainstreaming climate change” and establishing a Climate Fund, engineers and environmentalists note that it stops short of specifying concrete flood-mitigation proj-

ects — from culvert upgrades to floodplain zoning. Analysts say it is “policy without plumbing”: a framework strong on ambition but weak on design and costing.

THE MISSING DISCIPLINE: MAINTENANCE

Experts insist that resilience begins not with mega-projects but with maintenance — clearing drains, dredging silted rivers, and ensuring stormwater has a path to flow. Yet maintenance remains the orphan of Botswana's development culture. Councils often wait for central directives before deploying equipment, while new roads crumble for lack of routine inspection. “Floods don't destroy infrastructure,” one urban planner told *The Gazette*. “Neglect does.”

FROM PLANS TO PRACTICE

While President Duma Boko has acknowledged the need for re-evaluating disaster readiness, progress has been slow. The NDMO's own post-flood assessment earlier this year confirmed that human-induced climate change and unplanned urban growth were compounding risks in Gaborone and other towns. The report recommended decentralising preparedness and linking budgets to measurable maintenance targets — reforms still pending approval.

A CALL FOR GROUND-LEVEL READINESS

As forecasts predict more rainfall across southern Botswana, emergency teams have been placed on alert, and schools and clinics advised to prepare for disruption. For critics, however, true preparedness will only come when every district council has its own funded drainage plan, not just a circular from Gaborone. Until then, the nation may continue to equate readiness with buckets and mops — and flood resilience with post-disaster clean-ups.

Cartels Fuel Drug Crisis?

Despite promises of normal medicine supply by December, ex-CMS chiefs warn that without stricter oversight to stop cartels and criminal syndicates diverting drugs for private interests, even a public health emergency won't help

GAZETTE REPORTER

The former Central Medical Stores (CMS) leaders have cautioned that despite the Ministry of Health's promise to stabilize medicine supply by December, CMS will struggle to consistently meet the nation's demand without stronger oversight and accountability.

Former Director of Health Inspectorate, Setso Setso, who at one point chaired the expedited CMS adjudication process, together with Dr. Onalenna Seitio-Kgokgwe—the former head of CMS, are credited for raising medicine availability from 33 percent to 76 percent in 2022.

In an interview, Setso warned that “organized cartels diverting drugs to private pharmacies remain unchecked, a problem that still persists.”

SCAPEGOATING CMS

Just like Dr Kgokgwe, he feels “CMS is being unfairly scapegoated while the Ministry itself fails to tighten oversight on supply chain management.” The responsibility, the duo insist, lies squarely with senior ministry management.

“Reforms in procurement, elimination of middlemen, and a better understanding of the market are critical to solving the crisis,” Setso said.

LEAKAGES AND CARTELS

“The Ministry's top officers know there are leakages throughout the distribution process. CMS is heavily guarded by state and private security, most drugs leave CMS but do not reach patients. Some are diverted to private pharmacies, and some even leave the country,” Setso said. He recalled incidents of medicines intercepted at the border heading to Zimbabwe. “Cartels operate at every level, and some health workers adopt an abundance mentality. There is a serious problem with security, gatekeeping, and accountability. Even in hair salons, you can find government medical commodities like gloves.”

SUSTAINABILITY CONCERNS

Setso urged the Ministry to seek advice from experienced professionals rather than relying on quick fixes. “Buying drugs alone will not solve the problem—they will be depleted in two months because no one tracks usage properly. Hospitals often leave medical commodities unmonitored, which undermines sustainability. Leakages are still there” He remained cautiously hopeful that the Ministry's December target could be met was sceptical warning that the current availability is very low.

SYSTEMIC PROBLEMS PERSIST

For her part, Dr. Seitio-Kgokgwe, said the public health emergency alone can-



not fix the long-standing systemic issues. “Many challenges are already known, including legislative gaps. Peacemeal solutions and finger-pointing won't work. Real change requires comprehensive reforms, and it is my hope that those proposed in

NDP 12 will put the issue to rest if well implemented,” she said.

For an in-depth take from Dr. Seitio-Kgokgwe on the CMS challenges, see our previous story: *Former CMS Boss Defends Staff, Blames MoH*.

Khama Questions UDC's Human Rights Credibility

Why is the government continuing to engage in its service the worst human rights violators despite portraying itself as a promoter of human rights?

GAZETTE REPORTER

Former President Ian Khama has launched a sharp critique of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government, accusing it of hypocrisy over its proclaimed commitment to human rights.

Speaking in his capacity as Kgosi Kgama IV of Ga-Mmangwato, Khama submitted a written question to Ntlo ya Dikgosi this week challenging the government's employment of individuals allegedly linked to serious rights violations.

Khama's questions were directed to Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Nelson Ramaotwana and focused on three main concerns: inconsistencies in Botswana's justice system, the suspension of public officers under investigation, and the hiring of officials allegedly implicated in human rights abuses.

DISCREPANCIES

Khama first questioned why senior government officials, past and present, allegedly involved in criminal acts documented in court papers, have not faced prosecution, while others committing lesser offences are often quickly charged. The former president described this as a troubling disparity that undermines public trust in the justice system.

SUSPENSION PROCEDURES IN DOUBT

Khama further asked whether the procedure of suspending public officers pending investigation had been abandoned. He noted that some officials currently in office are allegedly involved in serious unlawful acts yet remain unsuspected, raising questions about accountability and adherence to public service regulations.

HIRING OF CONTROVERSIAL INDIVIDUALS

Lastly, Khama asked why the government continues to employ individuals considered the "worst human rights violators," despite publicly presenting itself as a promoter of human rights. He suggested that such practices contradict the UDC's stated human rights agenda.

MINISTER RESPONDS

In response, Minister Ramaotwana emphasized that all citizens are equal before the law under Botswana's Constitution. He explained that the Directorate of Public Prosecutions acts on lawful investigations and that, to date, no cases involve senior government officials.

On suspensions, the minister clarified that the decision rests with appointing authorities — either the Permanent Secretary to the President or the Director of Public Service Management — and that procedures under the Public Service Act remain unchanged. Regarding the employment of controversial individuals, Ramaotwana noted that only the courts can determine human rights violations, and the government is bound to enforce any relevant court orders when managing public servants.



New Executive Appointment

As FNBB's first CDAO, Duncan is responsible for driving the Bank's Data, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) agenda, positioning data at the heart of innovation and client experience. His appointment underscores FNBB's commitment to shaping the future of banking through digital transformation, advanced analytics, and responsible AI.

Duncan has over fifteen years of experience spanning across the Banking and Telecommunications sectors, with ten years in Banking; mostly focused in data and technology management, with a strong track record in data strategy, governance, and digital innovation. He has previously held senior leadership roles, including Head of Data & Analytics, where he was instrumental in building enterprise data capabilities. His previous experience includes the deployment of data solutions across African markets and consultancy for regional bodies.

He holds a Master of Science (MSc) in Information Technology Management from the University of Sunderland, a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Computer Science from the University of Botswana, and is a Certified Data Management Professional (CDMP). He has completed Investment in Excellence and the Management Development Programme (MDP) from the University of Stellenbosch, and holds additional professional certifications.

On a more personal note, Duncan is married and has three lovely daughters. He enjoys learning and playing setinkane, a Setswana musical instrument, as well as watching documentaries and travelling.

Mr. Duncan Richard Gareatshela
Chief Data & Analytics Officer (CDAO)

First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) is pleased to announce that Mr. Duncan Richard Gareatshela, Chief Data & Analytics Officer (CDAO), has joined the FNB Botswana Executive Committee, effective 1st July 2025.

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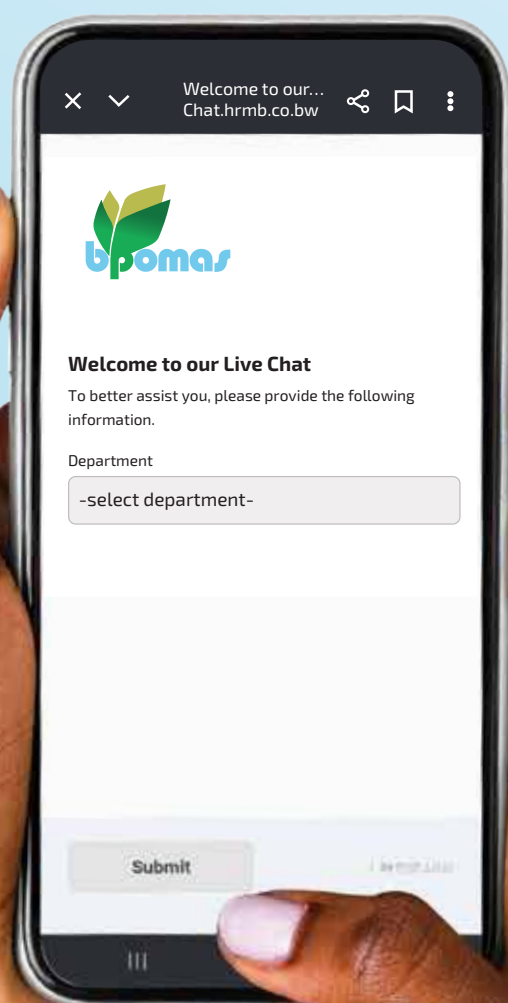
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BONELA Exposes ARV Shortage Crisis

According to BONELA, critical essential medicine stock-outs have been reported in Kgatleng, Kweneng East, Tlokweng, Palapye and Okavango

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) has sounded the alarm over an escalating shortage of antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) and other essential medicines across several districts, warning that the crisis threatens to reverse hard-won gains in the fight against HIV and tuberculosis.

According to BONELA, critical stock-outs have been reported in Kgatleng, Kweneng East, Tlokweng, Palapye and Okavango. The affected medications include dual therapy, TAFED, TVD and 3TC, as well as tuberculosis continuation-phase drugs and key sexually transmitted infection (STI) treatments such as injectable ceftriaxone and benzathine penicillin.

RATIONING OF ARVS

“In some health facilities, ARV supplies are being rationed, with patients receiving only seven-day refills, while others, such as Letlhakeng Clinic, have completely run out of stock. The unavailability of Truvada has also been reported in Tlokweng and Kgatleng. These shortages have severe implications for treatment adherence, patient health outcomes, and Botswana’s broader HIV and TB response efforts,” BONELA said in a statement yesterday (Tuesday).

DANGERS OF RATIONING



Pic; theguardian

According to medical experts, rationing ARVs poses serious risks to both individual and public health, making consistent and uninterrupted access to treatment absolutely essential. When patients receive reduced doses, face delayed refills, or experience treatment interruptions, the delicate balance required to suppress the HIV virus is broken. Such inconsistencies lead to viral rebound, allowing HIV to replicate rapidly and increase the viral load.

Moreover, the experts warned that incomplete treatment creates an environment where the virus can mutate and develop resistance, rendering first-line drugs ineffective and forcing patients onto more expensive and less accessible second- or third-line therapies.

YEAR-END TARGET

Last week, the Minister of Health, Dr. Stephen Modise, told the media during a press conference that the full supply of ARVs is expected to be restored by

Christmas. He emphasized that efforts are underway to resolve current shortages and ensure that all patients relying on ARVs have uninterrupted access to their medication in the coming months.

“In some health facilities, ARV supplies are being rationed, with patients receiving only seven-day refills, while others, such as Letlhakeng Clinic, have completely run out of stock”

ACTIVE ROLL OUT

“Central Medical Stores (CMS) is actively rolling out the distribution of ARVs, we project that the supply will reach full capacity by Christmas this year,” Dr Modise told the media.

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Pork Braai Chops **699⁵** per kg

Beef Burgers **699⁵** per kg

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Broke Govt Paralyzes Ramotswa Deaf School

Ramotswa Deaf School is facing serious operational challenges after delays in funding from the Presidency and the Ministry of Basic Education, which has hindered the school's ability to maintain its daily activities

TEFO PHEAGE

The operations of the Botswana Society for the Deaf (BSD) in Ramotswa have been severely disrupted following delays in the release of subvention funds from the Office of the President and the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education.

In a circular dated 22 October 2025, BSD's Human Resources Clerk, Bonno L. Gabaeme, informed staff that the organisation had not yet received its monthly government funding, which is crucial for paying salaries and sustaining daily operations.

The financial paralysis adds to the school's mounting troubles after the Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) cut off water supply to the institution over a P3 million debt, leaving the boarding facility's deaf students without running water.

SALARIES DELAYED, STAFF STRUGGLE

The delay has left teachers and support staff without their



The Minister of Child welfare and Basic Education Hon. Nono Kgafela Mokoka

October salaries, prompting BSD to temporarily reduce the workweek. "BSD has decided to grant two days off per week to all staff members to help manage transport and meal expenses during this period," Gabaeme wrote.

The circular also confirmed that while salaries remain unpaid, the institution would continue to deduct staff loans and policy payments, worsening the financial strain on employees.

CRITICAL SERVICES AFFECTED

BSD, which caters to the education and welfare of deaf students in Ramotswa and across the country, relies heavily on government subventions for its operations. The delay is expected to affect not only staff morale but also the delivery of specialised learning services to deaf children.

Staff members have been advised to request confirmation letters from their respective offices for use with landlords and creditors as proof of the salary delay.

AN OLD PROBLEM

The institution admitted that such funding delays are not new. "This arrangement is consistent with previous measures taken under similar circumstances," the circular reads, reflecting a recurring financial

crisis that continues to threaten the stability of special education services.

BSD has since apologised to staff for the inconvenience and expressed gratitude for their patience and dedication amid the ongoing financial uncertainty.

WATER CRISIS

“The organisation had not yet received its monthly government funding, which is crucial for paying salaries and sustaining daily operations”

Commenting on the water cut crisis that started in May this year, staff said “the students have been surviving through a Jojo water tank”, adding that “this has made life unbearable for both staff and students, especially given the nature of our learners’ needs”.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - PROVISION OF DOMESTIC PRIVATE EQUITY (BOTSWANA) INVESTMENT MANAGER SERVICES

Debswana Pension Fund (DPF) is a private defined contribution pension fund, which was established in October 1984 as a trust. The trust was set up as a joint initiative between De Beers Botswana Mining Company (now Debswana), Anglo American Corporation Botswana (Pty) Ltd and De Beers Prospecting Botswana (Pty) Ltd. Currently DPF provides exclusive pension management services to all employees of the Debswana and De Beers group of companies namely, Debswana Pension Fund, Debswana Diamond Company, Diamond Trading Company Botswana, De Beers Holdings Botswana, DeBeers Botswana Global Sightholder Sales, Mmila Fund Administrators, Morupule Coal Mine, and Naledi Mining Services.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) is being issued to invite qualified bidders to submit a proposal to provide Investment Management Services to the Debswana Pension Fund (DPF) for its Domestic (Botswana) Private Equity Portfolio.

The general scope of work for this RFP is to provide fully discretionary professional management of the DPF's active domestic private equity portfolio. The selected firm(s) will be expected to provide a comprehensive range of investment management services to the Fund.

RFP documents will be provided electronically through a one drive link, to one representative of your firm. Interested bidders will obtain the RFP documents on payment of a non-refundable fee of BWP 2000.00 payable through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). For further information kindly contact The Chief Investment Officer (AG), Mr. Mbakisi Gopolang, MGopolang@debswana.bw and copy in the Head of Finance and IT Mr. Motlatsi Mmusi, mmmusi@debswana.bw

Submission Deadline

DPF must receive all proposals no later than **4:00 pm on 27th November, 2025**

For Further information, please contact the underlisted officers

Mbakisi Gopolang	Motlatsi Mmusi
Chief Investment Officer (AG)	Head of Finance and IT
Debswana Pension Fund	Debswana Pension Fund
Plot 1188-1196, 5th Floor, Debswana House	Plot 1188-1196, 5th Floor, Debswana House
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Pic; Ministry of Health, Botswana

Unions Accuse Minister of Deflecting Blame

BPU and the BDU have rejected Health Minister Dr. Stephen Modise's claims that pharmacists are responsible for medicine shortages in public facilities

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Pharmacy Union (BPU) and the Botswana Doctors Union (BDU) have hit back at Health Minister Dr. Stephen Modise for blaming pharmacists and pharmacy technicians for the ongoing shortage of medicines and medical commodities in public health facilities.

THE MINISTER 'DISORIENTED'

Speaking in an interview with this publication, BPU secretary general Archie Kgosiayang accused Dr. Modise of being "disoriented" about the drug procurement process and misleading the public. He said it was unfair to fault pharmacists when their role in procurement had been removed during the State of Public Health Emergency.

PHARMACISTS EXCLUDED

"There is no way pharmacists can be blamed because, since the declaration of the State of Emergency, all procurement and distribution responsibilities were centralized," Kgosiayang said.

"We even proposed to be included in the task force established by President Duma Boko to handle procurement, but our request was ignored. Had we been part of it, we could have offered valuable advice or helped interpret data, but they excluded us."

HEALTH EMERGENCY

Kgosiayang also questioned the need for the State of Public Health Emergency, saying it failed to solve medicine shortages.

"We thought the emergency would channel funds to the Central Medical Stores (CMS) to procure drugs, but the situation worsened even after it ended," he said.

He further warned that the minister's remarks risk damaging the profession's reputation. "Such comments make the public think we are incompetent when, in fact, there are no supplies to dispense," Kgosiayang added.

'POLITICAL GIMMICKS'

BDU President Dr. Kefilwe Selema dismissed Modise's accusations as politically motivated in an interview with The Botswana Gazette. He stated, "Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians cannot be held responsible for the shortage. These are political tactics aimed at diverting blame from the minister himself."

CALL FOR PROTECTION

Dr. Selema said the minister's comments could turn the public against health workers.

"He wants to portray the profession as if it is sabotaging the government. This is dangerous because it puts healthcare professionals in the line of fire," he said.

MINISTER'S POSITION

The unions' response follows Modise's national television address, in which he said that while the Central Medical Stores (CMS) has sufficient supplies, pharmacists often fail to place or delay placing orders.

CMS officials could not be reached for comment at the time of going to press.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – INCLUSION OF LOCAL MANUFACTURERS WITHIN THE BOTETI ZONE OF INFLUENCE IN THE DEBSWANA SUPPLY CHAIN

Suitably qualified, experienced, and fully registered wholly owned citizen entities within the Boteti zone of influence are hereby invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to be considered for inclusion in the Debswana Supply Chain, under the Debswana Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP).

1.0 EOI BRIEF

1.1 Details of the EOI

No.	EOI No.	Description
01.	Doc2798410864	Inclusion of Local Manufacturers (Boteti ZOI) in Debswana Supply Chain via CEEP

1.2 About Debswana CEEP

The Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP) is a Debswana socio-economic development initiative aimed at driving citizen empowerment by integrating citizen-owned businesses into the Debswana supply chain. The programme promotes inclusive procurement and sustainable local business development.

1.3 EOI Brief

Debswana seeks to identify and assess qualified citizen-owned local manufacturing companies, particularly those that are in the Debswana Area of influence; 21 villages within the Boteti Zone of influence, for potential onboarding into the Debswana supply chain. This initiative is intended to support the growth of local manufacturers by creating access to procurement opportunities within Debswana's operations, aligned with the company's localization and citizen empowerment objectives.

1.4 Purpose of the EOI

- Solicit interest from fully citizen-owned local manufacturers wishing to supply products and services to Debswana
- Assess the capabilities and readiness of local manufacturers to participate in Debswana's supply chain
- Establish a list of qualified manufacturers for potential procurement consideration and supplier development initiatives

1.5 Required Information:

Interested manufacturers are expected to submit;

- Company Profile, including company extract from CIPA, IDs of shareholders and Directors, manufacturing experience and product lines.
- Manufacturing Capacity and Facility Overview.
- Compliance with industry standards and relevant certifications.
- Partnerships or previous engagements with Debswana or other mining/industrial entities.
- Completed Debswana CEEP Supplier Development Matrix.
- Proof of residency in the ZOI authenticated by Kgosi.

2.0 PRE-REQUISITES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EOI:

Prospective participants shall have the following minimum requirements:

- Be a locally registered, 100% citizen-owned manufacturing company
- Be registered with the relevant regulatory bodies and industry associations

3.0 SUBMITTING A RESPONSE ON ARIBA

Debswana has adopted SAP Ariba – an online bidding and supplier management solution for all its tendering and supplier registration requirements. Entities who wish to participate in this EOI will need to log onto SAP Ariba.

Participants will have to complete the following steps in the Debswana SAP Ariba platform:

Part 1: Registering as a vendor on SAP Ariba

Debswana utilizes SAP Ariba as its platform for supplier registration and tendering. Interested manufacturers must ensure they are registered on SAP Ariba to participate.

Vendor Registration on SAP Ariba

- Visit: <https://s1-eu.ariba.com/Sourcing/Main/ad/selfRegistration/?realm=debswana>
- Initiate and complete registration
- Await confirmation and access credentials then proceed to as per Part 2 below:

Part 2: Indicating Interest

- Register your interest with the following:

Doc2798410864 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - INCLUSION OF LOCAL MANUFACTURERS WITHIN THE BOTETI ZONE OF INFLUENCE IN THE DEBSWANA SUPPLY CHAIN: <https://forms.office.com/r/qqGNg6ECR>

On or before the 10th of November 2025 at 1630hrs

2. Debswana will invite registered suppliers via SAP Ariba to participate in the EOI

NOTE: Registration on Ariba is only required for those who are not yet registered. No action is needed from manufacturers who are already registered.

4.0 SUBMISSION

Submissions must be completed through the SAP Ariba platform no later than **21 November 2025 at 16:00hrs.**

Debswana reserves the right to accept or reject any submission. This EOI does not constitute a commitment to purchase or contract, and no agreement shall exist until a formal award is made and a contract or order is signed.

For enquiries, please contact: **Michael Jackson** at mjackson2@debswana.bw

This EOI can also be viewed at: <http://www.debswana.com/Supply-Chain/Pages/Current-Public-Tenders.aspx>

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Boikhutso Osupeng Bozza ya Tsela

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HELIX



Moshupa resident wins brand new Volkswagen Polo in Shell's "Bozza tsa Tsela" promotion

- There are still three Volkswagen Polos and one Toyota GD6 left to be won

A proud resident of Moshupa, Boikhutso Osupeng, has driven away in a brand-new Volkswagen Polos after winning the latest draw in the Shell Bozza Tsa Tsela promotion. Osupeng earned her spot in the grand draw after fuelling with just P250.00 at Shell Moshupa Filling Station. She was announced as the winner during a live draw held at Shell Tlokwenng station over the weekend, where she competed against seven other finalists from different parts of the country.

Visibly emotional as she received her car keys, Osupeng expressed heartfelt gratitude to Shell for the life-changing prize: "I never thought that something as simple as fuelling my car could change my life in such a big way," she said. "I am truly grateful to Shell for this incredible gift. It means so much to me and my family." She encouraged other motorists to take part in the promotion, saying it's a genuine opportunity for anyone to win: "To everyone still thinking about entering, don't wait your turn might be next," she added.

This live draw event marked another exciting chapter in "Bozza tsa Tsela", the nationwide promotion that continues to capture the enthusiasm of motorists across Botswana. Vivo Energy Botswana, the company that distributes Shell fuels and lubricants, launched this competition to offer customers fuelling at Shell service stations a chance to enter a prize draw and win four Volkswagen Polos and one Toyota GD6.

Speaking at the event, Vivo Energy Botswana Marketing and Communications Manager, Gaamangwe Ramokgothwane, said the competition continues to attract massive participation from customers nationwide: "We are excited by the overwhelming response we've received from motorists across Botswana. Bozza Tsa Tsela is our way of appreciating our customers for their loyalty and trust in the Shell brand."

There are still three Volkswagen Polos and one Toyota GD6 left to be won, with the next draw scheduled for next month.

Through the Bozza tsa Tsela promotion, Vivo Energy Botswana continues to celebrate and reward customers who choose Shell, reinforcing its commitment to customer appreciation and community engagement.

Ts and Cs apply. GA 165398


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UDC Criticism Not a Rift – BPF

The Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) says its MPs are within their rights to criticise the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government despite the two parties' cooperation in Parliament



(Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

MPs of the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) are free to criticise the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government despite the two parties' parliamentary cooperation, the BPF has clarified.

The statement follows recent criticism of the UDC by Serowe South MP Leepetswe Lesedi (BPF) in an interview with the Botswana Gazette.

AN INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION

BPF Information and Publicity Secretary Thabang Kopelo said Lesedi's remarks did not signal division but reflected the party's independence.

"Our MPs operate as representatives of an independent political organisation, and their ability to express differing views should not be mistaken for a breakdown in parliamentary collaboration," Kopelo said. "The fact that we cooperate with the UDC in parliamentary matters does not strip our MPs of their right to independently assess and comment on the party's policies and actions."

He added that caucusing with the UDC does not require automatic agreement on every issue.



"The fact that we cooperate with the UDC in parliamentary matters does not strip our MPs of their right to independently assess and comment on the party's policies and actions"



CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Lesedi defended his remarks as constructive criticism rather than opposition. "Friendship does not mean we cannot differ," he said. "My remarks were meant to express my displeasure and to advise the UDC to pull up its socks."

He urged the UDC government to move beyond blaming past administrations and to focus on tangible results. "Botswana have high hopes," he added. "The current plans show no difference from the previous administration. I see no change."

SERVING THE PEOPLE

Another BPF MP, who asked not to be named, said differences of opinion were necessary for accountability. "Even if we caucus with the UDC, we must remember that we serve the people," the MP said. "Our duty is to bring their concerns to Parliament and speak on their behalf."



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Botswana, Angola Fight for De Beers Intensifies

Angola has since backtracked on vying for a minor shareholding and is now seeking a majority stake similar to Botswana

GAZETTE REPORTER

The contest for control of global diamond powerhouse De Beers has intensified after Angola's state-owned diamond company, Endiama, formally submitted a bid for Anglo American's majority stake.

The move sets the stage for a potential showdown with Botswana, which has also expressed interest in acquiring a controlling share in the world's most iconic diamond brand.

Endiama's decision marks a dramatic escalation from its earlier pursuit of a minority stake. CEO José Manuel Ganga Júnior confirmed the bid but declined to provide further details, citing the confidentiality of ongoing negotiations. The development signals Angola's ambition to cement its influence in the multibillion-dollar diamond sector.

ANGLO AMERICAN LOOKS TO DIVEST

Anglo American, which co-owns De Beers with the Botswana government, has been planning to divest its 85% stake



The contest for control of global diamond powerhouse De Beers has intensified after Angola's state-owned diamond company, Endiama, formally submitted a bid for Anglo American's majority stake. Photo Credit: discoveryalert.com.au

as part of a restructuring process initiated 17 months ago. The formal sales process, which began in June, has already attracted interest from investor groups led by former De Beers executives Gareth Penny and Bruce Cleaver.

Botswana, where De Beers mines the majority of its gems, is reportedly seeking to boost its 15% stake to a controlling share. President Duma Boko framed the effort as a "matter of economic sovereignty," highlighting the strategic importance of the deal to the country's national interests.

GEOPOLITICAL STAKES

Angola, Africa's leading diamond pro-

ducer by value, surpassed Botswana's output for the first time in two decades last year, according to the Kimberly Process. De Beers also has an exploration joint venture with Endiama, providing the Angolan firm with an existing foothold in the business.

Ganga Júnior expressed optimism that Angola and Botswana could "reach an understanding" but did not disclose whether formal discussions have occurred. He emphasized that De Beers is "such a large business that we believe there is room for several partners," while noting Botswana retains the right to match any outside of-

fers.

TECHNOLOGY AND MARKET ACCESS IN FOCUS

Endiama sees the acquisition as a way to access De Beers' proprietary mining technology and marketing systems, which Ganga Júnior said could enable Angola to "take bigger leaps forward" in the sector.

Botswana's Minerals and Mining Minister Bogolo Kenewendo confirmed in July that her country intends to take full control of De Beers, underscoring the high stakes and strategic importance of the ongoing bidding battle.

Failed Electricity Dream Hits the Poor- REPORT

Botswana's drive toward universal electricity access has stagnated, leaving thousands of rural poor still in the dark

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's ambition to achieve universal electricity access has stalled, leaving thousands of rural residents still in darkness. According to the latest Energy Compact Report, the national electrification rate remains stuck at around 75 percent a figure that has shown little improvement in recent years despite significant government investment in power infrastructure.

The report observes that while grid expansion has benefited peri-urban and easily accessible rural areas, remote communities remain largely excluded. "The majority of remote unelectrified villages require a different approach, likely through off-grid decentralized renewable energy (DRE) solutions," it says.

The continued lack of power in such areas, the report adds, has widened social and economic inequalities and limited access to essential services like education, healthcare, and water supply.

OVERDEPENDENCE ON COAL

At the core of Botswana's energy challenge lies its heavy reliance on coal, which generates about 97 percent of its electric-

ity. The country's main 600-megawatt coal-fired power plant continues to underperform, making the system fragile and unreliable. Frequent breakdowns have forced Botswana to rely on expensive power imports from neighbouring countries — imports that are often constrained by regional supply shortages and weak transmission networks.

The Energy Compact Report further notes that these technical problems are compounded by fiscal constraints. The government's reduced ability to subsidize electricity costs or maintain existing grid infrastructure has weakened the financial position of the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC).

SOLAR POTENTIAL

Despite these challenges, the report identifies enormous renewable energy potential, especially in solar and wind. The government aims to boost renewable energy's share from the current 7 percent to 50 percent by 2030 — a move that could transform Botswana into a clean energy exporter. Achieving this vision, however, require sound planning, regulatory reforms, and strong private sector participation.



Botswana's ambition to achieve universal electricity access has stalled, leaving thousands of rural residents still in darkness.

Meeting these targets will cost between US\$2.06 billion (P28.2 billion) and US\$2.98 billion (P40.8 billion), with up to P21.5 billion expected from private investors. The plan includes scaling up renewables, modernizing transmission networks, and deepening regional power integration.

INCLUSIVE ENERGY TRANSITION NEEDED

The report also highlights gender disparities within the energy sector, noting that it remains male-dominated despite Botswana's broader progress on gender equality. To address this, the government plans to promote women's participation in energy employment and entrepreneurship, particularly in decentralized renewable systems.

Boko Vows Jail for Forensic Audit Offenders

President Duma Boko has reiterated that the ongoing forensic audit is not a political witch hunt but a professional process to trace and recover stolen public funds



(Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

BONGANI MALUNGA

Those who have stolen from the government must be in no doubt that they are des-

tinued to jail when the ongoing forensic audit is over, President Duma Boko has warned.

Emphasising that forensic audit is not a witch hunt

or a political weapon, the President characterised the initiative as a legitimate effort to uphold transparency, strengthen institutional accountability and restore

public trust in governance systems.

Addressing Batswana living in Switzerland during the Geneva leg of his investment expedition to Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Switzerland, Boko said the audit should not be misconstrued as a campaign against political opponents.

BRUTAL AND DEVASTATING

He defined the forensic audit as a measure to ensure proper management of public resources but emphasised that its outcomes will be brutal and devastating for those found to be in the wrong.

“Anybody who has stolen anything from the government must start running now,” he said.

“It is vicious, it is serious. It’s a process that is not controlled by me (but by) experts who have the skills and the expertise to identify the problems and to trace where the assets have gone.

“Anybody who has had anything untoward to do with government resources must know that the most stunning moment of comeuppance is around the corner.

OBJECTIVE PROCESS

“We took this approach so that it doesn’t become a political witch hunt. Nobody says, ‘Well they persecuted him when he was in the opposition, now it’s payback time.’

“There’s no payback but an objective, scientific or

professional process that determines what happened. We are not doing it to punish anybody.

President Boko’s refrain highlighted the government’s purpose of ensuring that stealing and embezzlement must result in jail time for perpetrators.



“We took this approach so that it doesn’t become a political witch hunt. There’s no payback—just an objective, professional process”



BY YEAR’S END

“This is what the country has to do so that for generations that are yet to come, it is known that there will be no leader who will come and turn public resources into his private chest,” he said. “No, it doesn’t work like that.”

He added that the report should be completed by the end of the year.

P170 Million Ecoplexus Case Gets Murkier

The accused Chinese national has shifted blame to one Ling, whom he described as his “homeboy” from China and says he is being used as a scapegoat for a failed investigation

GAZETTE REPORTER

The controversial P170 million Ecoplexus investment fraud case has taken yet another dramatic twist after the alleged mastermind, Chinese businessman Weng Jiajin, filed an explosive affidavit denying any involvement and accusing Botswana’s law enforcement agencies of malicious prosecution.

A SCAPEGOAT

In a sworn statement filed before the Gaborone Magistrate Court, the 43-year-old Chinese national—currently detained at the Central Prison in Gaborone—insists that he has been wrongly accused of orchestrating what prosecutors have described as one of the biggest pyramid schemes in Botswana’s history.

Weng, who was extradited from Tanzania in August following an Interpol red notice, claims he has been “unfairly made a scapegoat” for a failed investigation, insisting that the real suspect, a Chinese man known only as Mr. Ling, remains at large.

A LEGITIMATE BUSINESSMAN

According to his affidavit, Weng argues that he has always operated legitimate businesses under WAJAT Investments (Pty) Ltd, which deals in hardware and solar equipment with outlets in Francistown and Gaborone. He further stated that he later established South East Sunshine (Pty) Ltd in Tanzania, where he lived lawfully until his arrest in January 2025.

“I have always done honest

business and have never been involved in any criminal activities whatsoever,” he stated. “The investigators themselves know and appreciate from all the material in their possession that I have not been involved in any criminal activity.”

CASE STALLED

Facing 994 counts of obtaining by false pretences, Weng lamented that despite being in custody since January, no trial date has been set. He accused prosecutors of delaying proceedings while he continues to suffer “irreparable harm” through prolonged detention.

The accused described the case as “perplexing,” saying none of the over 900 witness statements served on him allege that he personally took money from anyone. Weng said his only connection to the Ecoplexus operation was a brief encounter with Mr. Ling, who allegedly asked him for help registering SIM cards for a money-lending business.



PLEADS FOR BAIL

“I met Ling only once in December 2022 when he arrived in Botswana. I helped him find accommodation and introduced him

to some of my workers. I was never involved in any of his business dealings thereafter,” Weng explained.

MP Raises Concerns Over \$12bn Al Mansour Deal

BDP legislator Kagiso Mmusi has cautioned that without transparency, accountability and strict adherence to anti-money laundering protocols, the \$12bn deal could raise red flags with global financial watchdogs

BONGANI MALUNGA

Inadequate oversight around the \$12 billion investment agreement with Qatari firm Al Mansour Holdings could expose Botswana to financial governance risks and lead to the country's return to international grey listing, an opposition legislator has warned.

Speaking in Parliament recently, the MP for Gabane-Mmankgodi, Kagiso Mmusi, expressed concern about the government's decision to proceed with the deal without seeking prior consultation or approval from Parliament.

In August, the government signed a \$12 billion investment agreement with Al Mansour Holdings in partnership with the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC).

SKEPTICISM

The deal entails driving economic transformation and diversification across key sectors, including agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, energy and mining.

However, after much initial fanfare around it, the deal has drawn skepticism from the political opposition and other quarters, with critics questioning poor transparency and long-term implications.

Speaking in Parliament this week, Mmusi warned that without transparency, accountability and strict adherence to anti-money laundering protocols, the deal could raise red flags with global financial watchdogs such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

BOTSWANA'S REPUTATION

He stressed that while the investment promises significant economic benefits, weak monitoring mechanisms could undermine Botswana's reputation for financial integrity and reverse recent progress in strengthening compliance standards.

"In 2020/2021, Botswana was grey listed," said Mmusi. "At the time I was the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security. It was an uphill battle but we managed to get Botswana off the international grey list."



Inadequate oversight around the \$12 billion investment agreement with Qatari firm Al Mansour Holdings could expose Botswana to financial governance risks and lead to the country's return to international grey listing, an opposition legislator has warned.

"The eyes of the world descend upon you as a country if you are on the grey list. I'm glad that the government is eager to prioritise the review of money laundering and combat financing of terrorism."

"MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT"

"However, my heart skipped a beat when the government announced the arrival of investment worth \$12 billion."

"When funds of such enormity are channelled into state coffers through improper practices, we might find ourselves at risk of being grey listed again."

"We have to continue monitoring such deals, lest we find ourselves dealing with money laundering, proceeds of arms deals or unknowingly helping stash stolen funds."

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YEARS RE XAVANA

Botswana To Introduce Charge-Free Universal Bank Accounts

The initiative is expected to particularly benefit rural and low-income communities where access to affordable banking services remains limited

BONGANI MALUNGA

The government has plans to introduce charge-free universal bank accounts in order to curb the impact of exorbitant banking fees, promote financial inclusion and ease the financial strain of the charges on citizens.

Speaking in Parliament this week, the Vice President and Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe, said the plan forms part of a broader effort to enhance access to essential financial services and drive the country's transition to a more inclusive digital economy.

BASIC TRANSACTIONS

The universal accounts will allow citizens to perform basic transactions such as deposits, withdrawals and electronic transfers without incurring service fees. "We are in active talks with banks to facilitate the introduction of universal bank accounts," Gaolathe said.

"These types of accounts will not carry any bank charges. Instances



whereby bank charges surpass the actual balance in one's account will be a thing of the past in this new arrangement."

He indicated that the success of the initiative will depend on ongoing discussions with banks to facili-

tate its implementation.

COLLABORATION WITH BANKS

Gaolathe emphasised that effective regulation and close collaboration with commercial banks will be crucial to ensuring the programme's

sustainability as both the government and financial institutions work towards shared objectives.

The initiative is expected to particularly benefit rural and low-income communities where access to affordable banking services remains limited. "This will enable even the less fortunate to access banking services that do not overwhelm them through bank charges," said Gaolathe.

THE UNBANKED AND UNDER-BANKED

Botswana does not have a universal bank account arrangement currently but selected banks offer alternative digital banking options designed to serve the unbanked and under-banked.

“This will enable even the less fortunate to access banking services that do not overwhelm them through bank charges”

By giving them access to affordable electronic transaction services, the people are able to open accounts, receive payments and conduct digital transactions.

Bonno Contractors Renege on P4k Minimum Wage

Human settlement minister says companies have exploited the absence of legal enforcement to reject the deal

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Companies contracted for Bonno Housing Scheme have taken advantage of lack of legal enforcement to slam the breaks on a P4000 minimum wage agreed between them and the government.

Addressing the media this week on progress in the scheme, the Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Onneetse Ramogapi, confirmed that the companies had initially agreed to the P4000 but subsequently exploited the absence of legal compliance

to renege.

BACKTRACKING

"When we confronted the companies about backtracking on the agreement, they said they were not compelled to do so but rather advised to consider paying a P4000 minimum wage," he said.

"That is when we realised that the companies backtracked on the initial agreement due to lack of compelling legislation."

Ramogapi said his ministry has now introduced clear contractual terms that bind participating companies to agreed wage



conditions in order to avoid similar setbacks in future projects.

IN BLACK AND WHITE

"We have now made sure that all future agreements are in black and white," he added.

While the UDC pledge was yet to formalised in legislation, the minister used the launch of the Bonno Target 3000 Housing Project in Kgale last July to tell the contracted companies about the P4000 per month minimum wage.

He described the directive, which took immediate effect, as a bold step at the time and a clear commitment to ensuring that companies honoured the wage pledge made by the UDC in its election manifesto. "This

is a step in the right direction," he said.

FAIR LIVING WAGE

"While we await comprehensive legislation that will compel all companies in Botswana to pay a fair living wage, our ministry is setting the example by taking action now. Workers deserve dignity and a wage that reflects the value of their contribution."

Although the P4000 minimum wage was a key promise in the UDC's 2024 election manifesto, the government is yet to commit to a timeline for implementation.

The Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Pius Mokgware, has maintained that the government is still consulting with concerned stakeholders before the Bill goes to Parliament.

Govt to Re-Sponsor Ex-DDT Students

Higher education minister has assured the students that the government will re-sponsor them

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The government will re-sponsor over 400 former students of DDT College of Medicine who were either expelled or themselves terminated their sponsorship contracts amid the ongoing accreditation dispute, the Minister of Higher Education, Prince Maele, has disclosed.

Speaking during deliberations on approval of the draft National Development Plan 12 (NDP12) for the education sector in Parliament this week, Maele said all affected students, including those whose courses are not accredited, will be re-sponsored as soon as they have been admitted to accredited institutions.

BOITEKANELO CAREER CLINIC

According to the minister, 200 students have so far applied to Boitekanelo College for re-admission and that the institution recently held a career clinic with the students.

The next career clinic is scheduled with the University of Botswana (UB) where additional students are expected to secure admission while the remaining enter other accredited institutions.

The minister assured the students that they are in good hands and that the government is committed to ensuring continuity of their education.

LEFT IN LIMBO

Protests erupted after the Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) revoked accreditation of DDT College of Medicine last year, citing non-compliance with academic and operational standards.

The students argued that the sudden loss of accreditation had left them in limbo, with tuition fees already paid but no guarantee of completing their training.

Many felt that the government did not act quickly enough to secure them alternative placement, prompting demonstrations to press for immediate intervention and closure of DDT College.

“Minister Maele said all affected students, including those whose courses are not accredited, will be re-sponsored as soon as they have been admitted to accredited institutions”

MONTHS OF UNCERTAINTY

While the accreditation dispute remains tied in litigation, students’ frustration has been compounded by months of uncertainty about their fate.

Reached for comment, the president of the Student Representative Council of former DDT College, Gilbert Motlhabi, confirmed that approximately 400 students have terminated contracts with the college.


“The majority of students have terminated their contracts and are busy applying for transfer to accredited institutions, Boitekanelo College being one of them,” he said.




While the accreditation dispute remains tied in litigation, students’ frustration has been compounded by months of uncertainty about their fate. Photo Credit: DailyNewsbw

2025 VAT AMENDMENT BILL

Gaborone, Maun & Francistown CPD event.



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WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Finance recently gazetted the 2025 VAT Amendment Bill which was passed by Parliament in the week ending 16 August 2025. The Bill seeks to among others, ensure that all VAT-registrants use electronic billing machines to account for VAT. The Bill also imposes, on all VAT-registrants, the reverse VAT mechanism (VAT on imported services such as licenses, consultant services, etc). Entities currently exempt from VAT will also be required to register and pay Reverse VAT. Further, the Bill seeks to impose VAT on remote services provided by non-resident tech-giants to persons resident in Botswana, with exceptions. Lastly, all offshore tourism agents who sell local tourist facilities will be brought into the VAT-net.

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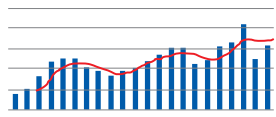
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Gambling Authority Concerned

The Gambling Authority of Botswana has sounded alarm over the rise of illegal gambling, warning of lost revenue and social risks

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Gambling Authority of Botswana (GAB) is disturbed by growth of illegal gambling activities in Botswana and the risk of undermining licensed operators and millions in lost revenue.

Speaking at the recent Botswana Mining Show in Gaborone, the Acting CEO of the Gambling Authority, Moruntshi Kemorwale, noted that the global gambling market reached \$450 billion in 2024, P250 million of it from Botswana.

He said the domestic market is expected to reach P1 billion by the end of the 2025–2026 financial year. “What worries us is that we have captured only 51 percent of the market in Botswana,” said Kemorwale.

PROBLEMATIC GAMBLING DOWN

“The remaining share continues to operate illegally on unauthorised platforms, costing the country millions of pula in lost



Meanwhile, research indicates that about a third of Botswana’s population engages in gambling, highlighting the need for public awareness campaigns such as Motshameko O’ Phepa, which seeks to reduce stigma and encourage those struggling with addiction to seek help.

revenue.”

He stressed the need for responsible gambling, drawing parallels between the gambling and mining sectors regarding safety and sustainability.

Kemorwale noted that while problematic gambling has declined - from 5 percent to 3.5 percent of players - the Authority aims to reduce it further to 2 percent within five years.

THIRD OF THE POPULATION

Meanwhile, research indicates that about a third of Botswana’s population engages in gambling, highlighting the need for public awareness campaigns such as Motshameko O’ Phepa, which seeks to reduce

“What worries us is that we have captured only 51 percent of the market in Botswana. The remaining share continues to operate illegally on unauthorised platforms”

stigma and encourage those struggling with addiction to seek help.

Kemorwale said the GAB hopes to draw lessons from the mining industry in areas such as governance, environmental and social responsibility (ESG), local participation and skills transfer.

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

Kemorwale also suggested that Gaborone could use regulated gambling revenues to support the city’s budget, easing reliance on the diamond industry.

Gaborone currently hosts three major casinos and at least five licensed betting platforms.

Moody’s Downgrades Botswana’s Credit Rating

The rating agency says a rating upgrade for Botswana is unlikely in the near-term, recovery in global diamond demand could help stabilise the outlook

GAZETTE REPORTER

International credit rating agency Moody’s Ratings has downgraded the Government of Botswana’s domestic- and foreign-currency long-term issuer ratings to Baa1 from A3, maintaining a negative outlook.

The downgrade reflects the government’s challenges in adapting to a structural downturn in the diamond industry, which contributes roughly 30 percent of GDP and 90 percent of exports.

The report notes that the ongoing global diamond slump, which began in 2023, has weakened Botswana’s external buffers and pushed up public debt.

UNLIKELY TO REVERSE

“Since our outlook changed from stable to negative in April 2025, the global diamond downturn has continued and is unlikely to reverse,” Moody’s states.

The report warned that the country’s fis-



International credit rating agency Moody’s Ratings has downgraded the Government of Botswana’s domestic- and foreign-currency long-term issuer ratings to Baa1 from A3, maintaining a negative outlook.

cal framework — once considered resilient — is under growing strain.

SACU REVENUE IN DOWNSIDE RISKS

“The negative outlook reflects the risk of a sharper credit deterioration than we currently expect, amid continued weakness in the diamond sector and its difficult replacement as an engine of economic activity and foreign exchange earnings,” it says adding that public debt could peak at 40 percent of GDP over the medium term.

Further downside risks include potential reductions in revenues from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), challenges in key diamond markets, and domestic structural constraints that could slow policy implementation.

The depletion of the Government Investment Account has also made Botswana more vulnerable to higher interest rates.

REFORMS MAY SUPPORT RECOVERY

Moody’s said a rating upgrade is unlikely in the near term but suggested that recovery in global diamond demand and effective fiscal consolidation could stabilise the outlook.

“Cyclical improvement alone will not create upward rating pressure,” the agency cautioned.

Deposit and Lending Interest Rates

Quarterly Report

July - September 2025

Deposit rates

BWP - Botswana Pula

	July	August	September	Quarter
Type of deposit account	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate
Current	0.00% - 1.00%	0.00% - 1.00%	0.00% - 1.00%	0.00% - 1.00%
Call	0.00% - 0.55%	0.00% - 0.55%	0.00% - 0.55%	0.00% - 0.55%
Savings	0.00% - 3.60%	0.00% - 3.60%	0.00% - 3.60%	0.00% - 3.60%
91 days fixed deposit	1.46%	1.46%	1.46%	1.46%
6 months fixed deposit	1.73% - 1.90%	1.73% - 1.90%	1.73% - 1.90%	1.73% - 1.90%
12 months fixed deposit	2.57% - 3.07%	2.57% - 3.07%	2.57% - 3.07%	2.57% - 3.07%
24 months fixed deposit	2.92% - 3.62%	2.92% - 3.62%	2.92% - 3.62%	2.92% - 3.62%
36 months fixed deposit	3.02% - 3.82%	3.02% - 3.82%	3.02% - 3.82%	3.02% - 3.82%

ZAR - South African Rand

	July	August	September	Quarter
Type of deposit account	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate
Current	0.00% - 0.00%	0.00% - 0.00%	0.00% - 0.00%	0.00% - 0.00%
Call	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.50%
Savings	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
91 days fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
6 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
12 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
24 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
36 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable

GBP - British Pounds

	July	August	September	Quarter
Type of deposit account	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate
Current	0.00% - 0.00%	0.00% - 0.00%	0.00% - 0.00%	0.00% - 0.00%
Call	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.50%
Savings	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
91 days fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
6 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
12 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
24 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
36 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable

USD - U.S Dollar

	July	August	September	Quarter
Type of deposit account	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate
Current	0.00% - 0.00%	0.00% - 0.00%	0.00% - 0.00%	0.00% - 0.00%
Call	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.50%
Savings	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
91 days fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
6 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
12 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
24 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable
36 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable	Negotiable

Lending Rates

	July	August	September	Quarter
Lending Rates	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate	Nominal interest rate	Average effective rate
Monetary policy rate (MoPR)	1.90%			
Mortgage Facility	Absa PLR + 1% - Absa PLR + 10.5%	Absa PLR + 1% - Absa PLR + 10.5%	Absa PLR + 1% - Absa PLR + 10.5%	13.25%
Overdraft facility (revolving credit lines)	Absa PLR + 10% - Absa PLR + 20%	Absa PLR + 10% - Absa PLR + 20%	Absa PLR + 10% - Absa PLR + 20%	24.07%
Credit card	24% - 36%	24% - 36%	24% - 36%	34.49%
Lease loans (VAF)	Absa PLR + 0.5% - Absa PLR + 9%	Absa PLR + 0.5% - Absa PLR + 9%	Absa PLR + 0.5% - Absa PLR + 9%	12.14%
Unsecured Personal Loans (Excluding Overdrafts, Mortgage and Credit Cards)	Absa PLR + 2.5% - Absa PLR + 25%	Absa PLR + 2.5% - Absa PLR + 25%	Absa PLR + 2.5% - Absa PLR + 25%	22.55%
Other long-term loans	Negotiable			
Absa Prime Lending Rate (Absa PLR)	6.76%			

For special rates, contact your Relationship Manager or any Absa branch.

Your story matters



FNBB Strategy Gains

Report says FNBB's 2025 Strategy improved innovation, inclusion and financial performance despite tough market conditions

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

FNB Botswana's (FNBB) 2025 Strategy has reinforced its position as a key player in the local financial sector.

The bank notes this in its newly released 2025 Integrated Report that outlines progress in innovation, client experience, and operational efficiency over the past five years.

According to the report, the bank embedded "innovation, operational efficiency and shared prosperity principles" across its operations, becoming more inclusive and expanding services to underserved clients.

PLATFORMS

"Sustained investment in our platforms, such as CashPlus, eWallet and eWallet Pro, has expanded access for traditionally underserved segments," it states.

FNBB notes that it continues to support the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector, which currently accounts for 22 percent of its commercial balance sheet,

down from 28 percent in the 2024 financial year.

The report attributes the decline to ongoing economic pressures and market challenges.

PEOPLE-FIRST

"Despite these setbacks, the bank remains committed to supporting SMEs, recognising their critical role in economic development," the report read. "We will continue to implement targeted initiatives to foster growth, resilience, and long-term sustainability within the SME sector."

The bank also highlights its people-first

approach, saying it maintained its commitment to employee well-being through difficult periods, including the Covid-19 pandemic.

10-YEAR SUCCESSION PLAN

It notes that the launch of a Talent Management Framework has led to several internal promotions to executive and leadership positions.

The bank has also developed a 10-year succession plan supported by personal development initiatives to strengthen its leadership pipeline.

ESG FINANCIER

FNBB says the 2025 Strategy has contributed to stronger financial performance despite increasing competition from banks, fintechs, and mobile network operators.

The bank's balance sheet grew to P20 billion in 2025, up from P15 billion in 2021, accompanied by year-on-year growth in profit before tax.

"We have also built our reputation as the ESG financier of choice, with RMB disbursing P642 million in funding for the landmark Mmadinare Solar Cluster Project," FNBB added.



Banking Resilience

The Bank of Botswana's latest annual supervision report has attributed the challenges largely to a downturn in the diamond market but noted that the sector's balance sheet expanded during the year



Commercial banks in Botswana remained resilient and continued to fulfil their intermediation role despite a slowdown in economic activity and liquidity challenges, particularly in the final quarter of 2024.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Commercial banks in Botswana remained resilient and continued to fulfil their intermediation role despite a slowdown in economic activity and liquidity challenges, particularly in the final quarter of 2024.

Total assets of commercial banks amounted to P144 billion as at 31 December 2024, an increase of 7.7 percent from the P133.6 billion reported in the previous year

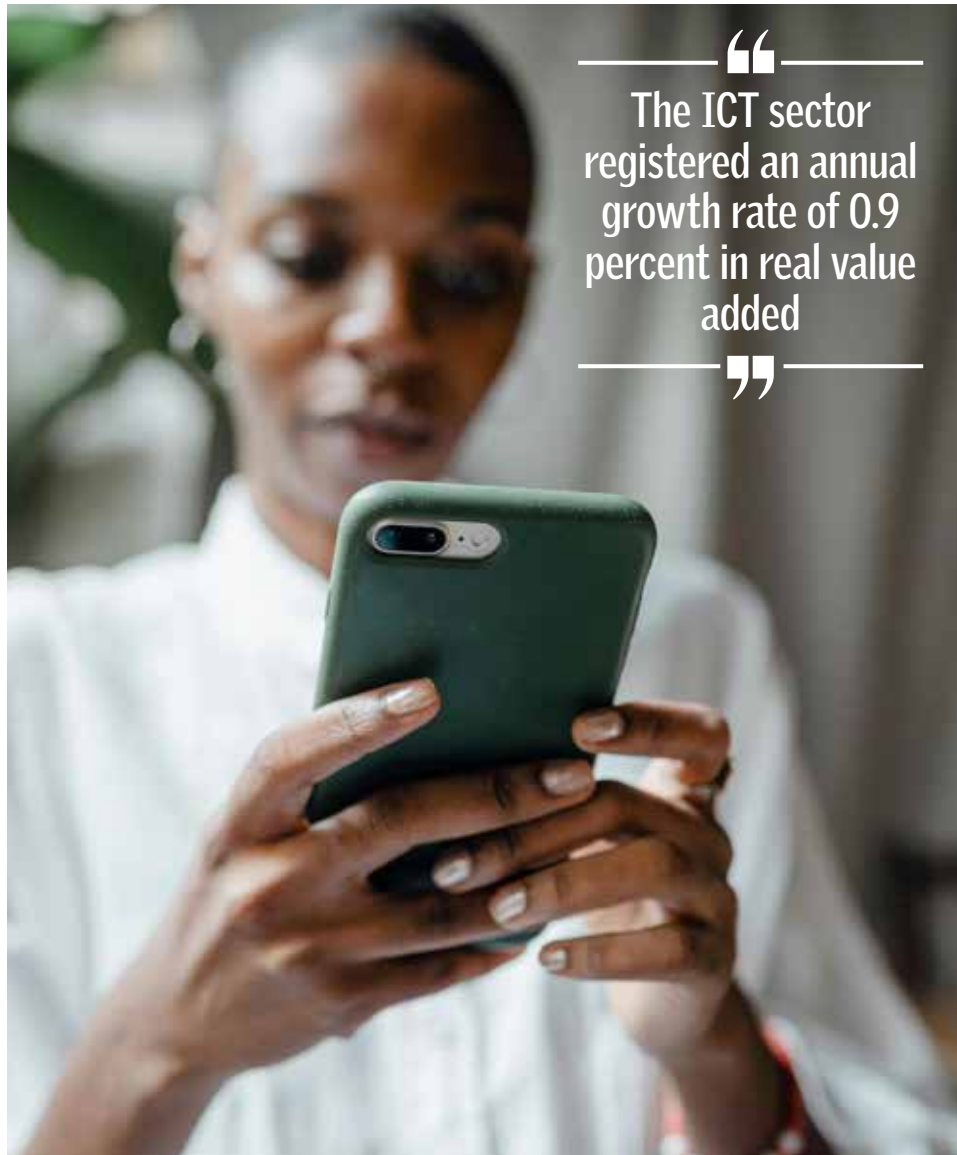
The recently released Banking Supervision Annual Report 2024 of the Bank of Botswana attributes the challenges largely to a downturn in the diamond market but notes that the sector's balance sheet expanded during the year.

The report states: "Total assets of com-

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ICT Sector Adds 2.8% to GDP

Statistics Botswana report shows a 1.0% fall in mobile internet subscriptions from 3,015,254 in Q4 2024 to 2,985,563 in Q1 2025 but a 1.2% rise in fixed internet subscriptions from 190,415 to 192,654



TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector contributed 2.8 percent and 2.7 percent to Botswana's total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current and constant prices, respectively, during the first quarter of 2025.

In its Botswana Information & Communication Technology Stats Brief, Q1 2025, Statistics Botswana states that the sector's value added amounted to P1.95 billion at current prices and P1.32 billion at constant prices.

"The sector registered an annual growth rate of 0.9 percent in real value added," says the report.

POSTAL SERVICES MODEST

It notes further that the Postal and Courier Services sector's value added stood at P74.1 million at current prices, representing 0.1 percent of total GDP during the same period.

At constant prices, the sector produced a real value added of P45.9 million, marking a 0.4 percent annual growth rate. "The Postal and Courier Services sector continues to contribute modestly to overall economic activity, with steady but slow growth," the brief states.

INTERNET SUBSCRIPTIONS

Meanwhile, the report highlighted a 0.9 percent decrease in total internet subscriptions — a figure that combines mobile and fixed internet users — between the fourth quarter of 2024 and the first quarter of 2025.

This was largely attributed to a 1.0 percent fall in mobile internet subscriptions, which dropped from 3,015,254 in Q4 2024 to 2,985,563 in Q1 2025.

In contrast, fixed internet subscriptions rose by 1.2 percent over the same period, increasing from 190,415 to 192,654.

MOBILE MONEY UPTAKE

"Compared to the same quarter of the previous year, Q1 2025 registered an increase of 4.1 percent in total internet subscriptions, with mobile and fixed subscriptions growing by 2.6 and 34.1 percent, respectively," the report says.

Mobile money subscriptions also recorded a quarterly decline of 0.7 percent, falling from 1,195,601 in Q4 2024 to 1,187,241 in Q1 2025. However, on a year-on-year basis, subscriptions grew by 4.5 percent, up from 1,136,023 recorded in Q1 2024.

Mobile money services in Botswana include BTC's Smega, Orange Money by Orange Botswana, MyZaka by Mascom, and Poso Money by Botswana Post.

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mercial banks amounted to P144 billion as at 31 December 2024, an increase of 7.7 percent from the P133.6 billion reported in the previous year, reflecting growth in gross loans and advances from P81.8 billion to P87.1 billion."

DEPOSITS, UNIMPAIRED CAPITAL UP

Customer deposits remained the primary funding source, accounting for 75 percent of the banks' liabilities. The deposits increased by 3 percent, rising from P104.1 billion in 2023 to P107.3 billion in 2024.

The financial intermediation ratio also rose from 78.6 percent to 81.2 percent, indicating a moderate increase in bank lending activity.

Unimpaired capital for commercial banks grew by 6.8 percent to P18.3 billion in 2024, up from P17.1 billion the previous year. Statutory banks recorded an even stronger increase of 19.4 percent, with unimpaired capital rising from P1.1 billion to P1.4 billion.

ASSET QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Significantly, the central bank notes that "all banks reported capital adequacy and common equity Tier 1 capital ratios above the respective prudential minimum limits of 12.5 percent and 4.5 percent."

The asset quality of commercial banks also improved slightly during the period



Customer deposits remained the primary funding source, accounting for 75 percent of the banks' liabilities. The deposits increased by 3 percent, rising from P104.1 billion in 2023 to P107.3 billion in 2024.

under review. Total past-due loans declined by 1.8 percent from P4.23 billion in 2023 to P4.16 billion in 2024, resulting in a reduction in specific provisions from P1.51 billion to P1.48 billion.

This lowered the ratio of non-performing loans (NPLs) to gross loans from 3.7 percent to 3.4 percent.

The report adds that the ratio of large exposures to unimpaired capital for com-

mercial banks fell from 151.8 percent to 138.9 percent, remaining well below the prudential limit of 800 percent.

LOW CREDIT-TO-GDP RATIO

Statutory banks also saw an improvement, with aggregate NPLs declining by 5.6 percent to P330.1 million and the NPL ratio dropping from 10 percent to 5.7 percent.

Despite the growth, the report notes that

the contribution of banks to overall economic growth remains low, as reflected in the ratio of private credit to GDP.

However, BoB points to opportunities for further financial development through "digital transformation and product innovation by banks, evolving consumer preferences, and government efforts at expanding financial inclusion".

Stanbic Opens Gantsi BluePoint Centre

Stanbic Bank Botswana has opened a new BluePoint Service Centre in Gantsi, aiming to expand digital access and financial inclusion to remote communities through a cashless, self-service model

Stanbic Bank Botswana has opened a new BluePoint Service Centre in Gantsi, signalling the bank's continued drive toward digital access and financial inclusion across the country.

Located at Tau Mall, the Gantsi BluePoint facility is designed as a fully cash-



Centre Manager, Boitshepo Motswagole

less, digital-first service hub. It offers customers self-service digital zones for faster transactions, along with dedicated sales and service support for more personalized engagement.

PROMOTING DIGITAL ACCESS

According to Stanbic Bank Botswana Chief Executive, Chose Modise, the initiative aims to ensure that clients in all regions have access to modern banking experiences.

"This opening reflects our ongoing commitment to drive financial inclusion and digital access across Botswana," Modise said. "By establishing a smart, cashless



“
By establishing a smart, cashless branch in Gantsi, we are ensuring that customers in all regions can enjoy world-class banking experiences”

branch in Gantsi, we are ensuring that customers in all regions can enjoy world-class banking experiences.”

BRINGING INNOVATION CLOSER TO CLIENTS

The new centre's manager, Boitshepo Motswagole, will oversee operations and client services. The facility integrates smart technologies intended to make banking more convenient and accessible, especially in areas with limited traditional banking infrastructure.

The new centre forms part of Stanbic Bank's broader digital transformation strategy to enhance community access to financial services and strengthen inclusion through technology.

BTC Turns Waste Into Value

BTC has partnered with Sindawonye Granulators to recycle decommissioned copper cables into new products, turning theft-related losses into sustainable value and advancing Botswana's circular economy

Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) has introduced a large-scale copper recycling initiative through a partnership with Sindawonye Granulators and Processors Pty Ltd, a regional leader in sustainable materials recovery.

What once drained millions in replacement costs is now a profitable and environmentally responsible enterprise.

Between 2021 and 2025, BTC's annual copper theft losses dropped sharply from P57.2 million to just P582,000, while revenue from recycled copper grew from P2.6 million to P38.8 million. The collaboration with Sindawonye has been key to this turnaround, transforming what was once a costly vulnerability into a profitable sustainability effort.

CLEANER OPERATIONS, LOCAL JOBS

Sindawonye's new Gaborone facility, operational since September 2025, processes 30 to 50 tons of BTC copper each week using a zero-emission granulation process. The plant employs 22 Batswana trained in specialised recycling methods, supporting both environmental and skills development goals.

A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ACTION

All recycled copper is securely tracked from collection to processing, ensuring traceability and preventing leakage into informal scrap markets. The copper is reintroduced into global supply chains, while the plastic casings are repurposed into durable fencing materials.

“
What once drained millions in replacement costs is now a profitable and environmentally responsible enterprise”

The initiative forms part of BTC's de-coppering programme, which replaces old copper cables with fibre infrastructure. Rather than discarding the removed copper, BTC now channels it into recycling, helping to reduce waste and curb cable theft while generating revenue.

TURNING LOSS INTO OPPORTUNITY



Betway Botswana representatives, the Minister of Sport and Arts Jacob Kelebeng and world 400m champion Collen Kebinatshipi break ground at Montshiwa Grounds in Kanye, marking the start of a P4.3 million sports complex that will feature a football pitch, athletics track, and spaces for cultural and creative activities.

BTC Launches 2025 Summer Campaign

BTC has launched its 2025 Summer Campaign, aiming to expand digital inclusion and connectivity through new data offers, broadband packages, and a national roadshow reaching 168 villages

Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) has rolled out its 2025 Summer Campaign, themed “It Gets Crazy When We Summer,” as part of its broader effort to promote digital inclusion and connectivity across the country.

BTC Chief Marketing Officer, Mike Siachitema, said the campaign is designed to make digital access more affordable and engaging for customers. “Summer is officially here, and with it comes a wave of opportunities and new experiences from BTC to drive the inclusion of our customers into the digital space,” he said.

EXPANDING ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

As part of the campaign, BTC is introducing several offers, including Remmogo, which connects friends and families at lower rates; TurnUp Bundles, providing double data for the same price; and Fixed Broadband (FBB) deals featuring free installation for new customers and preloaded SIMs for existing ones. The 45GB-for-P45 data bundle also targets high-data users who rely on affordable connectivity for learning, streaming, and communication.

“These products and services were



designed with our customers at heart, whether it is a student streaming their favourite content or a parent connecting with loved ones,” Siachitema concluded.

TAKING INCLUSION ON THE ROAD

To extend digital and financial literacy,

BTC’s Dira. Gola. Tshela Roadshow has toured 168 villages nationwide and will culminate in a music festival at Palapye Sports Complex on 1 November 2025. Customers can access the event with a BTC SIM, Smega account, and a deposit starting at P100.

Botho University Marks 2024 Graduation

676 graduates honored as new PhD programmes unveiled



Botho University hosted its 2024 graduation ceremony at Boipuso Hall, Fairgrounds, recognizing 676 graduates across diploma, undergraduate, and postgraduate programmes. The event was attended by university officials, government representatives, industry partners, and families of graduates.

“Of the 676 graduates, 330 were from the Botswana Campus and 346 from the Online Campus, representing 25 countries.”

VICE-CHANCELLOR WELCOMES GRADUATES

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Sheela Raja Ram opened the ceremony with remarks highlighting the university’s ongoing commitment to equipping students with relevant skills for national and regional develop-

ment. She said the institution aimed to produce graduates who are adaptable, socially responsible, and digitally proficient.

KEYNOTE ON PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Ms. Boitumelo Mogopa, Chief Executive Officer of Metropolitan Life of Botswana Limited, delivered the keynote address. She underscored the importance of professional excellence and lifelong learning, urging graduates to apply their knowledge to drive innovation and growth in their respective fields.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND RECOGNITION

Of the 676 graduates, 330 were from the Botswana Campus and 346 from the Online Campus, representing 25 countries across Botswana, Lesotho, and Eswatini. The university awarded Kpaleizneithz Kenalemongwe the Festus Mogae Award for Academic Excellence, sponsored by First National Bank of Botswana, in recognition of her outstanding academic performance.

New PhD Programmes Announced

During the ceremony, Botho University announced two newly accredited PhD programmes in Computing and Business, reflecting its continued investment in advanced research and innovation.



DE BEERS DEAL: WHEN THE NUMBERS SAY NO

Once championed as Botswana’s next step in economic sovereignty, the De Beers acquisition has quietly disappeared from policy plans replaced by silence, numbers, and caution.



DOUGLAS RASBASH

THE VANISHING CONSENSUS

Barely six months ago, Botswana seemed poised to take a 36 percent stake in De Beers from Anglo American — a bold, nation-defining move framed as economic sovereignty, value capture,

which instead highlighted energy transition, manufacturing diversification, and private-sector innovation.

The omission speaks volumes. Political and public opinion have shifted from ambition to prudence. Botswana’s long-term success with Debswana has bred understandable confidence, but even national icons must now be tested against

over downstream sales, larger dividend inflows, and strategic autonomy in a changing global market. Advocates compared it to resource nationalism seen elsewhere in Africa.

But the macro-economic arithmetic never added up. The purchase would require USD 4 billion in new borrowing, pushing Botswana’s debt-to-GDP ratio

ready runs at capacity

Moreover, De Beers’ revenues are cyclical, its margins thin, and its balance sheet exposed to falling natural-diamond prices and the surge of lab-grown stones. When analysts treated the acquisition as an investment case rather than a political statement, the outcome became starkly evident.

History may judge Botswana’s diamond story as visionary — not because it bought more, but because it knew when to stop.

THE MONTE CARLO SIMULATION

To separate signal from sentiment, a Monte Carlo Simulation (MCS) was run using 10 000 iterations of key variables — global diamond demand, rough-to-polished price spreads, exchange-rate volatility, and financing costs. Each run generated a Net Present Value (NPV) and Internal Rate of Return (IRR) for the proposed investment.

BWP 3 billion

Annual interest cost estimate.

The results showed no scenario providing a positive net present value to the economy. Moreover, the investment would not generate any new jobs — the acid test for NDP 12 investments.

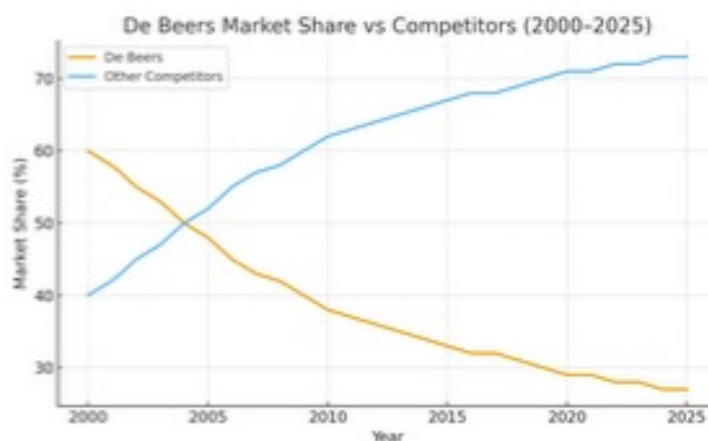
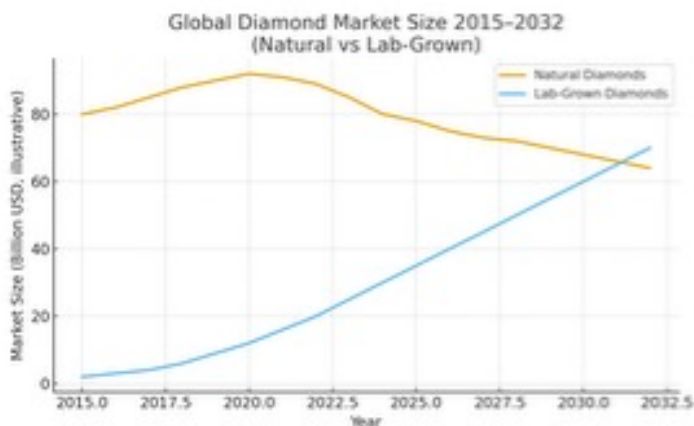
In simple terms, there is no statistical scenario under which the acquisition produces a positive economic return. The volatility of diamond prices, currency

25%

Share of GDP represented by the deal.

risk from USD financing, and the opportunity cost of tying up scarce public capital all outweigh any potential benefit. Even in the top-decile scenarios, the best outcomes remain negative.

The analysis treats De Beers not as a



and a continuation of the “diamonds for development” story. Yet that certainty has quietly dissolved.

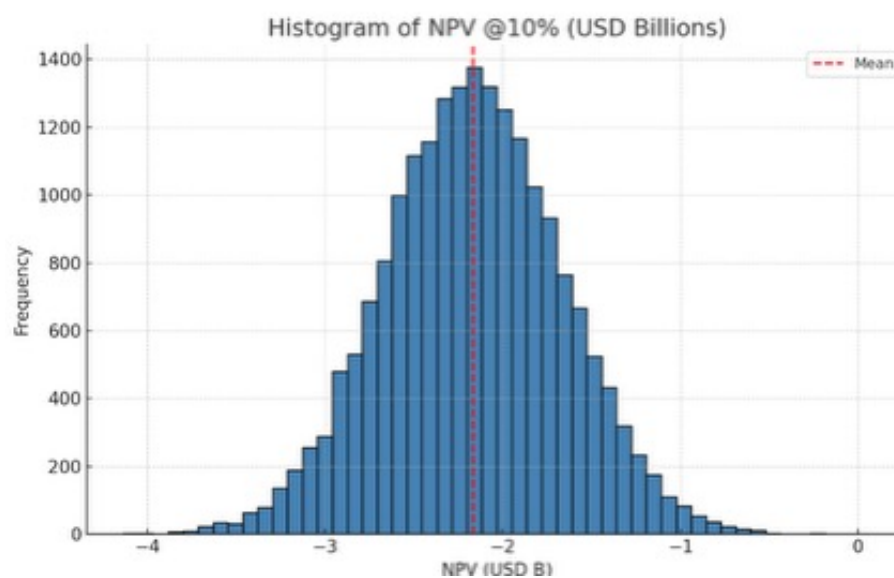
data, not nostalgia.

THE ECONOMIC QUESTION

At face value, the argument for buying De Beers was seductive: greater control

above 55 percent — the highest in the nation’s history. Interest costs alone would exceed BWP 3 billion per year, while the government’s development budget al-

Figure 1 — Monte Carlo Simulation: Zero Probability of Economic Value Creation.



USD 4 billion

Value of the proposed De Beers acquisition.

The recently released National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) makes no mention whatsoever of the De Beers acquisition, despite its fiscal magnitude — a transaction worth nearly USD 4 billion, equivalent to roughly a quarter of GDP. Nor was it discussed in the Mining Sector Presentation to Parliament,

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USD 25 million

De Beers' loss in the previous year.

mythic institution but as a leveraged multinational competing in a structurally changing market. Lab-grown diamonds now capture nearly 20 percent of global retail value, and technological substitution is accelerating faster than De Beers' capacity to reinvent its brand narrative.

THE SHIFT IN POLICY AND OPINION

Until mid-2024, political momentum for the purchase was visible: statements from senior officials, working groups, and speculative valuations. By late 2025, however, that consensus has unraveled. Three signals confirm the shift



Photo Credit: AllAfrica

10 000

Monte Carlo simulation iterations run.

First, NDP 12's silence. Neither Part I nor the accompanying mining presentation mentions the acquisition — a deliberate omission from a document that details everything from cattle inventories to gigawatt targets.

Second, institutional caution. The IMF Article IV (2025) commended Botswana's diamond management but warned that "large equity purchases in cyclical sectors could elevate debt vulnerabilities."

Third, domestic realism. Business Botswana, opposition parties, and several senior economists have argued that diversification, not concentration, should

define the next phase of growth.

Together these signals amount to a policy retreat by omission. The political economy has caught up with the data: even a symbolic acquisition cannot survive a negative-value proposition.

LESSONS FROM THE NUMBERS

Good economics is often about restraint — knowing what not to do. The De Beers case demonstrates that national pride and economic prudence are not the same thing. The temptation to "own the legend" collides with the discipline of fiscal arithmetic.

By rejecting or deferring the purchase, Botswana preserves fiscal stability, avoiding a 10-point debt spike; investment flexibility, freeing billions for diversification in energy, tourism, and infrastructure; and strategic leverage, maintaining a partnership with De Beers without assuming its liabilities.

OWNERSHIP CARRIES LIABILITIES AND RISKS

A majority stake means that both profit and losses are shared. Last year De Beers made a loss of USD 25 million, which means that its owners — Anglo American (85 percent) and the Government of Botswana (15 percent) — must ensure

55%

Projected debt-to-GDP ratio if purchase proceeded.

that losses are financed, since it is not a public company.

With a much larger stake comes much larger liabilities. Is this really understood? The Monte Carlo Simulation closes the debate: under any plausible market path, the acquisition destroys value.

There is zero probability of economic

gain — only risk transfer from a fading global miner to a prudent African state. History may still judge Botswana's dia-

“
The temptation to own the legend collides with the discipline of fiscal arithmetic
”

mond story as visionary, not because it bought more, but because it knew when to stop. In this, the government's quiet retreat is not weakness but wisdom. The numbers spoke, and for once, policy listened.

TIRED OF SHARING?



Reclaiming Botswana's Tourism Wealth

As Botswana charts a new course for tourism, the Blue Route project promises to return value and ownership to local hands shifting the model from extraction to inclusion.



“Botswana’s next tourism frontier is not another five-star lodge, but a five-star experience in a local village.”

Photo Credit: Botswana Tourism

For decades, Botswana’s tourism model has been hailed as Africa’s gold standard high value, low volume, and light on the land. Its pristine parks and private lodges have long symbolised conservation success. Yet as major players like Wilderness Safaris quietly shifted their headquarters offshore, questions began to surface: who truly benefits from Botswana’s most celebrated industry?

FOREIGN CONTROL, LOCAL COSTS

Increasingly, evidence points to an economic model that extracts wealth from local communities while enriching a foreign elite. Research from the University of Manchester in 2025 revealed that 82 percent of Okavango Delta accommodation is foreign-owned, and barely one in ten tourism firms pays full tax in Botswana. This means the bulk of tourism income — from safaris to luxury stays leaks abroad, bypassing citizens and the national treasury. Economists call this value leakage where profits are exported while jobs and infrastructure costs stay local. The problem, as analysts argue, is not tourism itself but its ownership structure. Lodges may advertise community partnerships, yet profits still flow outward while Botswana foot the environmental and social bill. The result is a paradox: citizens pay for a tourism industry they don’t control.

A NEW FRONTIER FOR LOCALISATION

Botswana’s next phase of tourism must be defined by localisation, not liberalisation. That means moving from foreign dominance to citizen empowerment. One promising innovation is the Botswana Blue Route (BBR), a national 4,000-kilometre circuit that connects fifteen towns, hundreds of villages, and over a hundred tourism sites — from Khama Rhino Sanctuary and Makgadikgadi Pans to Chobe and Ghanzi.

Originally conceived in 2014, the Blue Route embodies the values of peace, water, and unity — Botswana’s national colours. But beyond symbolism, it offers a practical roadmap to diversify tourism beyond the Okavango and redistribute opportunities to rural communities. Once complete, the route will close two key gaps — Kachikau–Mohembo and Hukuntsi–Tsabong — linking every region into a seamless

tourism loop.

INCLUSIVE TOURISM BY DESIGN

The Blue Route is not just infrastructure; it is a strategy for inclusive growth. Under NDP12, it aligns with the goal of building a deep, citizen-led economy. It aims to expand community-based enterprises — from craft markets and homestays to small cafés and agro-tourism ventures — all connected through digital integration via a Blue Route mobile app showcasing local businesses, eco-certified lodges, and rural experiences.

If managed well, this approach could recapture billions in leaked value. Studies show that over half of Botswana’s tourism spending around BWP 7.9 billion annually — exits the country through imports and expatriated profits. If even ten percent were retained locally, it could generate over BWP 1.3 billion in new income each year, directly supporting small enterprises, farmers, and artisans in rural districts.

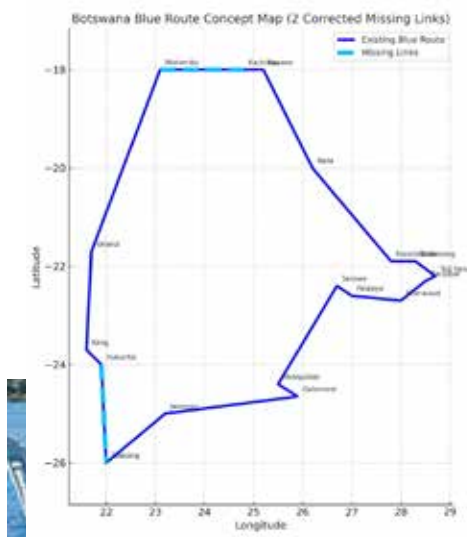


Photo Credit: dailynews.gov

pliers, tourism becomes a multiplier for agriculture and manufacturing — the backbone of a diversified economy.

A TOURISM MODEL FOR BATSUANA

The question now is whether industry bodies like HATAB will back this localisation agenda. While HATAB champions growth and stakeholder dialogue, it has yet to take a firm stance on citizen ownership or the repatriation of profits. Its members include powerful foreign players, leaving many to wonder whether it serves national interests or entrenches the status quo.

BWP 13.3B total

tourism revenue leakage vs local retention.

FROM SAFARIS TO COMMUNITIES

For decades, Botswana’s tourism has been synonymous with elite safari concessions. But the future lies in spreading opportunity, not exclusivity. NDP12 marks this shift clearly: while maintaining the conservation ethos, it encourages diversification through heritage tourism, agri-tourism, and citizen equity participation via a proposed Tourism Equity Fund.

This policy evolution doesn’t discard the high-value model — it modernises it. The aim is not mass tourism, but balanced tourism, where community lodges and small guesthouses coexist with luxury operators under fairer terms.

RURAL DIVIDENDS AND JOB CREATION

The Blue Route traverses Botswana’s so-called poverty belts — areas rich in culture but low in formal employment. Here, tourism can ignite local economies. Guesthouses in Palapye, cycling trails in Hukuntsi, and cafés in Serowe can all become micro-industries generating sustainable livelihoods for women and youth. NDP12 projects tourism employment to grow from 50,000 to nearly 65,000 jobs by 2030, provided ownership and procurement are localised.

Such diversification also strengthens other sectors. By sourcing food from local farmers and materials from domestic sup-

To truly serve Botswana, the tourism industry must shift from enclave to ecosystem — one where profits circulate within the country, and local entrepreneurs are at the centre of value creation. As one analyst puts it, “Botswana’s next tourism frontier is not another five-star lodge in a delta concession, but a five-star experience in a local village.”

CONCLUSION: THE BLUE ROUTE AS A SYMBOL

The Blue Route symbolises a turning point. It can transform tourism from a story of exclusion to one of participation. It can reconnect urban and rural economies, empower small businesses, and democratise the nation’s most iconic industry. If Botswana succeeds in localising tourism ownership, it will not only preserve its natural heritage but ensure that every Botswana has a genuine stake in its beauty and prosperity.

BOTSWANA BLUE ROUTE	
Okavango Fisheries	52
Mohembo Basket Weavers	27
Bushman Caves	98
Leugo’s Guest House	36



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Botswana Institute of Banking & Finance (BIBF) Holds 2025 Graduation Ceremony

Graduates from Botswana’s Banking and Finance sector receive awards at Cresta Lodge.

GABORONE, Botswana — The **Botswana Institute of Banking & Finance (BIBF)** held its **2025 Graduation and Awards Ceremony** on Friday 24th October at Cresta Lodge. The event marked the completion of the Diploma in Banking and Finance programme by graduating students and was attended by graduates, their family members, industry partners, sponsors, and representatives from financial institutions.

The programme included processions, presentation of qualification certificates and academic prizes to recognize students for their outstanding performance. “You are entering the workplace at a crucial time, at a time where we need fresh thinking to truly transform this economy”, BIBF Council Chair and CEO of Stanbic Bank Botswana, **Mr. Chose Modise** encouraged graduates in his opening remarks.



Executive Secretary of SADC, His Excellency Mr. Elias Magosi.

The keynote remarks by His Excellency **Mr. Elias Magosi**, Executive Secretary of SADC highlighted the importance of continuous learning and professional development in the banking and finance sector. Mr. Magosi emphasized discipline, resilience, and leadership as key qualities for graduates entering the workforce. “Each of you has within you the power to shape not only your destiny but also the destiny of those who follow,” he said.



2025 Valedictorian, Ms. Esther Pelane

Valedictorian **Ms. Esther Pelane** spoke on behalf of the graduating class, expressing appreciation to BIBF management and staff, for their support throughout the duration of the programme. She acknowledged the challenges faced by students and stressed the importance of perseverance and using professional skills to make a positive impact. “Let us continue to dream, and to believe in those dreams. With a long-term vision, dedication, and belief in our potential, we can achieve so much more,” Pelane said.



BIBF staff and graduates



BIBF Managing Director, Mr. Molaodi Menyatso.

In his closing remarks, BIBF’s Managing Director **Mr. Molaodi Menyatso** expressed gratitude to stakeholders who joined the Institute to celebrate the achievements of its Diploma in Banking and Finance graduates. He also thanked families and friends of the graduates for offering support throughout the academic journey.

Graduates left the event prepared to begin their careers in financial services, equipped with the knowledge and training gained through the BIBF programme.

Pull Quote:

“Each of you has within you the power to shape not only your destiny but also the destiny of those who follow.”



Group photo of graduates



Scent of a Tone-Deaf Brand

Mitchum's recent deodorant mishap reveals how even global brands can stumble when they forget the human touch—and the local heartbeat.

PHENYO MOTLHAGODI

PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT, TENNYSON PR

In September, Mitchum apologised in South Africa, the UK and Ireland after reports that select batches of its 48-hour 100ml roll-on antiperspirant were causing skin irritation. The company attributed the problem to a change in a manufacturing process for a raw material, said it had reverted to the original process, and began working with retailers to pull affected stock.

That context matters in Botswana because the brand enjoys strong word-of-mouth here, commands a premium price and has real loyalty. Yet when a Botswana consumer recently posted photos of significant underarm irritation and shared a screenshot of Mitchum's email reply, the exchange exposed a deeper issue than a faulty batch: a multinational operating across borders but responding without a local heartbeat.

THE EMPATHY GAP

The customer-service response we saw opens with corporate boilerplate and quickly offers two replacement roll-ons. There is no first sentence asking if the consumer is okay, no instruction to stop using the product, no advice to wash the area, and no suggestion to seek medical care if symptoms persist. In crisis communications, the sequence matters: care, then cause, then compensation. By jumping straight to product replacement, Mitchum appeared tone-deaf and transactional in a moment that required clinical caution and human compassion.

SAFETY BEFORE SALES

When a body-contact product is implicated in irritation, the duty of care is straightforward. The company should first advise immediate discontinuation, provide clear self-care instructions, capture batch details, and offer a refund before even thinking about compensation. Offering more deodorant to an injured consumer sends the wrong message. It suggests the company is centred on stock movement, not wellbeing.

CLARITY AND TRACEABILITY

Mitchum publicly explained that the formula hadn't changed but a process tweak had altered how the product interacted with some people's skin. The affected batches could be identified by



batch codes, which was good technical transparency. But the brand's published notices and FAQs were framed for South African, UK, and Irish audiences. The South African statement directed people to an SA toll-free number—none of which helped a shopper in Gaborone determine whether their bottle was safe or where to go for help.

In Botswana, the basics went



702 Afternoons explores the Mitchum deodorant recall



When a Botswana consumer recently posted photos of significant underarm irritation and shared a screenshot of Mitchum's email reply, the exchange exposed a deeper issue than a faulty batch.

missing: a local hotline or WhatsApp number, a published batch list, guidance for retailers on refunds, and a clear reporting pathway. Without these, the affected customer—like many do when they feel unseen—went to Facebook. That isn't bad behaviour; it's a predictable outcome of an unmet need for care and clarity.

LOCALISATION ISN'T A LUXURY

Multinationals often underestimate markets like Botswana because distribution-led growth seems to tick along with in-store promotions and price deals. Budgets are set for logistics and sales, not for communications or agency representation. The Mitchum episode shows the flaw in that model. When a crisis hits, the brand must act with local knowledge—using channels that work here, languages that resonate,

and partners who can get a memo onto a retailer's shelf this week, not after a regional call.

Consumers expected a Botswana statement, in English and Setswana, posted the day the story broke. They wanted a local WhatsApp line, a refund process at retailers, and small shelf cards explaining how to check batch codes. A refund first, then help for verified cases—such as a dermatologist reimbursement—would have been far more sensible than more roll-on. None of this is extravagant; it's basic reputation hygiene.

THE THREE Cs MITCHUM MISSED

Care. Put the person first. A simple opening line checking on the consumer's wellbeing and giving immediate safety guidance would have gone a long way.

Clarity. Make it easy to know whether a product is affected and what to do next, with batch lists and Botswana-specific instructions.

Control. Take charge of the conversation through proactive posts, media briefings and retailer updates. When brands don't do that, Facebook will.

WHY LOCAL REPRESENTATION MATTERS

Botswana's consumers are sophisticated, digitally connected and brand-loyal—but they demand respect. A brand with cross-border appeal cannot treat Botswana as a bolt-on to South Africa. Direct representation, whether through an in-house communicator or a local agency, delivers four advantages: It brings early intelligence, because local teams hear rumblings first—from pharmacists, students, and social media. It speeds action, because phone calls to retailers and updates to stores happen within days, not weeks. It ensures cultural fit, because tone is calibrated for Botswana norms and Setswana messaging is deployed where it matters. And it builds a "trust bank," a visible local presence that absorbs shock when things go wrong.

WHAT GOOD WOULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE

On day one, Mitchum could have issued a short apology and safety notice with a Botswana hotline, WhatsApp, and refund confirmation at stores. It could have reached out to public complainants with empathy, not coupons. Within a week, it might have partnered with dermatology practices for "skin comfort" clinics, reimbursing consults for verified cases. By week four, a local dermatologist could explain irritation and batch codes in a short video. That's how to turn anxiety into trust.

THE REGULATORY GAP

South Africa's National Consumer Commission confirmed the manufacturing issue and recalled selected batches. UK and Irish regulators did the same, showing how quickly information moved there and how slowly it reached Botswana in a usable form. Mitchum's products have long enjoyed a strong reputation for effectiveness here. That brand

“Multinationals often underestimate markets like Botswana because distribution-led growth appears to tick along with in-store promotions and periodic price deals.”

equity is worth protecting—and that starts by treating Botswana consumers as equals. This wasn't a failure because a few batches went wrong; that happens even in good companies. It was a failure because, when Mitchum most needed a local heartbeat, Botswana heard only a distant echo.

About Tennyson PR: Influence & Reputation Management — a Botswana-based boutique Pan-African consultancy specialising in PR, executive positioning and crisis communications.



WHEN FINE DINING MEETS CLIMATE ACTION



Relais & Châteaux Chef Herold Gaosikelwe is proving that delicious food doesn't have to cost the earth. Literally. His plant-forward philosophy blends flavour, sustainability and local pride on every plate

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

One of the executive chefs at Great Plains Conservation, Chef Herold Gaosikelwe is redefining fine dining with menus that tell a story of sustainability and biodiversity through a love letter to the planet in every dish.

From grilled aubergine stacks with lentil ragout to spinach gnocchi with cauliflower purée, Gaosikelwe's kitchen celebrates flavour with a conscience.

His ingredients come from local farms like Thalboj and Veggie

World Express, both also serve as a conduit for proudly Botswana-owned ecological healing and focused on organic, community support.



climate-resilient crops. Through this culinary philosophy, he demonstrates that fine dining can

PLANTING THE FUTURE

Chef Gaosikelwe is part of the Relais & Châteaux

and Slow Food's "Plant the Future" initiative's nine chefs from around the world redefining gastronomy through local sourcing, minimal waste, and plant-rich creativity.

The campaign urges chefs in the association's 580 properties to rethink their menus - shifting from resource-heavy meat dishes to agroecological, plant-forward ones.

Established in 1954, the Relais & Châteaux Association unites a collection of 580 hotels and restaurants throughout the world, operated by independent owners. Slow Food is a worldwide network of local communities founded in 1989 in order to counteract the disappearance of local food traditions and the spread of fast food cul-

ture.

A MENU THAT HEALS

According to the FAO, intensive livestock farming contributes nearly 14.5% of all greenhouse gas emissions. The solution? Dishes made with ingredients like chickpeas, chia seeds, and mung beans - delicious and gentle on the planet.



Chef Herold Gaosikelwe is redefining fine dining with menus that tell a story of sustainability and biodiversity through a love letter to the planet in every dish



"Choosing plant-based proteins is a powerful way to rethink our food system from soil to plate," said Edward Mukiibi, President of Slow Food in a statement.

"Showcasing agricultural biodiversity and encouraging a more plant-rich approach to cooking has become not only essential but urgent - to protect our planet, care for our bodies, and, of course, delight our guests," said Mauro Colagreco, Vice President, Chefs of Relais & Châteaux.

Collaboration is the New Currency



A masterclass hosted by Nora Cosmetics just proved that Botswana's beauty industry thrives not on rivalry but on collaboration, empowerment and purpose

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Hosted by Nora Cosmetics recently at Avani Resort, the "Changing Lives Through Beauty" Masterclass was more than just a gathering of scores of makeup artists and entrepreneurs; it was a rallying call for unity in Botswana's beauty industry.

Founder Norah McAslin said the brand's mission was divinely inspired. "God gave me a vision to change lives through beauty, and every day I see that vision come to life through our products," she said.

COLLABORATION, NOT COMPETITION

Industry key player, Nomsa Lukashe of Nomlu Beauty, emphasised that collaboration is the new currency in business. "Don't start a business to become a celebrity," she warned. "When I look at other women in beauty, I get inspired. We talk collaboration, not competition. Working together doesn't dim your light - it makes it shine brighter."

MONEY MATTERS AND MEANING

Echoing the sentiment, Kgomotso Twagirayezu of Shedol Cosmetics said competition



fuels motivation. "It pushes me to do better for my brand," she asserted.

Financial discipline also took centre stage. Janet Sopeletsile, founder of Hair Stranz, shared that keeping good cash flow and accurate records are key to survival.

“Working together doesn't dim your light - it makes it shine brighter”

BEAUTY WITH PURPOSE

Lebopo Bulayani, Clicks Botswana Area Manager, connected the event's theme of "Changing Lives Through Beauty" to global impact.

"The true potential of the beauty industry lies in collaboration and unity," she said. "Together, we can empower, uplift, and build a more inclusive and sustainable future."

Ora Loapi Represents BW During the G20

As the world's attention turns to the G20 Summit in South Africa, Botswana's Ora Loapi places the nation's artistry at the heart of a pan-African conversation about representation, power, and cultural sovereignty

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's leading curatorial and cultural strategy platform, Ora Loapi, is set to represent the nation in a landmark pan-African contemporary art exhibition hosted by the Latitudes Centre for the Arts (LCA)

during the G20 Summit period in South Africa.

Featuring new and recent works by Pako Lesejane (photography) and Totang Motoloki (painting), the showcase will underscore Botswana's expanding creative influence on the global art scene.

A CONTINENT IN CON-

VERSATION

Curated by Boitumelo Makousu and Denzo Nyathi, the exhibition reimagines Africa's presence in global dialogue. It brings together diverse perspectives from 10 African art spaces, including Kenya, Ethiopia, Namibia and Nigeria, to highlight individuality and depth rather than a single narrative.

"Our participation is not simply about being present; it is about asserting Botswana's artistic sovereignty within a global conversation that too often homogenizes African voices," Nkululeko Sebakeng, Ora Loapi's Project Manager; told Time Out.

REDEFINING REPRESENTATION

Through their bold, contemporary practices, Lesejane and Motoloki amplify Botswana's unique artistic identity - one rooted in local stories yet reaching beyond borders.

Said Lerato Motshwarakgole, Director of Ora Loapi: "This moment reflects our long-term commitment to building international



Pako Lesejane

pathways for Botswana's artists. We're proud to collaborate with Latitudes Centre for the Arts and peer institutions across the continent to platform the depth, rigor, and ambition shaping Botswana's creative economy."

THE POWER OF PLURAL-

ITY

By resisting the idea of a singular 'African voice,' the exhibition invites audiences to experience the continent's complexity and creative plurality on Africa's own terms.

GAMALETE READIES FOR PORK FESTIVAL

Now in its third edition, the Tsa Ga Maletle Pork Festival continues to blend culture, food and community in a celebration that highlights the economic and culinary value of pig farming

GAZETTE REPORTER

Garden 45 at Boale will be the venue when the Tsa Ga Maletle Pork Festival returns for its third edition on Saturday 1st November 2025.

The annual event brings together farmers, chefs, families, and cultural groups in a community-driven celebration of food, entrepreneurship, and heritage.

LEARNING AND CONNECTION

Established in 2022, the festival has grown into one

of Botswana's most distinctive events. It promotes piggery farming, culinary innovation, and BaLete cultural identity, positioning GaMaletle as a hub for agribusiness learning and local tourism

This year's festival will feature food demonstrations, pork tastings, and agribusiness information exchanges aimed at empowering small-scale farmers and aspiring entrepreneurs in the piggery value chain.

FAMILIES

The highlights will include cooking sessions with



“Tsa Ga Maletle Pork Festival is more than just a festival. It's an annual celebration growing into an important local economic and cultural event”

Rati, the Cooking Kid, as well as cultural performances by BaLete Ditlhaka Tra-

ditional Group, Ramotswa Brass Band, and artists like Ntirelang Berman, Piink, and DJ Stanza.

The event also caters for families, offering a safe environment with cultural showcases, music, and children's entertainment. For those who don't eat pork, a separate food section titled "Monate ga o ile Kolobe" will be available.

HERITAGE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

According to Itumeleng Teseletso, the Festival Coordinator, the event's impact extends beyond food. "Tsa Ga Maletle Pork Festival is more than just a festival," he told Time Out.

"It's an annual celebration growing into an important local economic and cultural event that promotes culinary tourism, community development, and piggery value chain participation."

Champagne & Oyster Experience



Hotel430's Champagne & Oyster Experience holds out the promise of being the most elegant lifestyle event of the year for Gaborone because it will be nothing short of an indulgent celebration of taste, culture, and timeless luxury

GAZETTE REPORTER

Gaborone's social calendar just got a sparkling addition for 1st November 2025 when Hotel430 will host an exclusive affair dedicated to the finer things in life.

Styled the Champagne & Oyster Experience, the event invites guests to immerse themselves in a world of sophistication where bubbles, oysters, and culture will come together in one seamless flow of indulgence.

WHERE LUXURY MEETS LIFESTYLE

Attendees can look forward to a day filled with premium champagnes, freshly shucked oysters and gourmet delights accompanied by live music, spa pairings and lounge privileges in an atmo-

sphere that blends relaxation with refinement.

"The Champagne & Oyster Experience is more than an event - it's a statement of elegance and the art of living well," Thapelo Mmono, Group Head of Marketing and Public Relations at Hotel430 told Time Out. "It reflects our brand's refined spirit and passion for timeless moments."

AN INVITATION TO INDULGE

From the first glass of chilled champagne to the last note of soulful music, every element has been crafted for pleasure. As the day flows into an after-dark celebration, guests will be treated to an intimate, luxurious ambiance - one that captures Hotel430's signature charm.

This exclusive gathering will

“The Champagne & Oyster Experience is a statement of elegance and the art of living well”

mark the beginning of Hotel430's annual Lifestyle Series, a curated celebration of taste, connection, and culture - and a reminder that life's best moments are meant to be savoured.

Inclusion As Economic Strategy



Panel 2 Legal and Policy Frameworks for Inclusive Economies

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The Hilton Garden Inn pulsed with ideas recently as Banana Club hosted its first Economic Inclusion Forum, uniting business

executives, policymakers, and cultural innovators under one question: Can inclusion drive economic growth?

Delivering the keynote address, Kefilwe Mokone, Senior HR Manag-

er for Cultural Transformation, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging at Debswana, framed inclusion not as charity but a strategy.

“We must reimagine growth not as something

that happens to a select few, but something built with and by everyone,” she said.

The concept of the “Pink Pula” captured the imagination of the room, challenging local industries to recognise the financial and cultural potential of diverse communities.

“The Pink Pula symbolises a new era for Botswana, one where creativity, diversity, and human potential become the drivers of growth,” said Enyatseng. “Inclusion isn’t charity; it’s good business. We must unlock the economic power of those at the margins to build a resilient and prosperous nation.”

A CALL TO ACTION

The Forum’s panels — featuring voices from Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, and South Africa — explored how legal reform, market access, and creative enterprise can fuel regional resilience.

It all culminated in a vibrant Banana Club Block Party and Femme DJ Masterclass, ensuring that conversations about inclusion translated into cultural expression and action.



IDENTITY AND CREATIVITY

Mokone noted that economies ranking high in inclusion consistently outperform others — a fact backed by the World Bank’s Equality of Opportunity Report, which links inclusive societies to stronger GDPs and governance outcomes.

The founder of Banana Club, Tanlume Enyatseng, said the forum was about reframing identity and creativity as growth engines, not social side notes.

“This isn’t a rights-based conference,” Enyatseng declared. “It’s a business conversation. Diversity, equity, and representation are economic opportunities.”

THE PINK PULA

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT MAUN IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOTSWANA
MAHMN-000050-22
MAFISHANE INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD-JUDICIAL MANAGEMENT**

NOTICE OF LAST MEETING OF CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that, in accordance with a directive issued by the Deputy Registrar & Master of the High Court, and pursuant to Section 382 (1) of the Companies Act (No 32 of 2004), the Last Meeting of Creditors will be convened before the Deputy Registrar & Master of the High Court, Maun on Monday 01st December 2025 at 09:00 hours, for the following purposes:

- To prove claims against the company
- To receive and consider the report of the Judicial Manager prepared and submitted to all known creditors of the company in accordance with terms of Section 448 of the Companies Act, 2003
- To consider, and, if thought fit, approve the Schedule of Proposed Creditors Resolutions, circulated to all known creditors by the Judicial Manager
- To consider any other competent business.

DATED AT MAUN THIS 20th DAY OF OCTOBER 2025

**NEO CHRISTINAH MATSAPOLA
DEPUTY REGISTRAR AND MASTER**



MAEMO S. D. MESOTLO
JUDICIAL MANAGER
MSD MESOTLO & ASSOCIATES
MATANTE MEWS, CBD
P O BOX 604 AAH, CBD
GABORONE
CELL: (+267) 72928229
Email: maemo@msdmesotlo.com

“Inclusion builds resilience, expands innovation, and ensures no one is left behind as we shape the Botswana of tomorrow”

Mokone summed it up thus: “Inclusion builds resilience, expands innovation, and ensures no one is left behind as we shape the Botswana of tomorrow.”

INTENTION TO CHANGE MARRIAGE PROPERTY REGIME

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

1. **TSHOTLOYAONE MAITEWA** and **GOFAONE MAITEWA** married in community of property on the **11TH OF JULY 2019**, at **LENTSWELETAU**, intend to make an application to the High Court of Botswana for leave to change their marital property regime from in community of property to out of community of property.
2. The parties intend to apply to the High Court of Botswana after the expiration of the three (3) weeks statutory notice from the date of first publication hereof.
3. Any person, creditor or debtor, who may have an interest in the assets and/or liabilities of the parties' estate, should they have objections to the parties changing their property regime, are to inform the parties' Attorneys, **SWABI & COMPANY**, in writing, before the expiration of the said 3 weeks period, or make representations before the High Court of Botswana once the contemplated application is lodged.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 10TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.

SWABI & COMPANY.
Applicant's Attorneys
First Floor, Unit 17
Kgale Mews
P O Box 403506
GABORONE

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE **KEETAN TULSIDAS DOOLABH ESHFT-000330-24** who died at **MATER DEI HOSPITAL, BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE** on the **17TH DAY OF JANUARY 2024**. The First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the above Estate will lie open for inspection at the chambers of the Assistant Registrar and Master of the High Court at Francistown for a period of Twenty One (21) days from the date of the second publication hereof.

DATED at FRANCISTOWN on this 21ST day of OCTOBER 2025

THE EXECUTRIX DATIVE
C/O VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS,
Plot 4660, Ditau Street, PO Box 37,
FRANCISTOWN.

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE **GRIGORIOS TETIS ESHFT-000887-25** who died at **CORPORATE 24 PRIVATE HOSPITAL, BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE** on the **26TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023**. The First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the above Estate will lie open for inspection at the chambers of the Assistant Registrar and Master of the High Court at Francistown for a period of Twenty One (21) days from the date of the second publication hereof.

DATED at FRANCISTOWN on this 21ST day of OCTOBER 2025

THE EXECUTRIX TESTAMENTARY
C/O VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS,
Plot 4660, Ditau Street, PO Box 37,
FRANCISTOWN.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CHANGE MARRIAGE PROPERTY REGIME

(in terms of section 8 (1) of the Married Persons Property Act)

1. BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT **KGOTLAETSILE PHILLEMOM TOM PAPADI** and **SOPHIA PAPADI**, married in community of property in **Gaborone** on the **15th** day of **March 2018**, wish to change their marriage property regime to **OUT OF COMMUNITY OF PROPERTY**.
2. The parties intend to apply to the **High Court of Botswana** after the expiration of three (3) weeks from the date of First Publication of this Notice.
3. Any person, creditor or debtor, who may have an interest in the assets and/or liabilities of the joint estate of the parties above, should they have any objections to the proposed change in the marriage property regime, **MUST** so inform the parties' attorneys, **TONY MATILO ATTORNEYS**, before the expiration of the said 3 weeks period, or make representations before the **High Court of Botswana** once the contemplated application is lodged.

DATED IN GABORONE ON THE 17TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025



Plot 17335 Tshikitsane Road,
Gaborone West Phase 1, GABORONE
75746161/ 72472471
info@tma.co.bw

BagsOraylioBW, a thrift shop
Molapo Crossing Mall, Plot: 33695,
Block 6, Gaborone
Hiring Sales Persons for shop sales.
Ages 25-35 fluent in English.
Application from 29th October to 15th
November, 2025
WhatsApp applications and CV's
to orayliogaothuse@gmail.com
78552977

Seller Gobonaone Peleng
Plot no 5004 lotlhakane
East, Measuring 875m
Contact 75255996

Buyer
Peter Ziwenga
Passport No BE515289
Contact 72184268

Ramoreboli Outlines Key AFCON Preps

After 13 long years, Botswana's Zebras return to the AFCON is armed with lessons from a testing 2025 campaign

GAZETTE REPORTER



It has taken more than a decade, but Botswana is back where the nation once dared to dream.

When the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) kicks off in Morocco on 21 December 2025, the Zebras will compete in Group D alongside Benin, DR Congo and Senegal.

LESSONS FROM THE PAST

Botswana's only previous AFCON outing in 2012 ended with three defeats. The team scored twice through veterans Diphego Selolwane and Mogakolodi Ngele but conceded nine goals. Thirteen years later, the squad returns with experience and maturity.

This year's journey has tested Botswana in every possible way. Their 2025 campaign began in Francistown on 21 March with a sobering 3-1 defeat to Algeria in a World Cup qualifier.

CONVICTION

Four days later, the Zebras deemed themselves with a com-

posed 2-0 victory over Somalia, offering a glimpse of the grit that coach Morena Ramoreboli has been patiently cultivating.

June brought the COSAFA Cup where Botswana showed flashes of attacking flair — a goalless draw with the Comoros followed by a 3-3 encounter against Zambia in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Those performances, though imperfect, carried a clear message: the Zebras are learning to play with conviction.

NARROW MARGINS

But as the year wore on, the team's progress was measured against tougher odds. September's back-to-back defeats — 3-1 to Algeria in Tizi Ouzou and 2-0 to Mozambique — underscored how narrow the margins remain at this level.

October added more lessons: a 1-0 loss to Uganda and a spirited 2-2 draw against Guinea, both in World Cup qualifiers.

For Ramoreboli, these games have been more than fixtures —

they were experiments.

"We played those matches with the aim of pushing ourselves," he reflected in an interview.

RAMOREBOLI'S REFINEMENT

"We wanted to see if we have the ability to play a more advanced, aggressive game."

His tone was one of cautious optimism, even amid defeats. "Much as we lost," he said, "I am happy that there are a lot of things that we did right. We created chances, we competed, and we showed we can go toe-to-toe with offensive teams."

SHARPENING THE ATTACK

What worries the coach most is not structure but finishing. The Zebras, he insists, are creating chances but are just not taking them. "When emotions settle and you rewatch the game, you realise we could have scored at least two goals against Uganda," he admitted.

"We're creating, and that's encouraging. But we must work

more on our finishing, create situations that allow us to score. We have good goal scorers — it's about making it click."

To bridge that gap, Ramoreboli is planning intensive training camps before the tournament.

DARING

In a group that features Africa's reigning powerhouses, those fine margins will matter.

The Zebras are under no illusion — facing Senegal and DR Congo is a task few would envy — but there's a growing sense that they are better equipped this time.

They have learned to play under pressure, to create, to fight. And if they can finally marry their discipline with clinical finishing, the story of Morocco 2025 may be very different from Gabon 2012.

For Ramoreboli and his men, it's not just about surviving the group — it's about evolving.

FIFA VISIT A WATERSHED FOR BOTSWANA FOOTBALL



FIFA president Gianni Infantino's upcoming visit to Botswana will mark a historic moment, signalling international recognition and accelerating the country's football development agenda

GAZETTE REPORTER

The planned visit of FIFA President Gianni Infantino to Botswana from 9 to 11 November is being described by the Botswana Football Association (BFA) as a pivotal milestone for the nation's football ambitions.

BFA President Tariq Babitseng said the visit signifies "international recognition" of Botswana's progress. "This visit is not just ceremonial — it's a strong signal that FIFA recognises Botswana as an emerging force in African

football," he said in an interview.

He emphasised that the visit underscores FIFA's growing confidence in Botswana's football structures and the strategic direction taken by its leadership.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

The visit is expected to accelerate the rollout of key projects under the FIFA Forward initiative. Babitseng revealed that the BFA plans to collaborate closely with local authorities to access FIFA's financial assistance programmes.

"This will help ensure we reach every corner of the country

through infrastructure development so that every young person has a proper playing ground in their community," he said.

"It will allow us to develop talent systematically, creating a broader pool for national team selection while also advancing technical education for coaches, referees and administrators nationwide."

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Babitseng added that football legends will play a vital role in these development initiatives, using their experience to mentor young players and build stronger

football communities.

He noted that women's football continues to grow, with new milestones being achieved through FIFA's support. "We will soon be launching the Women's First Division League, which has been fully supported by FIFA," he said.

Babitseng said this development marks a critical step towards professionalising the women's game in Botswana and creating more opportunities for young girls to pursue football seriously.

FIFA TESTING GROUND

The initiative will also strengthen the pipeline for national women's teams and promote gender inclusivity in the beautiful game.

Looking ahead, Babitseng said Botswana intends to position itself as a testing ground for FIFA's new programmes. "We will be

driving for FIFA to have Botswana trial some of their development projects," he said.

"This will show the world that we are a country serious about football growth, with talent that deserves nurturing."

He added that BFA is determined to form strategic partnerships with regions and countries that share Botswana's vision for football development.

BROADER OPPORTUNITIES

"Such collaborations should serve as gateways to broader opportunities in sports science, digital transformation and youth empowerment," he noted.

Babitseng noted that Infantino's visit will strengthen the partnership between FIFA, the BFA, and the Government of Botswana, aligning their visions for infrastructure development and youth advancement.



"This visit is not ceremonial — it's a strong signal that FIFA recognises Botswana as an emerging force in African football"



"This visit puts us on the global football map and reinforces our commitment to transparency, professionalism and progress," he said. "It sends a clear message that Botswana is ready to take its rightful place among Africa's leading football nations."



Ebudilwe's Bold Journey To India

Botswana's queen of cycling, Bakang Ebudilwe, just swapped her handlebars for lecture halls to embark on a new chapter in India where she aims to learn how to merge sports and strategy in shaping her country's sporting future

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana's multiple Road and Mountain Bike National Champion, Bakang

Ebudilwe has taken a leap of faith — not onto another podium but into academia — after earning a prestigious scholarship from the Indian Coun-

cil for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Through the Indian Embassy in Botswana, Ebudilwe secured a place at Mangalore University to pursue an MBA in Logistics and Supply Chain Management and

left for the country last Sunday. "I am truly grateful for this life-changing chance to further my education in India," she said.

EXPERIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

"I wanted to develop my leadership and business skills beyond cycling. My goal is to combine my experience as an athlete with solid management knowledge to contribute to the growth of sports and logistics both in Botswana and internationally."

It's a shift that speaks not of retirement, but of evolution — a champion reinventing herself for the long ride ahead. In India, her days will stretch between classrooms and training routes, a test of endurance that she welcomes.

"While balancing both worlds will be demanding, it is something I'm ready for," she said. "Cycling has taught me discipline, focus and time management — all essential for academic success."

BALANCING TWO WORLDS

Ebudilwe has drawn up a meticulous plan that ensures that her study sessions and saddle time coexist. "For me, this is not just about managing two passions but about proving that education and sports can go hand in hand when you are determined and organised," she said.

It's a philosophy she has long embodied — the quiet conviction that excellence isn't confined to one lane. Looking back on her journey, Ebudilwe remains grounded.

"Every title represents years of hard work, consistency, and perseverance," she reflected. "But beyond the medals, I take the most pride in how cycling has helped me grow as a person and inspired other young riders, especially women, to believe in themselves and aim higher."

“Don't be afraid to take up space in a male-dominated sport. Your strength and passion are enough”

HEARTFELT AND UNFILTERED

To those who now see her as a trailblazer, her message is heartfelt and unfiltered: believe. "It won't always be easy but with hard work and commitment, anything is possible," she said.

"Don't be afraid to take up space in a male-dominated sport. Your strength and passion are enough."

COACH LEBO'S MILESTONE

Kelebogile "Coach Lebo" Monnayoo has achieved a historic milestone in women's tennis when she recently became the second woman in the country to earn the prestigious ITF Level 2 Coaching Advanced Players certification



erations and improving women's tennis in Botswana.

FROM RWANDA WITH CERTIFICATION

"I am really happy to be the second woman in the country to achieve this level of certification, and I'm grateful to our association, Tennis Rwanda and the ITF for giving me this opportunity."

Monnayoo earned her quali-

cation in Rwanda, where she says the experience transformed her coaching approach. "The experience was great and I have learnt a lot because it's different from the way I was coaching before," she said. "With the knowledge I acquired, I'm ready to take tennis in Botswana to the next level."

Still, the journey was not without challenges. "The weather was

tricky - sometimes windy, rainy, and hot - but it helped me learn how to adapt and stay focused regardless of conditions," she added.

"I'LL TALK WITH GIRLS"

Now certified to coach advanced players, including national representatives like the Billie Jean King Cup team, Monnayoo is determined to give back.

"As a Level 2 coach, I can now work with top athletes, but my mission goes beyond that," she said. "I'll talk with girls and show them how important sports is. I want to encourage more young girls to play tennis so we can have greater participation."

She also had a message for aspiring female coaches: "Keep working hard and believe in yourself," she said. "It's never too late to achieve your dreams. Keep coaching as much as you can because that's how you grow in this sport. Without practice, you won't reach your goals."

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Affectionately known as Coach Lebo, Kelebogile Monnayoo has etched her name in Botswana's tennis history.

She recently became the second woman in the country - after Tapiwa Masunga - to earn the

International Tennis Federation (ITF) Coaching Advanced Players certification, one of the most respected coaching qualifications in the sport.

"For me, this is more than a personal achievement," she said in a telephone interview. "It's about inspiring the coming gen-

CHIEFS' REBIRTH

Mochudi Centre Chiefs are rebuilding from within — balancing ambition with heritage, and professional reform with community identity

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

In Mochudi, echoes of past glory linger like chants that refuse to fade. Once a dominant force in Botswana football, Mochudi Centre Chiefs - affectionately known as Magosi Maaparankwe - are embarking on a deliberate journey of transformation.

While their 2-1 victory over Township Rollers over the weekend may have lit sparks of nostalgia, the club's Head of Public Relations, Ame Galeimelwe, is insisting that what truly matters is not the scoreline but the story that is being rewritten behind it.

"This transformation is about redefining our identity while staying true to our roots," he said. "We aim to build a modern, professionally-run football club that competes at the highest level locally and, in the near future, continentally."

THE INTENTIONAL SHIFT

Galeimelwe describes the overhaul as strategic rather than reactive. "The

“This transformation is about redefining our identity while staying true to our roots”

timing is intentional," he explained. "Football has changed — in management, technology, and player development — and this transformation ensures that Mochudi Centre Chiefs keeps pace with that evolution."

BALANCING PAST AND PROGRESS

The club is reshaping its operations, branding, and fan engagement with a focus on sustainability. "We are building relationships with sponsors, football experts, and community stakeholders who share our long-term vision," Galeimelwe said. Yet, he emphasised that modernization would not erase their cultural identity: "Our culture, our legends, and our supporters are the heartbeat of this transformation."

BELIEF RETURNS

Now second on the FNB Premiership table with 16 points from eight games, optimism is cautiously returning among supporters. To those who had lost faith, Galeimelwe offered reassurance: "We understand your frustrations, but your club is rising again."

"This transformation is meant to restore pride, competitiveness, and belonging. We invite every supporter, near and far, to become a part of this journey back to greatness."



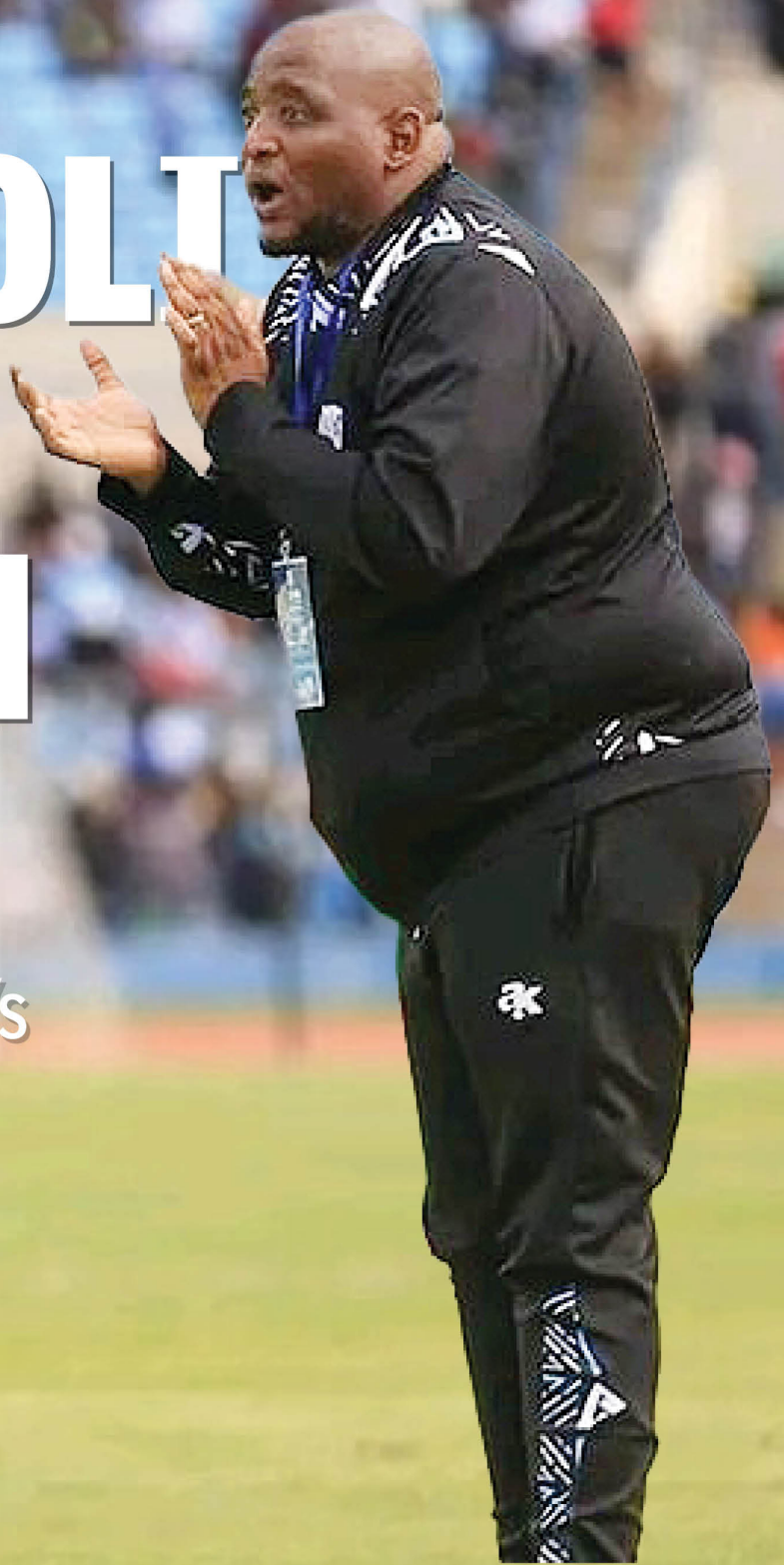
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After 13 long years, Botswana's Zebras return to the AFCON is armed with lessons from a testing 2025 campaign

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FIFA VISIT A WATERSHED FOR BOTSWANA FOOTBALL

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