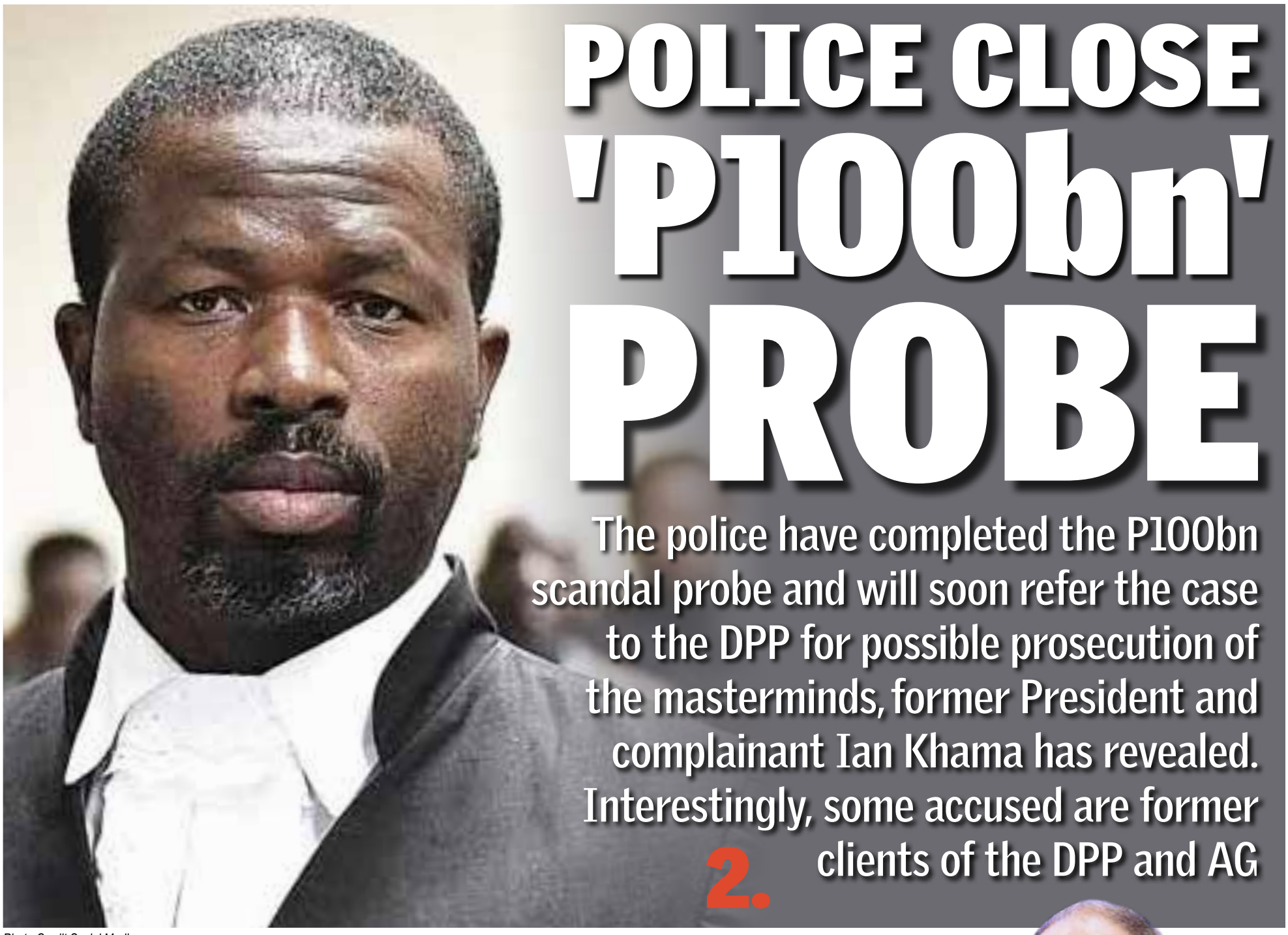
The Botswana GAZETTE

WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2025 SINCE 1984



Court to Rule on Extent of Magosi's Powers 6.



POLICE CLOSE 'P100bn' PROBE

The police have completed the P100bn scandal probe and will soon refer the case to the DPP for possible prosecution of the masterminds, former President and complainant Ian Khama has revealed. Interestingly, some accused are former clients of the DPP and AG

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Photo Credit:Social Media

Jefferis To Govt: Focus on the Basics First

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GAZETTE REPORTER

Former President Ian Khama has revealed that police investigations into a perjury complaint he filed against former Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) investigator Jako Hubona have been completed and the matter will now be referred to the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for possible prosecution.

Khama told ***The Botswana Gazette*** this week that he recently met with police officers for an update on the case and was informed that investigations had been concluded and the file was being forwarded to the DPP.

"I was briefed that the investigations have been finalised and the matter is being referred to the DPP for possible prosecution," Khama said.

PUNISHABLE OFFENCE

According to Khama, "what was done under that false P100 billion case was malicious and damaging and cannot be left unpunished. It destroyed reputations, strained relations between nations, and undermined public confidence in key state institutions."



In March 2021, Khama lodged a formal complaint with the Broadhurst Police Station in Gaborone, accusing Hubona of perjury. He alleged that the former investigator had provided false evidence in the infamous P100 billion scandal that implicated Khama himself, former Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) boss Isaac Kgosi, DIS officer Wilhelmina "Butterfly" Maswabi, and South African businesswoman Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe.

SCANDAL

The perjury complaint followed revelations that the P100 billion case, widely publicized as one of Botswana's biggest financial scandals, was based on evidence that was later dismissed by the courts as "fabricated." The supposed funds were alleged to have been siphoned from the Bank of Botswana into offshore accounts linked to the accused, but subsequent investigations and judicial findings discredited the claims.

At the time, Khama and his legal team argued that Hubona had knowingly presented false information under oath in his affidavits, thereby committing perjury. The police later escalated the matter to their headquarters due to its sensitivity and the involvement of high-profile figures.

Efforts to obtain a response from the Botswana Police proved unsuccessful by the time of going to press due to tight publication deadlines while Hubona said he was still a state agent and constrained to comment on whether he has been interviewed by the police on the matter.

WILL THE DPP PROSECUTE?

The referral of the case to the DPP marks a new phase in the long-running controversy surrounding the discredited P100 billion allegations. It remains to be seen whether the DPP will move forward with prosecution against Hubona.

Khama said he welcomes the development and hopes justice will finally be served.

"This was a grave abuse of state institutions for political ends," he said. "It is important that those who lied under oath are held accountable."

> "Hubona said he was still a state agent and constrained to comment on whether he has been interviewed by the police on the matter"

POTENTIAL CASES OF INTEREST

Interestingly, Kgosi Ngakaagae, now serving as the Director of Public Prosecutions, once represented Hubona as his lawyer. He has, however, told this publication that any matter presenting a potential conflict of interest will be referred to the Attorney General or other relevant authorities. Likewise, the newly appointed Attorney General, Dick Bayford, previously acted as Brigadier Peter Magosi's lawyer in a case involving an investigation by the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) over the alleged disappearance of intelligence surveillance equipment.

Inside Ngakaagae's Conflict-Avoidance Plan

"Where there is substantial risk of conflict by reason of close proximity to any client such conflict is declared to the Attorney General and to the stakeholder (Investigating Law Enforcement Office/Agency) beforehand"

TEFO PHEAGE

The recently appointed Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Kgosietsile Ngakaagae has outlined his approach to managing potential conflicts of interest arising from his previous work in private legal practice.

Responding to *The Gazette*, Ngakaagae emphasised the importance of transparency and adherence to proper procedures in all cases. The Attorney General will become the repository in situations where there may be a substantial risk of conflict.

"Where there is substantial risk of conflict by reason of close proximity to any client, such conflict is declared to the Attorney General and to the stakeholder (Investigating Law Enforcement Office/Agency) beforehand," he said.



OWN DISCRETIONS

"The external agency (for example, the Botswana Police Service and DCEC) is then delegated powers to assess evidence and proceed to prosecution based on own discretions."

Regarding part-heard cases from his private practice, he stated: "For part-heard cases that I have previously been involved with, such proceed to finality without review by myself. Same are supervised purely by unit and regional office head without my direct or indirect involvement."

Requests for legal opinions or directions on matters affecting former clients will be handled thus:

ADOPTED WITHOUT AMENDMENT

"Where legal opinion or directions are sought from my office on a matter affecting a previous client, conflict is declared in writing, and such is referred to the Attorney General for his opinion, which is then adopted without amendment by my office as the official position," he explained.

Veteran lawyer Dick Bayford has been appointed the new Attorney General, succeeding Nomsa Moatswi, who has gone to the judiciary. Like Ngakaagae, Bayford brings extensive experience in both public and private practice to the role and will be expected to play a key part in shaping the country's legal and prosecutorial landscape.

First National Bank
Local & Foreign Currency Deposit and Lending Rates
November 2025

The following standard Savings, Lending and Investment rates will apply

Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Rate per Annum (NACM)	Annual Effective Rate	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Current	-	-	Nil
Call	0.00% - 0.46%	0.00% - 0.46%	1,000
Money Maximiser	0.00% - 3.35%	0.00% - 3.40%	100,000
Savings (Poloko)	0.00% - 3.40%	0.00% - 3.45%	100
FutureSave	0.00% - 0.40%	0.00% - 0.40%	100
Future Forward	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.53%	50
Savings Pocket	0.00% - 1.60%	0.00% - 1.61%	-
Flexi Fixed (3 Months)	2.95% - 3.20%	2.99% - 3.25%	100
Flexi Fixed (6 Months)	4.05% - 4.35%	4.13% - 4.44%	100
Flexi Fixed (12 Months)	4.85% - 5.35%	4.96% - 5.48%	100
7 Day Notice	0.15% - 1.25%	0.15% - 1.26%	100
32 Day Notice Plus	1.25% - 2.00%	1.26% - 2.02%	1,000
1 Month Fixed Deposit	2.50% - 2.55%	2.53% - 2.58%	1,000
3 Months Fixed Deposit	3.20%	3.25%	1,000
6 Months Fixed Deposit	4.75% - 5.00%	4.85% - 5.12%	1,000
12 Months Fixed Deposit	5.55% - 6.25%	5.69% - 6.43%	1,000
24 Months Fixed Deposit	5.65% - 6.60%	5.80% - 6.80%	1,000
Over 36 Months Fixed Deposit	5.85% - 6.80%	6.01% -7.02%	1,000
Prime Lending Rate	7.01%		
MoPR	3.50%		

***For term deposits the minimum amount is BWP 1 million to qualify for a special rate

- Interest is calculated on the daily account closing balance and credited in to the account monthly (For all interest bearing products excluding fixed deposits)
- Fixed deposits interest is calculated based on the principal amount, agreed term and applicable interest rate. The accrued interest is credited at Maturity or termination
- Interest rates are linked to the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR)

Lending Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rate Per Annum (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate
MoPR	1.90%	1.90%
Prime Lending Rate	7.01%	7.01%
Mortgage Facility	Prime +12% to 17%	Prime +14% to 20.08%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	Prime +8.% to 10.%	Prime +9.33% to 11.64%
Credit Card	22% to 28%	24.36% to 31.89%
Lease Loans (VAF)	Prime +7.25% to 12%	Prime +8.47% to 14%
Unsecured Personal Loans (Excluding Overdraft, Mortgage and Credit Card)	Prime +17% to 22%	Prime +20.08% to 26.44%
Other Term Loans		

*Scheme related lending is as per the scheme contract

Foreign Currency Deposit Rates

ZAR – South African Rand***	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (ZAR)
Current (Global Account)	2.00%	2.00%	1,000
1 Month Fixed Deposit	1.00%	1.00%	1,000
2 Months Fixed Deposit	1.05%	1.05%	1,000
3 Months Fixed Deposit	1.25%	1.26%	1,000
6 Months Fixed Deposit	1.50%	1.51%	1,000
12 Months Fixed Deposit	2.00%	2.00%	1,000
24 Months Fixed Deposit	2.50%	2.50%	1,000

AUD – Australian Dollar	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (AUD)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	These rates are quoted on request		100
2 Months Fixed Deposit			100
3 Months Fixed Deposit			100
6 Months Fixed Deposit			100
12 Months Fixed Deposit			100
24 Months Fixed Deposit			100

USD – US Dollar***	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (USD)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	0.40%	0.40%	100
2 Months Fixed Deposit	0.47%	0.47%	100
3 Months Fixed Deposit	0.50%	0.50%	100
6 Months Fixed Deposit	0.55%	0.55%	100
12 Months Fixed Deposit	0.80%	0.80%	100
24 Months Fixed Deposit	1.30%	1.30%	100

EUR – Euro	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (EUR)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	These rates are quoted on request		100
2 Months Fixed Deposit			100
3 Months Fixed Deposit			100
6 Months Fixed Deposit			100
12 Months Fixed Deposit			100
24 Months Fixed Deposit			100
Over 36 Months Fixed Deposit			100

GBP – British Pound Sterling***	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (GBP)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	0.07%	0.07%	100
2 Months Fixed Deposit	0.09%	0.09%	100
3 Months Fixed Deposit	0.10%	0.10%	100
6 Months Fixed Deposit	0.15%	0.15%	100
12 Months Fixed Deposit	0.20%	0.20%	100
24 Months Fixed Deposit	0.20%	0.20%	100

***Note:

- Special rates offered for amounts of ZAR 1 000 000 and more
- Special rates offered for amounts of USD 100 000 and more
- Special rates offered for amounts of GBP 100 000 and more

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Visit fnbbotswana.co.bw

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Jefferis To Govt: Focus on the Basics First

Independent economist Keith Jefferis has called on the government to avoid getting carried away by grandiose ideas and to instead focus on the basics

GAZETTE REPORTER

Prominent economist and former Bank of Botswana deputy governor Keith Jefferis has warned the government to "deal with the basics before getting carried away with grand ideas".

In a commentary contained in the Econsult's Economic Review 3rd Quarter July-September 2025, released recently, Jefferis says simple issues such as fixing streetlights, ensuring all traffic lights work and filling potholes promptly should take priority over ambitious projects.

"Deal with the basics before getting carried away with grand ideas. E.g. fix the streetlights, get all traffic lights working, and fill potholes promptly," he said.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

"Prohibit the allocation of public funds to projects unless those projects have been through a clear, rigorous and transparent process of project evaluation, to enable prioritisation, greater economic impact and return on investment, and reduce public spending."

In addition to the need for the government to focus on the basics Jefferies - who is a Managing Director of Econsult Botswana - had a lot to say about evaluation.

"Ensure that all such project evaluations are publicly available," he said. "Structure high-quality income-generating public investment projects to make them suitable for procurement as PPPs (public private partnerships) and attract available private sector funding."

GOVT ASSETS NEGLECTED

He noted that government assets have been neglected and poorly

maintained, leading to their degradation, failure to provide the intended outputs, and higher expenditure being required for eventual refurbishment or replacement.

"There needs to be much more attention paid to proper maintenance to preserve expensive assets," he said, before calling for removal of strictures in public procurement.

"Remove (the) requirement for public procurement to be restricted to 100% citizen-owned entities – any preference should be for local entities (not necessarily citizen-owned, so as to encourage FDI into entities that can supply government)."

RETURN TO PPADB

At any rate, he added, it should be easier for the government to procure externally so as to avoid problems such as those surrounding the procurement of medications.

"Ensure that there is sufficient competition from foreign entities to bring the costs of public procurement down and save money for government," he urged. This, "will also reduce opportunities for corruption".

Jefferis called for "much greater attention to value for money in public procurement" and a return to open bidding. "Revert to PPADB (now known as Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) as centralised procurement body for larger contracts," he said.



***'SYSTEM E DOWN'* COSTLY**

"Minimise direct appointments except for very small procurements" and terminate "the Development Manager model, which has been widely abused."

"In view of the impediments posed by persistent *'system e down'* problems and the adverse consequences on the private sector, individuals and the rollout of digital economy services, problems with the government data network need to be urgently addressed to ensure 99.5% uptime."

With regard to issues relating to land, Jefferis said there is need to develop a plan to drastically improve the capacity of land boards, which are not fit for purpose, to operate efficiently and transparently.

He called for elimination of corruption by applying efficiency and performance standards and digitisation of records and processes, as well as bringing understanding of business and the economy through appropriate appointment of land board members.

"Move towards market-determined land allocation to raise funds, and move away from arbitrary administrative allocation and waiting lists, which is inefficient and encourages corruption," he said.

BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE

TENDER NOTICE

Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited (BVI) is inviting companies to submit proposals for the below mentioned tenders:

1. **A TENDER FOR PROVISION OF INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES TO BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS**

NO	TENDER REF:	DESCRIPTION:	PPRA CODE:	PROCUREMENT METHOD	TENDER CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	BVI/ FIN/30/2025-26	A TENDER FOR PROVISION INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES TO BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS	PPRA CODE:127- Insurance & Pension SUBCODE; 06 Brokerage and risk related Services and, 07 Life Insurance Services	OPEN DOMESTIC BIDDING METHOD	18 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 10:00 HRS

Tender documents will be available with effect from 10 November 2025 and will be sent to the bidders via email upon submission of proof of payment of a non-refundable fee of BWP250 (Two hundred Pula and Fifty pula Only). Youth owned companies will pay BWP125 (One hundred and twenty-five pula only) non-refundable fee upon submission of Identity Document (Omang) and company documentation payable to the BVI Account details provided below. Proof of payment must be emailed to procurement@bvi.co.bw.

To access the full tender notice please visit www.bvi.co.bw/tenders

Bank: Access Bank **Account type**: Current **Branch code**: 552067 **Branch name**: Corporate
Account Number: 1002533640701

Close Or Privatise BMC, Air Botswana-Economists

Econsult Botswana economists have urged the government to enforce the requirement for State Owned Enterprises to operate efficiently and generate profits, failing which they should be closed down



BMC Public Relations

GAZETTE REPORTER

Economists at local think tank Econsult Botswana have called on the government to either privatise or shut down the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) and Air Botswana, warning against pouring further subsidies into underperforming state-owned entities (SOEs).

In their Economic Review – Third Quarter of 2025, the economists urged the government to take decisive action to stimulate private-sector-led growth, improve market efficiency, and reduce the costs of doing business. "Promptly privatise BMC operations and Air Botswana, failing which they should be closed; no further subsidies should be provided," the report states.

SOE PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE

Econsult Botswana recommended that all SOEs be required to operate efficiently and generate profits. "Failing which they should be closed down," the report said. The government was also advised to make any subsidies transparent, justifying them on socio-economic grounds.

The think tank proposed that the Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) be partially privatised following the Debswana model, with 50% government and 50% private ownership. It also called for aggressive merging of parastatals, including SPEDU/SEZA/BITC and LEA/CEDA, as already agreed by Cabinet.

Governance reforms were emphasised, with a call to end political appointments at boards and management levels, ensuring competence-based selections, and applying private-sector governance standards. The economists also recommended removing SOE market privileges to allow private-sector competition on a level playing field.

Econsult Botswana urged the government to remove restrictions on BTCL share ownership, including opening up to non-citizens, and to sell the 51% government stake still held.

ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

On corruption, the think tank called for stronger measures, particularly in public procurement. It urged full protection for whistle-blowers and the full capacitation of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) to operate independently and without political interference.

IMMIGRATION AND INVESTMENT REFORMS

The economists recommended liberalising work and residence permits for entrepreneurs, investors, skilled workers, digital nomads, and retirees. They proposed bypassing current boards with limited economic understanding and removing the requirement for permanent residents to obtain work permits if they wish to work.

Tourism and business visas should be processed online within 48 hours, with visa-on-arrival options for all nationalities. Commercial border posts should operate 24 hours, and all import requirements must be transparent, available online, and free from arbitrary changes.

Overall, Econsult Botswana's review paints a picture of urgent reforms needed across SOEs, governance, immigration, and market liberalisation to reduce inefficiencies, curb corruption, and boost private-sector growth.



Court to Rule on Extent of Magosi's Powers


Duma Gideon Boko

The High Court is set to examine whether Director General of DIS, Peter Magosi, can invoke national security to shield himself from accountability

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Lobatse High Court is set to deliver a ruling in a contentious case involving the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Service (DIS) and its Director General, Peter Fana Magosi, over allegations that national security claims are being used to avoid accountability in disciplinary proceedings.

The matter was brought by Pulane Kgoadi, who is challenging the handling of her disciplinary hearing in a case that names multiple respondents, including the Attorney General representing DIS, members of the Board of Inquiry, and investigators involved in the proceedings.

Kgoadi's legal team, Monthe Marumo & Co, filed supplementary heads of argument on 10 November 2025 addressing two main issues: paragraph 6 of Magosi's answering affidavit and the application to strike out portions of an affidavit filed by Pauline Ontumetse Tsiang, Secretary to the Board of Inquiry.

FORMAL CERTIFICATE

In his affidavit, Magosi argued that professional obligations and national security constraints prevented him from disclosing the identities of DIS members or discussing sensitive matters publicly.

He maintained that addressing the allegations could interfere with ongoing disciplinary processes and stressed that all actions were taken in good faith.

However, Kgoadi's lawyers contend that under the Intelligence and Security Services Act (ISSA), the Director General must provide a formal certificate indicating that certain information is sensitive or prejudicial to national security.

> "In his affidavit, Magosi argued that professional obligations and national security constraints prevented him from disclosing the identities of DIS members or discussing sensitive matters publicly"

PUBLIC INTEREST

They argue that in the absence of such certification, Magosi's reliance on national security is legally insufficient.

"The lawmaker did not envisage that national security provisions would be applied to avoid confronting allegations in court," they countered.

The case draws parallels with the recent ruling in Kuda Portia Malikongwa v Attorney General & Others where Justice Zein Kebonang found that corruption allegations could not be shielded under the ISSA and asserted that matters of public interest must be addressed in court regardless of national security claims.

Kgoadi's legal team also challenged portions of Tsiang's affidavit, arguing that as a secretary and non-member of the panel, she lacked authority to speak on procedural matters, making parts of her affidavit irrelevant.

SHIELD AGAINST ACCOUNTABILITY

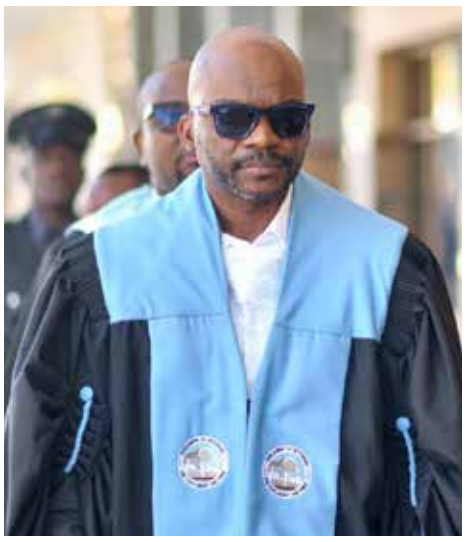
The case is now before Justice Ranier Busang, who will determine whether the Director General of DIS can continue to rely on national security as a shield against substantive responses and the extent to which national security provisions can limit accountability in disciplinary proceedings.

In his affidavit, Magosi argued that professional obligations and national security constraints prevented him from disclosing the identities of DIS members or discussing sensitive matters publicly.



Parliament to Be Declared Protest Zone

Renowned political scientist, Professor Zibani Maundeni has commended the government's decision to designate Parliament Square as a protest zone, viewing it as a significant step toward deepening Botswana's democratic culture



Speaker of the National Assembly, Dithapelo Keorapetse

Historically, Botswana has prided itself on political stability, but the restriction of protests near Parliament has limited direct engagement between citizens and their elected representatives, he said. According to him, "this reform balances security concerns with civil liberties, sending a strong message that dissent and peaceful protest are valued components of governance, rather than threats to it".

The move "reflects a maturing democracy that acknowledges citizens as partners in shaping public policy, promoting accountability, and enhancing transparency".

Maundeni urged for clear operational guidelines and protection for both protestors and lawmakers.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Speaker of the National Assembly, Dithapelo Keorapetse, has announced the government's intentions to declare Parliament Square a designated protest zone, allowing citizens to gather, demonstrate, and petition peacefully within the precincts of the nation's legislative heart.

The Speaker made the announcement in a statement marking his first year in office, noting that the move underscores government's commitment to freedom of expression and assembly cornerstones of Botswana's democratic tradition.

"It is our intention to declare Parliament Square a designated protest zone a safe and lawful space where citizens may assemble, protest, petition, and picket peacefully. This initiative reflects our commitment to open democracy and reinforces Parliament as the true people's House," Keorapetse said.

PROTEST RESTRICTIONS TO BE LIFTED

Previously, protestors were barred from gathering near Parliament and surrounding government buildings due to security regulations that designated the area as a high-security zone. Demonstrations were often redirected to other public spaces such as Gaborone Secondary School (GSS) grounds, limiting direct citizen engagement with lawmakers.

At one time, scores of youth protestors who sought to petition in the area were brutally whipped with sjamboks by police officers while MPs were barred from attending to them. Then-Speaker of the National Assembly Gladys Kokorwe rejected pleas to adjourn Parliament briefly to address the protestors.

Keorapetse said the decision to open Parliament Square to the public seeks to balance security with civil liberties, ensuring citizens can voice their concerns lawfully and peacefully while respecting the operations of Parliament.

TOWARDS A MORE TRANSPARENT DEMOCRACY

He added that the initiative forms part of broader reforms aimed at enhancing governance, peace, and security outcomes, positioning Botswana as a model of democratic excellence in Africa and beyond.

MAUDENI LAUDS KEORAPETSE

Renowned political scientist, Professor Zibani Maundeni in an interview, commended the government's "decision to designate Parliament Square as a protest zone, viewing it as a significant step toward deepening Botswana's democratic culture".

He said: "By formally allowing citizens to assemble, demonstrate, and petition within the legislative precincts, the move institutionalizes civic participation and reinforces the principle that Parliament is indeed a house of the people, not just lawmakers".

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Customer Notice
Monetary Policy Rate Change

Customers are advised that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of Botswana increased the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) by 1.60% basis points from 1.9% to 3.5% effective immediately.

Commercial banks have been directed not to adjust Prime Lending Rate (PLR) hence StanChart PLR will remain at 7.76%.

For more information, contact our 24-hour Client Care Centre on 3615800.

Terms and Conditions apply.

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Public Notice
Unclaimed Safe Custody Items

Notice is hereby given that Standard Chartered Bank Botswana (SCBB) is in possession of items deposited under its Safe Custody Services by certain clients.

All clients who have deposited items for safe custody with SCBB and have not yet collected them are hereby requested to present themselves at their nearest branch, together with valid identification and their safe custody receipt.

Clients are required to contact the Bank on or before **01 December 2025** from the date of publication of this notice to collect their items.

For further information, clients may contact: **361-5800**
contactus.bw@sc.com

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Savings start early! 14 - 16 Nov

Clock's ticking — grab your savings now!

UDC Govt Has Evaded 100 Days' Report - Saleshando

The Leader of the Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando, has accused the UDC government of breaking its pledge to account for its first 100 days in power and cited the missing pledges in the latest State of the Nation Address for evidence


Duma Gideon Boko

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Leader of the Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando, has criticised the government for reneging on its promise to give a full account of its first 100 days in office.

Saleshando – who is the leader of the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) - pointed omission of many pledges in President Duma Boko's State of the Nation Address (SONA) as a reflection of the government's lack of commitment to meeting its goals within the 100-day timeframe.

EVADING ACCOUNTABILITY

In a televised reaction to the SONA soon after it was delivered, Saleshando stated that while the BCP supports the government's green energy initiative, the proposed nationwide clean-up campaign, and improving school infrastructure, not acknowledging the guiding pledges of its first 100 days in office comes across as evading accountability.

"There are a lot of things the President presented in last year's SONA, (but) he omitted them this year," he said. "He had pledged that within the first 100 days, the government would release a report to gauge progress. The report has not yet been released.

> "Only now, after 365 days, is the President promising to ensure that the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crimes (DCEC) will be independent ...

YOUTH INCENTIVES

"Last year the President stated that infrastructure development would be fast-tracked. That has not happened after 365 days despite initially promising to do so in 100 days.

"The government also promised to introduce incentives for the youth. This has also not been fulfilled. In terms of corruption, they promised to improve the operations and independence of the anti-corruption entities.

"Only now, after 365 days, is the President promising to ensure that the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crimes (DCEC) will be independent.

"I AM NOT SURPRISED"

"Remember that the President stated that the rate and speed in which they operate in meeting their goals in the first 100 days will be a reflection of how his government will operate in a full five-year term?

"This demonstrates that the 100 days' pledges are unattainable even after 365 days. I am not surprised."

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www.naledimsc.com

NALEDI
MINING SERVICES COMPANY

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Suitably qualified, experienced, and fully registered **100% Citizen Owned** entities are hereby invited to express their interest to tender for any of the following services at Naledi Mining Services Company (Pty) Ltd in Jwaneng.

1. **Provision of Staff Transportation Services at Jwaneng Mine Cut 9**
2. **Provision of Meal Packs at Jwaneng Mine Cut 9**

Part 1: Indicating Interest to Participate in the Provision of Staff Transportation Services at Jwaneng Mine Cut 9

1. Register your interest by completing the form using the following link: https://forms.office.com/r/1qHsEgfa5Y before **1200hrs on Friday 14th November 2025**:

Part 2: Indicating Interest to Participate in the Provision of Meal Packs at Jwaneng Mine Cut 9

2. Register your interest by completing the form using the following link: https://forms.office.com/r/EA9TLYw8kZ before **1200hrs on Friday 14th November 2025**:

Submission

After expression of interest closing date, tenderers will be formally invited to submit their proposals via an email, detailing all the scope of work requirements. Invited bidders are required to submit their respective bids via email on or before **Monday 24th November 2025 at 1600hrs** and as per the instructions to be provided in the tender invitation.

Tenders received via telephone, telex, or facsimile will not be considered. Naledi Mining reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any portion of any tender.

For any enquiries, please email: Naleditenders@naledi.co.bw

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Boko Sets Audit Deadline for March 2026

A feasible timeline has been set for an audit that is set to run the rule over financial management of state resources and functional competence of government institutions over the last 10 years

BONGANI MALUNGA

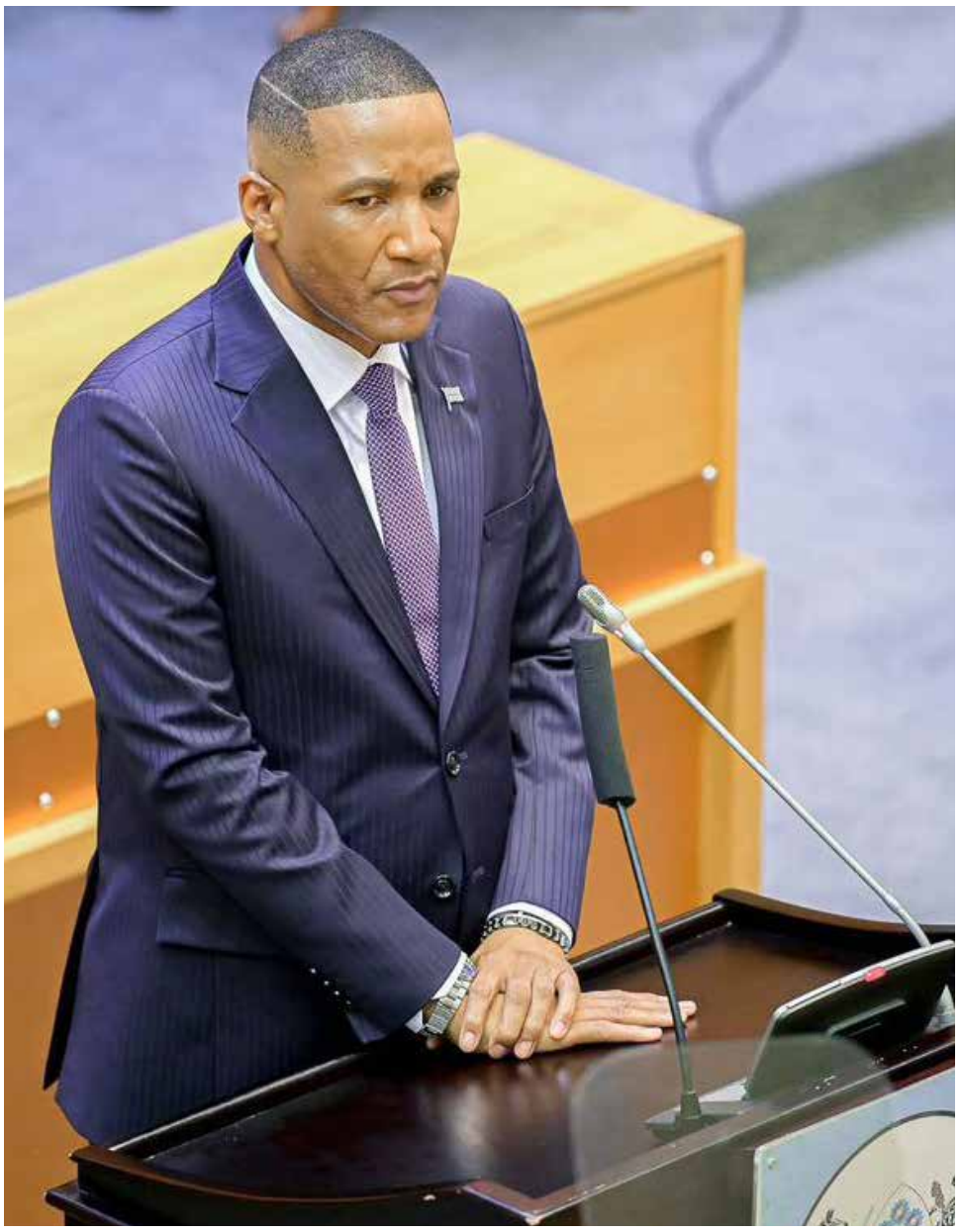
The forensic audit on government expenditure and functional competence of institutions is scheduled for completion in March next year, President Boko has said.

This came to light in the President's State of the Nation Address (SONA) in Parliament on Monday this week in which he, once again, emphasised that the findings of the audit will be acted upon swiftly and that culprits can expect stern action.

The forensic audit - which is being conducted by American firm Alvarez and Marsal - concluded its first phase in July.

PROLONGED SCRUTINY

The audit entails a full review of government expenditure across ministries, departments, state-owned enterprises and regulatory bodies with the aim of identifying misappropriations, procurement irregularities and wasteful spending.



The forensic audit on government expenditure and functional competence of institutions is scheduled for completion in March next year, President Boko has said.

> Boko stated that the audit is on course to thwart corruption that has become "a fly in the ointment" in Botswana's pursuit of socio-economic development and good governance

The government announced in August that the forensic auditors had zeroed in on 30 entities that will be subjected to prolonged scrutiny.

In his SONA on Monday, President Boko provided a feasible timeline for completion of the exercise after months of providing subtle updates.

FLY IN THE OINTMENT

He stated that the audit is on course to thwart corruption that has become "a fly in the ointment" in Botswana's pursuit of socio-economic development and good governance.

"The ongoing forensic audit … will undoubtedly culminate in strengthening governance," he said. "It will foster a culture of transparency and accountability across the economy."

"UDC Lied About Cattle Deal"



Photo Credit National Geographic

BONGANI MALUNGA

Former Minister of Agriculture, Fidelis Molao, has criticised the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government for what he described as dishonesty and cowardice over the planned purchase of Brazilian cattle.

Molao accused the UDC of misleading the public when it recently denied plans to import cattle from Brazil in a press release after public concerns, saying the government should have stood by the decision instead of retreating under pressure.

PART OF THUO LETLOTLO

"I support the decision because the initiative was originally part of the Thuo Letlotlo programme, which the UDC has unfortunately abandoned while still benefiting from its ideas," Molao said. "It was a well-thought-out plan crafted by experts, and it's disappointing to see the UDC discard it so easily, a move they are likely to regret in the near future."

Molao maintained that the procurement of cattle from Brazil was a well-founded move aimed at improving Botswana's national herd and enhancing genetic quality, ultimately boosting productivity in the livestock sector.

He said Thuo Letlotlo, a programme introduced during the previous administration, had been meticulously planned to revive the country's struggling beef industry.

"The decision to procure cattle is sound and will bear fruits," Molao emphasised. "Instead of lying about it, the UDC should have defended it boldly because it is based on science and long-term benefit, not politics."

1000 CATTLE

The Botswana government will import 1000 Girolando cattle from Brazil as part of efforts to boost national dairy production, President Duma Boko confirmed this week when delivering his SONA. The move, he said, aims to increase Botswana's dairy output capacity from the current 13 percent to 60 percent, reducing reliance on milk imports and strengthening local food security.

FINALIZING IMPORT PROTOCOLS

"We are now finalizing the necessary import protocols and negotiating technical partnership agreements with sellers to ensure successful commencement of the project. These partnerships will support us over the next two years by facilitating skills transfer to Batswana, who will be directly employed on the project," Boko outlined.

Elite breed

The Brazil-sourced Girolando cattle breed has revitalized dairy production in Nigeria, Rwanda and Kenya since last year. Cattle breeding experts attribute this success to the breed's exceptional milk yield and resilience to heat and tropical diseases. The Girolando is a hybrid of the Gyr, prized for its heat tolerance and disease resistance and the Holstein-Friesian, renowned for its high milk production and adaptability to tropical climates.

Tanzanian President Illegitimate- Khama

Former president Ian Khama has joined his country's human rights-centred government that is standing alongside Botswana's neighbours against Tanzania's "illegitimate president"

BONGANI MALUNGA


Seretse Khama Ian Khama

Former president Ian Khama has publicly declared that he does not recognise Tanzanian president Samia Suluhu Hassan and labelled her an "illegitimate president".

"The recent election in Tanzania and from what transpired, I do not recognise the person who was inaugurated as the President of Tanzania," said Khama. "She is an illegitimate president."

He was speaking at Kenya's Lukenya University that is hosting the African Renaissance Forum.

HIGHLY CONTESTED

Khama stated that Suluhu ascended to power through election manipulation, intimidation and violence during the highly contested October 29 elections.

In refusing to recognize Suluhu Hassan's leadership, the former president has joined Botswana's current human rights-centred government.

The Botswana Government is among several nations that declined to send congratulatory messages or attend Suluhu's inauguration, citing allegations of election irregularities and political intimidation.

ONLY TWO SADC STATES

Only two out of 16 SADC states attended the inauguration.

"It is totally unacceptable when an African leader, in order to stay in power, will resort to killing his or her own people," said Khama. "In order to stay in power, they will rig an election, as if they are God's gift to their country.

"When you have a country with millions of people, for any leader to think they are the only ones who can be president is pathetic."

Another former president of Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi, who headed the African Union (AU) Election Observation Mission in Tanzania, gave a damning condemnation of the electoral process in a post-election synopsis.

MASISI CONDEMNS PROCESS

He exposed how Tanzania's electoral commission and other electoral bodies were ill prepared to adequately address challenges that compromised the integrity of the elections.

> "It is totally unacceptable when an African leader, in order to stay in power, will resort to killing his or her own people"

"At this preliminary stage, the Mission concludes that the 2025 Tanzania General Elections did not comply with AU principles, normative frameworks and other international obligations and standards for democratic elections," said Masisi.

"The environment surrounding the elections before, during and immediately after was not conducive to peaceful conduct and acceptance of electoral outcomes."

Farmers Anxious as Government Stays Silent

Farmers countrywide are perplexed that President Duma Boko's SONA made no announcement of a replacement for Temo Letlotlo after the new government cancelled the comprehensive programme that covered them

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO


(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

Farmers across Botswana are facing uncertainty because the government remains silent on drought relief programmes and other initiatives to support the 2025/26 ploughing season.

Delivered on Monday this week, the State of the Nation Address (SONA) made no mention of any new agricultural support schemes, leaving many subsistence farmers perturbed.

The Chairman of Letlhabile Southern Young Farmers Association, Danny Bohule, told *The Botswana Gazette* that farmers had expected announcement of a replacement in the SONA after cancellation of Temo Letlotlo programme by the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government.

LONG OVERDUE

"There was no mention of any programme for ploughing," he said. "This delay will make it difficult for many farmers to plough, which will inevitably lead to low yields."

Bohule added that announcement of government support is long overdue. "Normally, farmers would have already received information about assistance by this time," he said.

"The ploughing season has started but the government remains silent. This will negatively affect farmers who rely on government assistance for ploughing."

60% CROP FAILURE

He said delays normally affect the yield because support launched late into the ploughing season cannot serve its purpose effectively.

Citing last season, despite adequate rainfall, delays in government support caused 60 percent of crops to fail and lowered the quality of grain produced, which is now struggling to find a market.

"This is a self-made drought that could have been avoided if the government was proactive," Bohule said.

Bohule emphasised the importance of the agricultural sector, noting that it remains a mainstay of the rural economy and a critical component of national food security.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT FARMING

"Agriculture has the greatest prospects for economic transformation, immediate and long-term, and for sustainable job creation," he said.

While the government has highlighted a shift towards climate-resilient farming, concerns remain.

Drought, pest infestations, floods, and bushfires continue to account for annual production losses of up to 5,000 tonnes, highlighting the need for timely support to farmers.

The Chairman of Botswana Tractors Association (BTA), Oreeditse Kelebakgosi, told *The Botswana Gazette* that they will meet with the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture about whether there will be a replacement programme for Temo Letlotlo.

100 PERCENT SUBSIDISATION

After assuming power, the UDC government cancelled Temo Letlotlo, which was a flagship agricultural initiative for the previous government that provided 100 percent subsidisation of farmers earning no wage income.

The programme was critical for supporting grain production and rural livelihoods, hence its cancellation has left many farmers without a safety net.

"Farmers need certainty and timely assistance to safeguard both their livelihoods and the nation's food security," said Bohule.

Boko Defends Citizenship By Investment Plan

President Duma Boko has acknowledged the concerns of Batswana about his government's Citizenship By Investment and assured Parliament that "vetting and due diligence will be an integral part of the application and approval processes"



Speaking in Parliament early this week, the President said the programme is designed to attract high-value investors and foster economic diversification, not to sell national identity.

BONGANI MALUNGA

President Duma Boko has dismissed assertions that the government's Citizenship by Investment initiative is driven purely by financial motives.

Speaking in Parliament early this week, the President said the programme is designed to attract high-value investors and foster economic diversification, not to sell national identity.

A SELECT GROUP

Launching the new Impact Citizenship Programme as he delivered his State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Monday, Boko defined the initiative as an ambitious plan aimed at attracting a select group of global investors, innovators and change-makers to participate in Botswana's national development.

He said the initiative is designed to leverage international expertise and investment to accelerate the country's transformation agenda while fostering sustainable growth.

The President disclosed that the government will soon present a Bill to amend the Citizenship Act, paving the way for the programme's implementation.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

It is expected that the amendments will establish a clear framework outlining eligibility criteria, investment thresholds and the estimated social impact of prospective participants.

"This programme is not about selling our citizenship," said Boko. "It is about inviting partnerships that make (an) impact, attracting those who share our values and are ready to contribute meaningfully to our national development goals."

VETTING AND DUE DILIGENCE

He emphasised that strict vetting procedures will be in place to safeguard Botswana's reputation and prevent any misuse of the system.

OPPORTUNITIES AND INNOVATION

"I acknowledge the concerns that have been raised regarding this initiative," he said. "As a responsible government, let me assure you that vetting and due diligence will be an integral part of the application and approval processes."

Boko stated that the initiative is borne out of the need to position Botswana as hub for opportunities and innovation. The initiative is regarded by the government as a way of diversifying the economy and attracting foreign investment.

> "It is about inviting partnerships that make (an) impact, attracting those who share our values and are ready to contribute meaningfully to our national development goals"

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Pic Credit; rapaport

Botswana, Angola Near De Beers Takeover Compromise

The two countries' officials met for mutually beneficial talks in Gaborone last week in the midst of rival bids to take majority control of De Beers

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana and Angola are expected to reach a deal that would entail joint majority control of mining conglomerate De Beers, an industry expert has said. The two countries' designated Minerals and Energy ministers met for mutually beneficial talks in Gaborone last week in the midst of rival bids to take majority control of De Beers.

> "Angola is going to be a force in the diamond world. Certainly, they don't want Botswana, who already has 15 percent equity in De Beers to end up with majority control when Angola is going to have more production, probably in the next few years"

Diamond industry expert and President of Lipari Mining, Ken Johnson told global news outlet CNN that it is in the interest of both countries to find a compromise. He noted that Angola is growing in leaps and bounds and could have greater control of the diamond industry.

Angola surpassed Botswana in diamond production value last year and Johnson predicts it may soon overtake Botswana in production volume as well. Johnson called for greater unity and strategic collaboration for Botswana to prevent being eclipsed by its regional neighbour in the global market.

A JOINT DEAL

"Certainly (Botswana and Angola are certainly expected to reach some kind of deal). Angola's production is growing, it has been growing every year. In another two years they will probably surpass Botswana in terms of volume, they have already surpassed them in terms of diamond value of their production," said Johnson.

"Angola is going to be a force in the diamond world. Certainly, they don't want Botswana, who already has 15 percent equity in De Beers to end up with majority control when Angola is going to have more production, probably in the next few years, than Botswana," Johnson explained.

Botswana's Minister of Minerals and Energy Bogolo Kenewendo and her Angolan counterpart Pedro Azevedo told the media last week that their meeting was centered on shared aspirations and alignment in the minerals and energy sector.

CONCRETE STEPS

President Duma Boko reaffirmed Botswana's pursuit of majority control of De Beers during his State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Monday. "Concrete steps are underway towards the acquisition of Anglo American's shares in De Beers. Government will leverage a majority stake to align the industry with Botswana's national development goal of economic diversification through beneficiation," Boko pronounced.

BCP Concedes Hurdles in Shadowing Govt

The BCP has admitted to challenges in making its shadowing role visible despite offering alternative policies

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) has admitted that its role in shadowing government ministries has not been as prominent as intended.

In an interview with The Botswana Gazette, BCP Parliamentary spokesperson Bashi Mabeo acknowledged that while the party has consistently provided alternative policies and solutions, their influence remains limited.

CONSTITUENCY FOCUS HAMPERS SHADOWING

Mabeo explained that one of the main challenges is that most Members of Parliament (MPs) dedicate significant time to their constituencies, which reduces their capacity to engage fully in shadowing government ministries.

"Despite criticism from some quarters that we are only good at opposing the government, we have been offering alternatives. However, the focus of our MPs on constituency work makes it difficult for shadowing to have a stronger impact," he said adding that they accept the criticism and advice and intend to make the role more efficient going forward.

PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING LOW

Local political analyst Dr. Adam Mfundisi noted that the concept of a shadow cabinet is relatively new in Botswana and not widely understood by the public. "Shadowing is not even formally recognized in parliamentary policy, so incumbents are not given active roles or clear responsibilities in this regard. Standing orders must be amended to formally accommodate a shadow cabinet if we are to objectively assess their performance," he said.

OPPOSITION'S RECORD COMMENDED

Dr. Mfundisi added that the BCP's history in Parliament remains commendable despite perceptions that the party is neglecting its legislative duties. "The BCP has been on top of its game, ensuring that the UDC government is held accountable to the people. They have consistently provided alternatives to the policies of the UDC," he said.

He further observed that since 1966, opposition parties in Botswana have continuously proposed alternative policies to the ruling party often without much acknowledgment. "Even today, the UDC government tends to downplay proposals from the opposition bloc. Sometimes, the ruling party does not appreciate opposition parties gaining the limelight, as it could shift political support," Mfundisi added.

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Monetary Policy Rate Update

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BOCRA

PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NO: BOCRA/PT/004/2025.26

SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF A SERVICE AVAILABILITY RATE (SAR) MONITORING SYSTEM FOR BROADCASTING RADIO

The Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA or the Authority) hereby invites experienced and reputable Local and International companies to tender for the supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of a broadcasting monitoring system for radio.

The contractor will be expected to supply, deliver, install, test and commission a monitoring system for broadcasting radio in Botswana. The provided system should allow for real-time remote monitoring of the broadcasting signal from any FM site within Botswana. The system should provide audio to the existing control monitoring system for analysis and storage. Furthermore, the system should be mobile for ease of transfer to monitor other FM sites. The supplier will also provide training to selected BOCRA staff and/or other identified people on the use of the system. The contractor will also be expected to provide support and maintenance for a period of three (3) years with an option for renewal.

Bidders who are domiciled in Botswana must, in order to be considered for the tender, be registered with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) in the following categories.

Code 116:	**Broadcasting and Audio-Visual Services**
Subcode 01:	**Installation and maintenance of broadcasting & audio-visual equipment**
OR	
Code 118:	**Telecommunications Services**
Subcode 05:	**Installation and maintenance of Telecommunications equipment and Systems**

International companies are exempted from registration with the PPRA. However, a Tax Exemption Certificate issued by Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) is required.

Preferences will be offered to wholly owned citizen, majority citizen-owned, and minority citizen-owned service providers.

For foreign companies, preference shall be given to companies that undertake to enter business with or sub-contract portions of the work to citizen companies (Joint Venture, Consortium, Associations or any type of Partnerships). Foreign-owned companies shall be required to subcontract up to 30% of the contract to citizen-owned companies.

Foreign Bidders domiciled outside Botswana must, to be considered for the tender, submit company registration documents (in English or accompanied by an English translation) issued by the relevant authorities.

Youth-owned companies in Botswana shall purchase the ITT at **50%** of the purchase price as per **Presidential Directive CAB 14 (B)/2015**.

The Invitation to Tender (ITT) document may be purchased by interested companies at a non-refundable fee of **P285.00 (Two Hundred and Eighty-Five Pula)** VAT Inclusive. Payment must be made in the form of bank transfer or deposit at the following bank details:

Bank Name:	**First National Bank Botswana Ltd**
Branch Name:	**Mall**
Branch Code:	**28-28-67**
Account Name:	**Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority**
Bank Account No:	**62011115088**
Swift Code:	**FIRNBWGX**
Reference:	**BTA0001**

Tender documents shall be issued upon provision of **Proof of Payment (POP)** at tenders@bocra.org.bw. All funds transfer bank charges shall be borne by the bidder.

Bids and all supporting documents should be submitted not later than **10:00 Hours** on **03 December 2025** or such other later date as the Authority may advise in writing, at the Tender Box located at the following physical address:

Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority
Plot 50671
Independence Avenue
Gaborone

Bids will be opened at **10:05 Hours** on **03 December 2025** at the BOCRA offices, bidders and the public are invited. Tender opening results will be published on BOCRA Website.

The Public Procurement Act and Regulations shall apply to this tender.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Authority is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer.

For any further information regarding the tender, please contact Procurement Office at: **tenders@bocra.org.bw.**

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BPOPF Acquires Palapye's Diphalane Mall

Competition Authority approves merger, says no impact on competition



Photo Credit:Urban Soul

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) has expanded its investment portfolio through the acquisition of Diphalane Mall, a modern retail hub located in Palapye.

According to a merger decision published by the Competition and Consumer Authority (CCA), the purchase and sale of Lot 20737—Diphalane Mall and its underlying leases—from Benchicks Investments (Pty) Ltd to Khumo Property Asset Management (Pty) Ltd on behalf of BPOPF has been unconditionally approved.

"The proposed transaction is not likely to result in a substantial lessening of competition, nor endanger the continuity of service in the market under consideration," the Authority stated.

PROPERTY DETAILS

Khumo Property, the acquiring enterprise, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Eris Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd and BIFM Holdings Company Ltd. It serves as BPOPF's property asset manager. Benchicks Investments, the seller, is controlled by Reagent Holdings Properties Ltd, Benchicks Properties Ltd, and Mariner Properties Ltd, the latter registered in the British Virgin Islands.

> "The transaction is not likely to result in a substantial lessening of competition."

Diphalane Mall, which occupies 5.0925 hectares under a 2016 deed of lease, comprises commercial, retail, and parking space leased to various businesses. Benchicks Investments' only asset in Botswana is the property being sold.

MARKET ASSESSMENT

The CCA noted that while both the acquiring and target entities operate in the real estate sector, their activities do not overlap geographically. Khumo Property has no operations in Palapye, where the mall is located.

The Authority added that Palapye already hosts five shopping malls under separate ownership, contributing to a competitive retail property market.

NO PUBLIC INTEREST CONCERNS

The CCA concluded that the transaction would not harm public interest, employment, or market competitiveness. "The proposed merger will not have any significant negative effects on public interest matters in Botswana," the decision read.

The acquisition, the Authority added, represents an investment by BPOPF whose ultimate beneficiaries are Batswana in the country's growing property market.

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Gov't Bets On Patient Capital to Drive Transformation

Ntsima says government will establish patient capital funding, incubation hubs, and SEZ infrastructure to accelerate industrialisation and economic transformation



Government is establishing patient capital funding and concessional funding mechanisms for economic transformation projects that will provide long-term, affordable capital for ventures that may not fit conventional financing criteria but have significant social and economic impact. *Photo: SPEDU*

GAZETTE REPORTER

Government is establishing patient capital funding and concessional funding mechanisms for economic transformation projects that will provide long-term, affordable capital for ventures that may not fit conventional financing criteria but have significant social and economic impact.

INCUBATION HUBS PLANNED

During a recent parliamentary session, Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship Tiroeaone Ntsima said the ministry would also set up incubation hubs for indigenous enterprises, agro-industrial ventures, and high-tech sectors such as biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and precision engineering. He said the initiative aims to create ecosystems where innovation can thrive.

Ntsima cited the provision of seed funding for prioritised value chains, including citrus and vegetables in Selebi Phikwe.

ECONOMIC 911 CALL CENTRE

He said plans were underway for the establishment of the Economic 911 Call Centre, to be operated through the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC), to provide rapid response support to businesses facing challenges.

Ntsima added that implementation of the Nation Brand Strategy would enhance Botswana's reputation as a premier investment destination and reaffirmed the country's commitment to the AfCFTA, including new market entry studies.

P4 BILLION REQUEST

The minister requested parliamentary approval for over P4 billion under the National Development Plan 12, with P467.1 million allocated for business reforms and P2.66 billion for infrastructure development at Special Economic Zones. He said the government is developing common facilities at Pandamatenga SEZ and constructing four factory shells at the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport SEZ.

He added that the multi-commodities exchange at the airport SEZ and the establishment of a leather industry park demonstrate government's determination to add value to livestock resources.



Botswana's Diamond Output Declines Sharply

The Bank of Botswana reports a sharp drop in diamond production amid soft global demand, alongside a narrowing national budget deficit due to government spending cuts

GAZETTE REPORTER



Photo Credit: Lucara Diamond Botswana

Botswana's diamond production fell sharply in the second quarter of 2025, according to the Bank of Botswana's Monetary Policy Report (October 2025). Debswana Diamond Company produced 2.7 million carats during the period, down 43.7 percent from 4.7 million carats in the same quarter of 2024.

DEBSWANA, DE BEERS REVISE PRODUCTION

The report states, "This is in line with the downward revision of production guidance earlier in the year, mainly attributable to subdued global demand for diamonds." Debswana's 2025 production target was revised down to 15 million carats from 18 million, while De Beers Group adjusted its guidance to 20–23 million carats from 30–33 million carats.

At Lucara Diamond Corporation's Karowe Mine, production fell 10.7 percent to 82,555 carats from 92,419 carats a year earlier, largely due to lower extraction of high-quality ore.

BUDGET DEFICIT NARROWS

The report shows Botswana's preliminary budget outturn for 2024/25 recorded a deficit of P11.8 billion (4.4 percent of GDP), down from the originally projected P24.7 billion (9 percent of GDP). "The lower budget deficit reflects expenditure cuts (both recurrent and development), consistent with fiscal consolidation in response to reduced government revenue," the report notes.

Total expenditure and net lending decreased by 12.6 percent to P81.7 billion, while total revenue and grants rose 1.7 percent to P69.9 billion. For the first quarter of 2025/26, revenue amounted to P17.1 billion, slightly lower than P17.2 billion in the same period in 2024/25, while total expenditure and net lending stood at P20.2 billion, down from P20.1 billion.

JULY 2025 SURPLUS

In July, total revenue reached P10.4 billion, with SACU receipts accounting for P6.2 billion (59 percent). Total expenditure and net lending were P6.9 billion, producing an overall surplus of P3.5 billion.

The report attributes the decline in diamond production to global economic slowdown and geopolitical tensions, noting that tighter fiscal spending has moderated the impact on the government budget.

Is Botswana's Inflation Rising Again?

A new report from the Bank of Botswana shows mixed inflation trends across key sectors, with fuel and food prices driving fluctuations in the third quarter of 2025



GAZETTE REPORTER

Inflation for domestic tradeables increased from an average of 4 percent in the third quarter of 2024 to 4.7 percent in the same period of 2025, mainly due to a broad-based rise in food prices and higher cement costs, according to the Monetary Policy Report (October 2025) released by the Bank of Botswana.

FUEL PRICES EASE IMPORTED INFLATION

The report shows that imported tradeables inflation fell from an average of 3.3 percent to 2.6 percent, largely due to adjustments in domestic fuel prices and related base effects. Consequently, all tradeables inflation eased from 3.5 percent to 3.1 percent, while inflation for non-tradeables also decreased from 2.5 percent to 0.4 percent over the same period.

In September 2025, domestic tradeables inflation rose to 5.4 percent, while non-tradeables, imported tradeables, and all tradeables inflation stood at 0.6 percent, 5.9 percent, and 5.8 percent, respectively.

HEADLINE INFLATION DECLINES, THEN REBOUNDS

"Headline inflation decreased in the third quarter of 2025, averaging 2.1 percent compared to 3.1 percent in the same quarter of 2024," the report stated. "The decrease was mainly due to lower water and electricity tariffs for low-consumption households and slower price growth in categories such as Clothing and Footwear, and Transport."

The Bank noted that the decline was further supported by subdued domestic demand amid an ongoing recession.

FUEL PRICE ADJUSTMENT DRIVES REBOUND

Despite the moderation, headline inflation rose sharply from 1.4 percent in August to 3.7 percent in September 2025, returning to the Bank's medium-term objective range of 3–6 percent. The figure was also higher than the 1.5 percent recorded in September 2024.

"The increase in inflation was mainly due to the upward adjustment in domestic fuel prices implemented on 15 September 2025, which added 0.93 percentage points to inflation," the Bank said. The rebound was also linked to the "base effect" from the September 2024 fuel price cut, which had lowered inflation by 0.8 percentage points, as well as rising prices in Transport and Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco categories.

CEDA Backs Citizen-Led Industry Revival

The government and CEDA are banking on citizen entrepreneurs to lead a manufacturing revival in the SPEDU region, but some observers question whether structural challenges and past implementation gaps could slow progress

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government's push to revitalise Botswana's manufacturing base is gaining traction as the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) pledges new measures to stimulate citizen-led industrial growth in the SPEDU region.

CEDA Promises "Bold, Transformational" Action

Speaking at the Selebi Phikwe Client Engagement Forum, CEDA Caretaker CEO Khalala Mokefane said the agency was entering "a new phase of partnership" with local enterprises. "We are not merely adapting to change; we are driving it," he said.

CEDA's initiatives include loan restructuring, an additional P25 million in capital, and expanded advisory and market linkage services. Mokefane noted that collaboration with entities such as LEA, BITC, BDC, and commercial banks would support a coordinated recovery plan.

MANUFACTURING AT THE CORE OF BETP

Minister of State President Moeti Mohwasa described manufacturing as "key to diversifying the economy away from minerals and revitalising Selebi Phikwe." He said the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) had designated the SPEDU region as a priority zone for sectors including manufacturing, tourism, and energy.

Analysts have welcomed the renewed focus but warn that implementation will be critical, citing past difficulties in translating policy into tangible industrial outcomes. "The difficulties you face today are not a reflection of your potential," Mokefane said, urging entrepreneurs to stay resilient.

If successful, observers say, CEDA's interventions could position citizen entrepreneurship at the centre of Botswana's industrial renewal—but execution, coordination, and market competitiveness remain key tests.



CEDA Caretaker CEO Khalala Mokefane

PRESS RELEASE

Lebudi Wins Orange EA Sports Title

Botswana Accounting College student Sean Lebudi will represent Botswana at the Grand Final in Morocco after clinching victory at the Orange EA Sports FC 26 Tournament.



Eighteen-year-old Sean Lebudi emerged victorious at the Orange EA Sports FC 26 Tournament this past weekend, securing his place to represent Botswana at the Grand Final in Casablanca, Morocco, in December.

BAC DOMINATES THE TOURNAMENT

The Botswana Accounting College (BAC) player displayed composure and tactical precision throughout the competition, defeating Leo Modise 5–4 in a tightly contested final. His win also contributed to BAC's team success, as the college triumphed over the University of Botswana 2–1 to claim the team title.

Lebudi received a P3,000 HOCO voucher, a TCL 50 5G smartphone, and a Wi-Fi device. BAC took home six Orange 5G Konnecta devices, three months of free subscriptions, and P10,000 in Orange Money credit.

RISING E-GAMING SCENE IN BOTSWANA

"I was one of the youngest players in this tournament, and it was really competitive," said Lebudi. "I practically won all my matches leading up to the grand finale. I can't wait to represent Botswana in Morocco."

BAC opened the tournament with a 13–2 win over Boitekanelo College, then beat BIUST 9–1 before edging the University of Botswana 2–1 in the final. Other participating universities included Botho University, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Ba Isago University, and IDM highlighting the growth of e-gaming in Botswana.

ORANGE'S SUPPORT FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Orange Botswana Communications and PR Manager Tebogo Nadisah commended Lebudi's performance, saying the tournament showcased the country's emerging digital sports talent. "This tournament has shown that Botswana has incredible gaming potential. We are proud to provide platforms that empower young people to showcase their skills and compete internationally," she said.

She added that Orange Botswana's continued investment in e-gaming is part of its broader commitment to youth and sports development. "E-gaming is one of the fastest-growing sports globally, and Botswana is now part of that movement," she said.

Eighteen-year-old Sean Lebudi emerged victorious at the Orange EA Sports FC 26 Tournament this past weekend, securing his place to represent Botswana at the Grand Final in Casablanca, Morocco, in December.

Stanbic Bank Wins Two Visa Awards

Stanbic Bank Botswana has earned two top honours at the 2025 Visa Botswana Bank Awards, recognising its innovation in digital payments and brand engagement.

Stanbic Bank Botswana has been recognised for its continued leadership in digital transformation, winning two major awards at the 2025 Visa Botswana Bank Awards held on 29 October.

Recognised for Innovation
For the second year running, the bank received the *Visa Payments Excellence Award*, which honours institutions that deliver efficient, secure, and innovative payment solutions. The recognition highlights Stanbic Bank's ongoing investment in technology and its role in developing inclusive digital systems that benefit both individuals and businesses across the country.

Brand Awareness Success
The bank also received the *Visa Brand Awareness Award* for the third consecutive year. The accolade celebrates its collaboration with Visa in advancing brand visibility and building public trust in digital payments. Through shared marketing initiatives, Stanbic Bank has effectively connected its brand purpose with customer needs — emphasising access, empowerment, and progress.

Stanbic Bank Botswana Head of Personal and Private Banking, Mosetsana Kapeko, said the recognition reflects the strength of the partnership with Visa and the shared commitment to advancing financial inclusion through innovation.



Stanbic Bank Botswana Head of Personal and Private Banking, Mosetsana Kapeko

> "These awards reaffirm our dedication to creating seamless, secure, and customer-focused payment experiences that make a real difference in the lives of our clients and communities."

Driving Botswana's Digital Future
The dual awards affirm the bank's role in advancing Botswana's digital payments infrastructure and supporting the national economic transformation agenda. Through continued innovation and collaboration, Stanbic Bank aims to enhance accessibility and client experience for a more connected financial future.

Orange Money, Access Bank Introduce Cardless ATMs

Orange Money Botswana and Access Bank Botswana have launched a cardless ATM service that enables customers to deposit and withdraw cash without a bank card, bridging mobile money and traditional banking.

Orange Money Botswana and Access Bank Botswana have introduced a Cardless ATM deposit and withdrawal service, allowing customers to perform cash-in and cash-out transactions directly from Access Bank's 59 ATMs nationwide without an Orange Money Visa card. The feature marks a first in Botswana, merging digital and traditional banking for greater convenience and inclusion.

BRIDGING BANKING AND MOBILE MONEY

Orange Money Botswana CEO Seabelo Pilane said the innovation demonstrates the strength of the partnership with Access Bank and aligns with their shared goal of advancing financial inclusion.

"This latest innovation bridges the gap between mobile money and formal banking, giving our customers greater control and flexibility in how they access and manage their funds," Pilane said.

Through the service, customers can deposit up to P8,000 and withdraw up to P2,000 from Access Bank ATMs. Each transaction is protected by a two-step verification process using an Orange Money PIN and a One-Time Password (OTP), ensuring safety and transparency.



Orange Money Botswana CEO Seabelo Pilane said the innovation demonstrates the strength of the partnership with Access Bank and aligns with their shared goal of advancing financial inclusion.

DRIVING DIGITAL INCLUSION

Access Bank Botswana Managing Director Shep Aisam said the initiative supports the nation's move toward a **cash-lite economy** while reinforcing trust in digital payments.

"The introduction of Cardless ATM services is not just about convenience; it's about creating an ecosystem that supports Botswana's transition toward a digitally connected economy," Aisam explained.

To use the service, customers dial *145# to generate an OTP before proceeding to an Access Bank ATM, select 'Orange Money' under Cardless Services, and follow on-screen instructions. Confirmation messages are sent via SMS for added security.

> "This latest innovation bridges the gap between mobile money and formal banking, giving our customers greater control and flexibility in how they access and manage their funds."

EXPANDING ACCESS AND EMPOWERMENT

Aisam added that Access Bank's continued investment in digital solutions aligns with Botswana's national goals for **financial inclusion and empowerment**. The collaboration builds on existing services such as Bank2Wallet, Wallet2Bank, and N'stakolle loans, all of which provide Orange Money customers with 24/7 access to their funds.

The new service underscores both institutions' leadership in mobile money innovation and their commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind in Botswana's evolving financial landscape.



SONA 2025: Ambition Without Arithmetic

An evidence-based review of Botswana's high-income, jobs, and diversification agenda

The 2025 State of the Nation Address (SONA), the first by the UDC government, presents a grand narrative of renewal — a bold manifesto for hope and transformation. But beneath its inspiring tone lies a gap between ambition and arithmetic. The speech is long on aspiration and light on evidence, calling for a high-income, job-rich economy without showing the numbers to get there.

P200,000 (≈ USD 14,500)
target per-capita income by 2036

A VISION WITHOUT ARITHMETIC

The SONA promises nothing less than a high-income, digitally enabled, export-driven Botswana by 2036; half a million jobs; and an economy no longer dependent on diamonds. It is an exhilarating vision. But through an economist's lens, the arithmetic underpinning these ambitions is missing. The government's task is not to curb ambition but to ground it in measurable, sequenced, and affordable plans.

5.5–7.5%
annual per-capita income growth needed to hit the goal

THE HIGH-INCOME HORIZON

The SONA's central promise — a per capita income of P200,000 (≈ USD 14,500) by 2036 — would push Botswana across the World Bank's high-income threshold of USD 13,935. To achieve that, nominal per-capita income must rise by 5.5–7.5 percent per year for more than a decade, implying real GDP growth of about 5 percent annually given population growth of 1.6 percent. Apart from being in a protracted recession, Botswana has not sustained that rate since 2007. The address acknowledges structural vulnerabilities — dependence on diamonds, fiscal strain, and weak productivity — but offers no quantitative growth path or sectoral projections. It cites progress on the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), NDP 12, and the Sovereign Wealth Fund but omits targets for capital formation, productivity gains, or export value addition.

FISCAL STRAIN AND GENEROSITY

Fiscal choices compound the gap between aspiration and feasibility. Botswana's credit rating is moving in the wrong direction, as are foreign direct investments and the value of the currency. Despite this, government has announced generous welfare expansions — a 68 percent increase in pensions, a five-fold rise in student allowances, and debt and tariff relief measures. These enhance household welfare but swell recurrent spending at a time when "our fiscus is under tremendous strain." Without parallel growth in private investment and productivity, consumption will rise faster than output.

> "Economic development is not poetry; it is policy, and policy requires arithmetic"

UNREALISTIC GROWTH ENGINES

The SONA promises new engines — uranium, manganese, iron ore, renewable power, and the Mercantile Exchange — yet their combined output remains dwarfed by diamonds, which account for roughly one-third of GDP and 80 percent of exports. High-income status requires a productivity revolution, not a mining reshuffle. Botswana needs more capital per worker, faster technology adoption, and structural reforms that increase total factor productivity. Without that, the 2036 milestone remains rhetorical.

512,000
jobs promised through nine sectoral programmes

JOBS WITHOUT NUMBERS

Employment creation is rightly identified as the national emergency. With 38 percent youth unemployment, the SONA's pledge to create 512,000 jobs through nine sectoral programmes is the speech's moral centrepiece. Yet again, the quantitative backbone is absent — no timeline, sectoral distribution, or fiscal costing accompanies the figure. The proposed job sources — agriculture, tourism, digital services, energy, construction, and mining beneficiation — are uneven in labour absorption. Capital-intensive sectors such as energy and mining will raise output but generate few direct jobs. By contrast, agriculture and small-scale services offer employment potential but face systemic bottlenecks: insecure land tenure, water scarcity, limited credit, and poor market access.

THE PRODUCTIVITY CHALLENGE

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The SONA's pledge to raise agriculture's share of GDP from 2 to 6 percent is ambitious. To achieve it would require tripling productivity and doubling investment in irrigation, mechanisation, and agro-processing. Youth-targeted initiatives — the Presidential Youth Empowerment Campaign, Digital Content Hub, and Textile Acceleration Programme — embody the right instincts but remain small in scale. Even the much-touted CCI Global BPO project, with 3,000 new jobs, barely dents a labour force exceeding one million. The public sector continues to carry disproportionate responsibility for employment through Ipelegeng, expanded social programmes, and subsidised training schemes. These create temporary relief but not sustainable work. The challenge is to shift from welfare employment to productive employment — jobs that generate value rather than absorb budget.

> "The SONA outlines compassion more than competitiveness a social compact, not an economic plan."

DIVERSIFICATION OR RECONFIGURATION?

Diversification has been Botswana's stated goal for forty years, and SONA 2025 restates it with flourish. Yet most of the substance still revolves around the traditional triad of mining, tourism, and agriculture. The speech celebrates the new De Beers–ODC agreement, contemplates acquiring Anglo American's stake in De Beers, and extends Debswana's licences to 2054 — reaffirming diamonds as the gravitational centre of national strategy. The diversification narrative broadens to "new minerals" — uranium, manganese, and iron ore — but this is horizontal diversification within mining, not vertical diversification into manufacturing or knowledge sectors. Similarly, the 1,500 MW energy expansion (900 MW solar, 600 MW thermal) strengthens security of supply but does not itself diversify the economy; it merely powers it.



CATTLE, CULTURE, AND CONSTRAINTS

The cultural attraction to cattle still pervades more than its economic and environmental significance. Increasing the herd size to five million requires decent land, new abattoirs, and veterinary support that barely exists. Trebling the national herd is not diversification but more of the same. The truly novel frontiers — digital services, green finance, and creative industries — are treated almost as footnotes. Tourism, sports, and arts are invoked as new pillars, yet outside the P200 million creative-fund initiative, no structural investment framework is announced. Manufacturing — the missing link between agriculture and trade — is barely mentioned.

68%
pension increase announced in SONA 2025

BETWEEN POETRY AND POLICY

There is no denying that SONA 2025 restores moral clarity and optimism. It speaks of dignity, equity, and opportunity, reaffirming social cohesion after years of stagnation. Its tone is confident and inclusive, and for that it deserves credit. But economic development is not poetry;

1,500 MW
total new power capacity (900 MW solar, 600 MW thermal)

it is policy, and policy requires arithmetic. To make the leap from aspiration to achievement, Botswana needs a new generation of metrics: sectoral growth targets, investment ratios, fiscal ceilings, employment multipliers, and productivity indicators. Implementation will determine everything.

SURREALITY ON STEROIDS

In the final analysis, SONA 2025 is an eloquent statement of ambition without arithmetic. It calls for transformation but remains anchored in familiar sectors. It promises jobs but leaves the employment engine undefined. It seeks high-income status but sidesteps the quantitative scaffolding needed to reach it. At moments,

> "Botswana's challenge is to cost its dreams, schedule its goals, and deliver them."

it reads like surreality on steroids — a nation dreaming in headlines while the spreadsheet stays blank. Botswana's challenge is no longer to imagine the future; it is to cost it, schedule it, and deliver it. The next chapter must turn every promise into a number, every ambition into a programme, and every speech into measurable progress.





Indian President Droupadi Murmu greeting the Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe on arrival in Botswana for a three days State visit. Botswana President Advocate Duma Boko welcomed Murmu at the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport. (Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)



Another Zotus? The Mirage Portfolio

Botswana's growing appetite for high-profile foreign partnerships may be leaving it vulnerable to speculative "global investors" with little more than websites and promises. A pattern of haste, hollow deals, and neglected due diligence is emerging one that could cost the nation both credibility and progress.

Déjà Vu from the Digital Boardroom

Botswana has a curious knack for attracting "global investors" who turn out, on closer inspection, to be little more than global websites. The latest to court the national imagination is a Singapore-registered outfit called Thirty Five Global Links Group (TFGL) — part of a grand-sounding consortium promising to transform the country's energy security and infrastructure base.

> This is not foreign direct investment; it is foreign direct imagination.

The problem? The company was only incorporated in April 2025. Its address — Orchard Road, Singapore — is shared with dozens of shell entities. Its website features more adjectives than audited projects. And yet, just months later, it is reportedly signing "strategic partnerships" with the Government of Botswana, rubbing shoulders with names like Mercuria and Ulsan Holdings, as if pedigree were contagious. It feels like déjà vu — or perhaps déjà-Zotus.

ECHOES OF ZOTUS GROUP

The pattern repeats. Remember Zotus Group, the UK-based urban development company that proposed to build a futuristic "Kalahari City" — a bold dream that promised to change Botswana's development map forever? That saga, too, was heavy on renderings and rhetoric, and light on verified investment capital.

There were AI renderings, models, press statements, and even references to billion-dollar funding lines. But when analysts tried to trace the financials, they found no substantive filings, no audited accounts, and no evidence of tangible work on the ground anywhere in the world.

A FAMILIAR FORMULA

Now, TFGL has arrived with the same formula: a new name, a global flair, a local handshake. It ticks all the boxes — "strategic partnership," "foreign direct investment," "energy resilience," and the ever-reliable "memorandum of understanding." One might forgive the public for asking: is this another case of Botswana outsourcing its due diligence to hope?

INSTITUTIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AND THE QUEST FOR QUICK WINS

How does this keep happening? The answer lies less in the companies themselves than in Botswana's own institutional psychology. Once known for integrity and caution, the bureaucracy has developed a peculiar impatience — a hunger for quick wins, foreign logos, and instant transformation.

Each new administration inherits the same wish list: diversify, industrialise, electrify. But rather than build credible pipelines of vetted investors, ministries often leap at whoever offers the boldest PowerPoint deck. Procurement regulations, supposedly designed to protect the taxpayer, are treated as optional.

DIFFERENT RULES, SAME FLAG

Presidential directives, "strategic exemptions," and "confidential partnerships" have become the new normal. The irony is that local businesses — the ones who actually meet procurement standards — are routinely disqualified for minor technicalities, while foreign start-ups with no track record are ushered straight into the State House boardroom.

If a Motswana company incorporated in April tried to bid for a P500 million contract, it would not even get past the PPAR portal. Yet TFGL, incorporated in April, is treated as a global saviour.

> Every time the government sidesteps its own procurement laws, it sends a message that rule-bending is patriotic when convenient.

THE ALLURE OF FOREIGN LEGITIMACY

Why this persistent infatuation with the foreign and the flashy? Because to announce a partnership with "an international consortium" sounds visionary. It signals to voters, and to the markets, that something big is happening — even if nothing ever materialises.

In political communications, the appearance of progress often outweighs the reality of delivery. The MOU is celebrated as a milestone. The photo-op substitutes for the feasibility study. Ministers rotate, files gather dust, and by the time the next deal is announced, the previous one has quietly vanished from memory.

ACCOUNTABILITY LOST IN TRANSLATION

There is also a convenient shield of plausible deniability: when projects collapse, officials can blame "unforeseen challenges," "geopolitical conditions," or "the partner's inability to mobilise funds." No one is ever held accountable for selecting partners who could not survive a basic company-register search.

The failure is not only one of procurement, but of pride. The prestigious projects that aspire to put Botswana on the map are more likely to condemn the nation as a playground for dubious companies.

> When ministers conflate speculative licences with actual industry, Botswana risks swapping the substance of credibility for the optics of ambition.

THE PRICE OF BENDING THE RULES

Botswana's Public Procurement Act and associated regulations were never meant to be optional reading. They require demonstrated financial capacity, past performance, beneficial ownership disclosure, and, crucially, public transparency. Yet high-profile deals with opaque foreign firms are repeatedly exempted from these standards under the vague justification of "strategic importance." Strategic to whom, one wonders?

Every time the government sidesteps its own procurement laws, it sends a message that rule-bending is patriotic when convenient. It undermines local enterprise, weakens trust in public institutions, and emboldens speculative actors who know that all they need is a glossy website and a few letters of introduction to be taken seriously.

THE MIRAGE PORTFOLIO EXPANDS

TFGL and Zotus are not isolated curiosities. They are part of a widening constellation of paper-prospectors now orbiting Botswana's development imagination. Scan the SONA and one finds the same handful of names repeating: Lotus Resources, Tlou Energy, Botala Energy, ReconAfrica, Ka-Hill, Green Hydrogen, and various "green" consortia that exist largely in PDFs and PowerPoint slides.

FOREIGN DIRECT IMAGINATION

The arithmetic is sobering. Most trade below ten US cents a share. Their filings reveal tiny cash reserves, perpetual rights issues, and no production revenue. The pattern is identical: list cheaply in Perth or Toronto, obtain exploration licences, issue upbeat press releases, and wait for the political echo chamber to amplify the illusion of momentum.

They offer visibility to governments hungry for announcements and liquidity to promoters hungry for headlines. This is not foreign direct investment; it is foreign direct imagination.

CREDIBILITY FOR SALE

The danger is not that these firms are fraudulent — many are perfectly lawful — but that they function as vehicles for narrative inflation. They give the impression of diversification without delivering it.

When ministers conflate speculative licences with actual industry, Botswana risks swapping the substance of credibility for the optics of ambition. Every "strategic partnership" that collapses without explanation erodes public faith in the state's competence. And faith, once lost, cannot be imported from Singapore.

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2025



Sushi Rolls into Gaborone

The Japan Foundation's traveling exhibition I Love Sushi lands at the National Museum this November, serving an artistic and cultural journey through Japan's most iconic dish

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Botswana's art and culture enthusiasts are in for a treat this November as the Japan Foundation's traveling exhibition I Love Sushi opens at the Botswana National Museum & Monuments National Art Gallery in Gaborone from 15 November to 6 December 2025.

A FLAVOUR OF HISTORY

Far beyond a global food trend, sushi is a centuries-old symbol of Japan's cultural identity. Recognized by UNESCO in 2013 as part of washoku — traditional Japanese cuisine — sushi's evolution tells a story of migration, craftsmanship, and adaptation. Visitors will journey through its origins in Southeast Asia and Southern China to its transformation into Japan's beloved nigiri-sushi, first served in Edo (modern-day Tokyo) nearly 200 years ago.



> Far beyond a global food trend, sushi is a centuries-old symbol of Japan's cultural identity

THE ART BEHIND THE BITE

Through intricate food models, ukiyo-e art replicas, historical materials, and videos, the exhibition captures sushi's evolution from preservation technique to culinary artistry. A "sushi restaurant experience" corner offers an authentic feel, complete with a replica counter and video demonstrations of sushi-making techniques.

"This exhibition, which can be described as a mobile museum dedicated to sushi, is designed to be enjoyable for both avid sushi fans and those new to the cuisine. It presents an excellent opportunity for the people of Botswana to experience the profound world of sushi and the rich Japanese food culture behind it," the Cultural and Public Relations Officer at the Embassy of Japan in Botswana stated.





ELEVEN YEARS OF LAUGHTER

The 11th Annual Heavyweights International Comedy Festival (HICOFEST) returns to Gaborone bringing together comedy stars from eight countries for a night of laughter and cultural exchange

GAZETTE REPORTER

Gaborone's biggest night of comedy returns as Major Moves Comedy presents the 11th edition of the Heavyweights International Comedy Festival (HICOFEST) on November 20, 2025, at Protea by Marriott Gaborone Masa Square.

Now in its eleventh year, HICOFEST has evolved into a cornerstone of Botswana's entertainment calendar — a celebration of comedy's power to connect people across borders. This year's edition brings together comedic talents from Botswana, China, Eswatini, Lesotho, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe for what promises to be a night of laughter without limits.

REUNITING COMEDY GIANTS

Headlining this year's event are Botswana's Thapelo Malani and Uganda's Dr Hilary Okello, two performers whose recent collaboration at The Marabou Laugh Fest in Kampala drew critical acclaim. Their reunion at HICOFEST is expected to reignite the same energy and cross-border camaraderie that left Ugandan audiences in stitches earlier this year.

Dr Hilary, celebrated for his smart satire and engaging stage presence, has become one of East Africa's leading comedy voices.

"HICOFEST is no longer just an African celebration it's a global one. Laughter knows no borders,"Major Moves Comedy Events Coordinator, Gaolathe Kediemetse told Time Out.

A GLOBAL LINEUP

This year's lineup reflects a growing international flavor, featuring Aiden Ho from China, Dr Shakes from Eswatini, Tinotenda Lebohang from Zimbabwe, Cleyton Msosa from Tanzania, Sir Matee from Lesotho, Smowkey Nyembe from South Africa, and local favorites Augustus Philemon, Phenyo The Master, Boldwin Bals, OD Brooks, and Queen of Comedy Lebo English.

> "We have a fresh new lineup, fresh new headliners — people must come and experience the best and ultimate entertainment from beginning to the end"

"We have a fresh new lineup, fresh new headliners — people must come and experience the best and ultimate entertainment from beginning to the end,"he said.

With tickets priced from P200 for singles and P300 for doubles, audiences can expect an unforgettable evening of international comedy starting at 8pm.

Veiled in Craftsmanship

Gaborone-based creative Sandra Phuthego is redefining bridal and occasion fashion through her handcrafted label, Legakwa Veils — a brand rooted in individuality, sustainability, and artistic spirit

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Every stitch, bead, and branch in a Legakwa creation carries the warmth of human touch. Founded in 2022 by fashion enthusiast Sandra Phuthego, Legakwa Veils has quietly transformed from a small online idea into a brand synonymous with craftsmanship and individuality.

"We create a piece of art for your head to complement your outfit so that you stand out and make a statement," she told Time Out.

HANDMADE AND HEARTFELT

Specialising in customised veils, handfans, hats, and bouquets, Legakwa offers pieces that are entirely one-of-a-kind. "We strictly customise and never replicate," said Phuthego, explaining how each client becomes part of the creative journey from inspiration to final design. What began as an observation of mismatched bridal styling soon grew into a full-fledged business celebrating coordination, elegance, and authenticity.

"Batswana have warmed up to my ideas because i have noticed that they like unique pieces that are only tailore made for them," she said.

"Once people understand the craftsmanship behind the work, they value the pieces more."

SUSTAINABLE STYLE

Beyond beauty, Legakwa champions sustainability. Its handmade handfans feature handles crafted from locally sourced mogwana branches, a nod to both tradition and environmental mindfulness. Though sourcing materials locally remains a challenge, Phuthego is engaging local stores to reduce dependency on imports and grow Botswana's own creative supply chain.

"The solution is to incorporate embellishments and materials we need in local stores and being open to needs of the industry key players," she said.

FASHION WITH A SOUL

For brides, guests, and style lovers alike, a Legakwa creation is more than an accessory it's wearable unique art, made with intention and heart. In a world of fast fashion, Phuthego's designs whisper a timeless truth: true style is crafted, not copied.





HUSTLERS HUG CALLS WOMEN TO SKILL UP

The 4th edition of The Hustlers Hug gathered Botswana's most driven women for a weekend of empowerment, introspection, and self-mastery reminding every attendee that true power begins with personal growth and purpose

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

At Cresta Lodge in Gaborone this past weekend, women from different walks of life — entrepreneurs, executives, and creatives — came together for the 4th edition of The Hustlers Hug, an empowerment dialogue themed "Skill Up! Your Gateway to True Empowerment." The gathering offered more than motivation; it challenged women to align their skills, purpose, and lifestyles for sustainable growth and leadership.

MASTERING THE SELF

Etiquette and Protocol expert Samantha Matlhagela set the tone with a powerful reflection on self-mastery. "Before acquiring any skill, it's important to master yourself — know your weaknesses and strengths," she said. She encouraged attendees to "create in your head a version of your future self" and invest in skills that enhance their God-given gifts.

She added: "True empowerment begins when you master yourself — and rise above the ceilings meant to contain you."

THE POWER OF ACTION

Media executive Tryphinah Dongwana Kenalemang, Managing Director of the Weekend Post, shared her journey from employee to leader, emphasizing that empowerment is self-driven. "Don't wait for anyone to open the door for you," she told the audience. "Build one for yourself, because when you skill up, you empower yourself."

SKILLS, VISION AND RESILIENCE

Former Miss Botswana Palesa Molefe reflected on how her diverse creative ventures — from acting and film production to writing and travel — taught her resilience and adaptability. "Create your own narrative and skill up to be where you want to be," she said.

RISING ABOVE CEILINGS

Renowned and multi award winning lawyer Njiramanda Mbewe Boatey, founder of Mbewe Legal and Sewelo Mentorship Program, shared hard earned truths she learned. "Ceilings are only strong until someone dares to rise above them," she said, urging women to lead with purpose, bring value, discipline, and authenticity.

> "True empowerment begins when you master yourself — and rise above the ceilings meant to contain you"

For many attendees, The Hustlers Hug was more than an event, it was a mirror, reflecting the need to grow inwardly to thrive outwardly.

Women's Voices in Mental Health

Five women artists confront silence, stigma, and strength through the Free Expression Art Exhibition: Women's Voices in Mental Health, opening in December at the National Museum

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

At the National Museum in December, emotion takes shape in color, texture, and truth. The Free Expression Art Exhibition: Women's Voices in Mental Health brings together five women — Gomolemo Kgosimodimo, Gillian Tumelo, Patience Tsumake, Ginnie van Mester, and Monty's Drawings — whose works are a testament to the power of art as reflection and release.

ART AS A SAFE PLACE

Curated by Artist Connect, the exhibition runs from December 5 to 11, 2025, creating a space where art becomes both mirror and medicine. "Each artist starts from something felt," said Director of Artist Connect City Thobane in an interview. "Some carry personal grief, others speak for their mothers or communities. These works don't just explain — they express."

BREAKING SILENCE THROUGH COLOR

Far from being polite, the show invites raw honesty. Paintings, sculptures, and mixed media works speak to anxiety, resilience, and hope. Viewers are encouraged to engage in open dialogue during scheduled artist talks and reflection sessions designed to challenge stigma around mental health.

> "Mental health is not a private shame — it's a shared reality. And the more we speak, the more we heal"



"Mental health is not a private shame — it's a shared reality. And the more we speak, the more we heal," he said.

BEYOND THE EXHIBITION

For Thobane, the goal is lasting impact: to elevate women artists and normalize creative expression as part of mental health care. "We want art to be seen not as decoration, but as declaration," he added.

BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS
ADDENDUM TO TENDER NOTICE

Date: 03 November 2025

Tender No.: BOBS/2025-26/11/SER

Tender Title: Supply and Installation of Integrated Human Capital Management and Payroll System (IHCM & PS)
This addendum forms an integral part of the tender document and will therefore be considered at the evaluation stage.

1. Reference
This addendum refers to the tender advertisement published in Business Weekly dated 31 October – 07 November 2025 and on the E-Tender portal dated 27 October 2025.

2. Amendment to PPRA Codes
Please note the following changes to the applicable PPRA codes:

- **Previous Code as stated in the advert:**
  - PPRA Code: 314 – Finance Related Services
    Sub Code: 05 – Payroll Management Services

- **Revised and applicable codes:**

PPRA Code: 319 – ICT Consultancy Services; Sub Code: 01 – ICT System Development
and/or
PPRA Code: 120 – ICT Technical Support Services: Sub Code: 01 – Systems Development Services and Maintenance Services

3. Extension of Closing Date
The closing date for submission of this tender has been extended to Monday, 24 November 2025 at 10:00hrs.

4. Important Notes

- All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged.
- Bidders are advised to update their submissions accordingly to reflect the revised PPRA codes.

We regret any inconvenience caused and appreciate your understanding.

Thank you.
Yours Faithfully



……..
Manager Procurement
Mothusi Moswang



Kriste the Christmas Musical

In December, Maitisong Theatre will echo with gospel harmonies, Christmas carols and heartfelt storytelling as Kriste Christmas Musical brings the Nativity to life through local voices, Setswana rhythms, and a message of faith and revival

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The timeless story of the birth of Jesus Christ will take on a fresh and uniquely local form at Maitisong Theatre on 6 December 2025, when Kriste Christmas Musical graces the stage. Conceived and directed by renowned actor, Maxwell Dichi, the production weaves the struggles of Joseph and Mary, the defiance of King Herod, and the joy of the Messiah's birth into a musical narrative rooted in African expression.

WHERE FAITH MEETS PERFORMANCE

Dichi explains that the play's name, Kriste, emerged from blending "Christ" and "Keresete" — the Setswana translation of Christ. "It's a combination of both languages and a reflection of our cultural diversity," he said in an interview. For Dichi, Kriste is not just theatre it's evangelism through performance, designed to help audiences "see the story of Jesus as realistically as possible."

VOICES UNITED IN SONG

At the heart of Kriste lies a powerful musical collaboration featuring music from different churches, alongside celebrated gospel voices like Pesalema, winner of Gospel Icon. "We fit the songs to the story, even the Christmas carols are arranged like a narrative," he said.

MAKING THE ANCIENT FEEL ALIVE

From biblical-era sets to youth-driven performances and contemporary gospel melodies, Kriste bridges time and culture. The show even includes the birth of John the Baptist, a seldom-seen addition in traditional Nativity plays. For Dichi, these creative choices are all about relevance. "We want young people to see themselves in the story," he says.

> The show even includes the birth of John the Baptist, a seldom-seen addition in traditional Nativity plays

A FAMILY CELEBRATION

More than just a stage production, Kriste promises a full-sensory celebration of Christmas — featuring children from a Ramotswa orphanage and a real infant cast as baby Jesus. "This is the biggest family evening event one should attend," Dichi notes. "The energy is just different."

Cracking "The Guy Code"

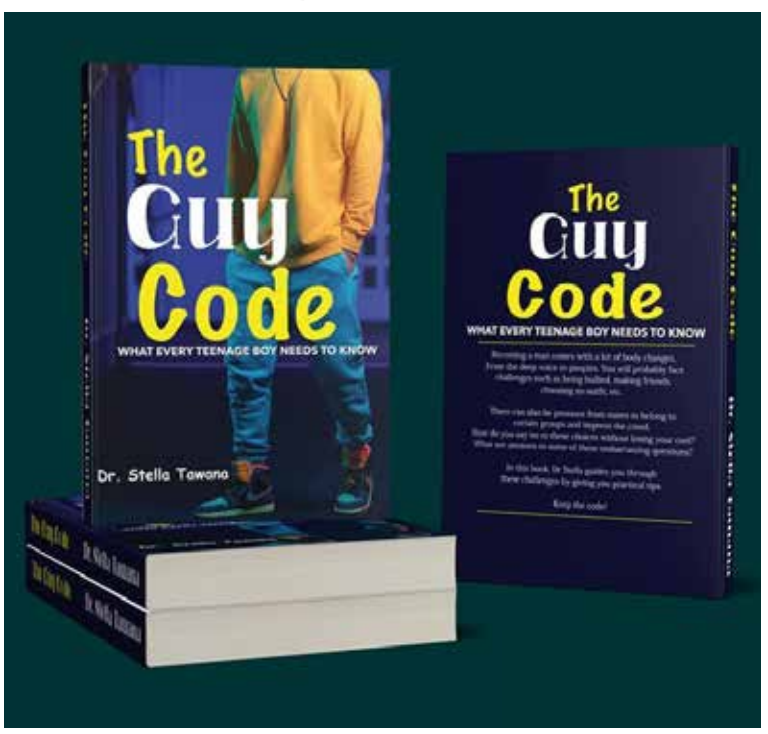
Dr. Stella Tawana's new book The Guy Code fills the gap in conversations about growing up, guiding teenage boys through body changes, peer pressure, and self-respect with practical wisdom and heart

GAZETTE REPORTER

For many boys, adolescence can feel like walking through a maze with no map. That's where The Guy Code, a 116-page self-published book by Dr. Stella Tawana, steps in offering a manual for boys aged 10 to 17 on navigating teenagehood with confidence, purpose, and integrity.

A GUIDE

Written by a mother, doctor, and mentor, The Guy Code is both practical and deeply personal. "Young people are exposed to a lot of information online that may not be true," Dr. Tawana told Time Out. "Sometimes they are embarrassed to ask adults or simply don't have anyone to go to." The book encourages boys to embrace body changes, resist peer pressure, and understand that today's choices shape tomorrow's future.



LESSONS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

From hygiene and etiquette to friendships, social media, and money management, the chapters are crafted in simple, relatable language. There's even guidance on everyday skills from shaving to tying a tie, making it both an educational and empowering read.

"This book helps young boys grow into respectful, responsible men without losing their cool," said Dr. Tawana.

> "This book helps young boys grow into respectful, responsible men without losing their cool"

A long-time sports volunteer and medical professional with over 24 years of experience, Dr. Tawana draws on real-life encounters with youth to create a guide that's as insightful as it is necessary.

Employment and Labour Relations Bill: When Sick Leave Replaces Annual Leave



Thuo Ditsele (HR Consultant)



Tumisang Bagidi (Lead HR Consultant)

Leave management is a fundamental aspect of modern employment relations, balancing the needs of organisations with the wellbeing of employees. One area that often causes confusion in the workplace is the situation where an employee, whilst on annual leave, falls ill. The Employment and Labour Relations Bill**,** provides clear guidance on the matter.

Annual Leave

Before we can talk about the conversion, lets understand annual leave which serves a specific purpose in employment law. Annual Leave allows employees time to rest, rejuvenate, and attend to personal matters away from work. It is a period meant for physical and mental restoration after continuous service. When an employee becomes ill during this time, the intended purpose of rest and recovery from work-related fatigue is defeated. The law therefore recognises that illness during annual leave should not unfairly deprive an employee of their right to genuine rest.

The Bill

Under section 219 (10) the bill stipulates that if an employee becomes sick during their annual leave and can produce a valid medical certificate confirming the illness, the portion of annual leave affected by sickness must be converted into sick leave. For such conversion to take place, however, the law requires that the employee provides medical proof of illness. A valid medical certificate from a recognised health practitioner serves as formal confirmation that the employee was genuinely unwell and unfit during the specified period. This provision is important for maintaining fairness and accountability between both parties. It prevents employees from abusing the system by extending their holidays under the guise of illness, while also protecting employees from losing their annual leave due to genuine sickness. The medical certificate thus acts as an objective safeguard in the process.

The Employer and The Worker

From an employer's standpoint, this requirement introduces a clear obligation to manage leave records carefully. Once an employee provides a valid medical certificate, the employer must record those days as sick leave rather than annual leave and adjust the employee's leave balances accordingly. The affected period must then be deducted from the employee's sick leave entitlement, not their annual leave allocation. This ensures that employees receive fair treatment and that all leave entitlements remain consistent with legal provisions. Employers should also communicate these adjustments to employees to maintain transparency and trust.

To consult, contact us on
+267 75 54 67 84 (Gaborone),
+267 74 037 833 (Maun)
+267 393 9435 or
info@aupracontax. co.bw,
tax5@aupracontax.co.bw

CLICK HERE
To join our free HR WhatsApp group, follow the link

The Bill, places significant emphasis on fair labour practices and employee welfare. It reinforces that employees cannot be penalised for falling ill while on leave, provided the illness is substantiated. It also calls for employers to ensure that company leave policies are aligned with the provisions of the law, and failure to convert annual leave to sick leave when proper proof is presented could amount to an unfair labour practice, potentially exposing the employer to legal disputes or sanctions under the new framework. Employees, on the other hand, should be encouraged to notify their employers promptly when they fall sick during leave and to submit the required medical documentation as soon as possible. Furthermore, employees are to ensure that they refrain from any form of abuse or fraud in this instance, as that may lead necessary action being taken against them. This cooperative approach ensures smooth management of entitlements while preserving fairness and accountability on both sides.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the rule allowing the conversion of annual leave to sick leave upon valid medical proof is both a legal safeguard and a moral necessity. It upholds the principle that every employee deserves genuine rest and fair treatment, even when unforeseen illness intervenes. For employers, it presents an opportunity to strengthen compliance, build trust, and promote a culture of care within the workplace. For employees, it provides reassurance that the law protects their right to both health and rest. The Bill thus continues Botswana's progress toward a more humane and balanced employment system, one where fairness is not merely an expectation but a lived workplace reality.

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Email:manager@vmc.co.bw

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

MEDICAL PHYSICIST POSITION

The incumbent will be responsible for accurate treatment of patients and quality control on radiation equipment and promote cost effective, safe, quality patient care in accordance with radiation standards and policies.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be approved by Radiation Protection Inspectorate.
- A relevant qualification in Medical Physics- BSc Hons.
- 10 years' clinical work experience as a Medical Physicist.
- Experience with Elekta machine, Monaco planning software and Mosaiq system.

Deadline: **30th November 2025**

If you are the suitable candidate, please send your application to the below.

Applications to be sent to:
Operations Manager
Village Oncology (Pty) Ltd
Po box 10153
Gaborone
Email: manager@vmc.co.bw

MOGOMOTSI J.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 291/25

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
PEARL MBUYA LUNGISANI **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: Pearl Mbuya Lungisani
P.O Box 497, FRANCISTOWN

formerly residing at Plot 17071, Francistown, but whose present whereabouts are unknown that by summons issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within **Fourteen (14) days** after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to ABSA BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o M MMOHE ATTORNEYS (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein ABSA BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED claims:-

a) Payment of the sum of **P549 252.90**;
b) Interest at the rate of 1.5% above the prevailing prime rate per annum from 17th day of June 2025 to the date of payment;
c) An order declaring Lot 17071, Francistown, specially executable;
d) Costs of suit; and
e) Further and / or alternative relief

TAKE NOTICE FURTHER that if you fail to give such notice, judgment may be granted against you without further reference to you.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

M MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff 's Attorneys
Plot 3936,Peolwane Street, Minestone
P.O. Box 1860, **FRANCISTOWN**

DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER

BEFORE PHUTHEGO J.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO: CVHGB-002226-22

In the matter between
MOSES CHIMBOMBI **PLAINTIFF**
and
DITIRO ALUCIAUS NTAU **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgement granted by the above Honourable Court, the following immovable property of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by **DEPUTY SHERIFF BRIAN TSHABANGU** to the highest bidder as follows:

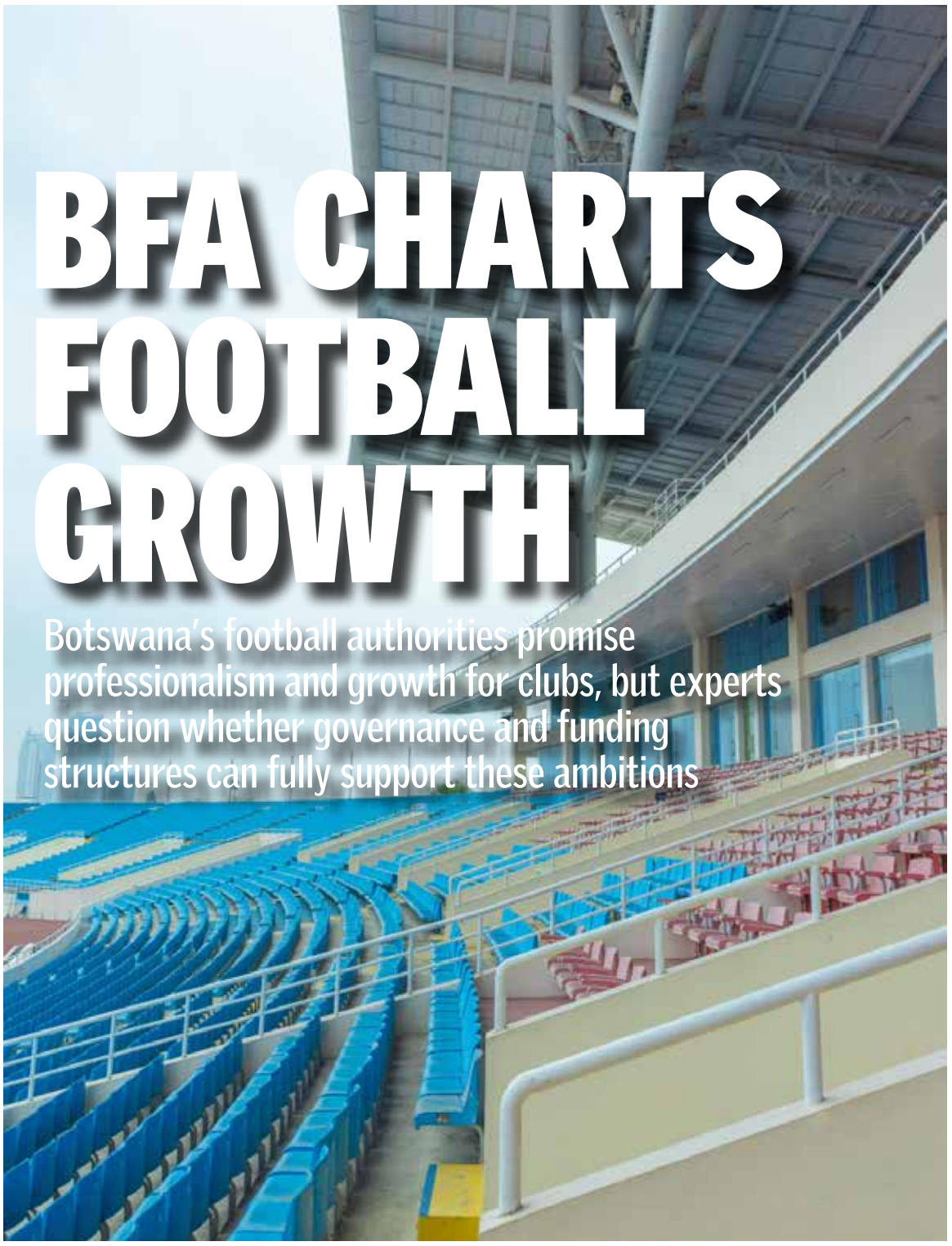
DATE OF SALE : 27th November 2025 at Tsabong;
TIME : 1000am;
VENUE : Lot 1542 BONTLENG WARD, TSABONG;

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Developed piece of Land being Lot 1542 –Tsabong measuring 600m² together with some developments comprising 1 x bedroom, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, 1 x bedroom, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom which is not completed.

TERMS OF SALE : Only cash or bank guaranteed cheque will be accepted.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 04TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025.

DEPUTY SHERIFF BRIAN TSHABANGU
C/O TSHEPHELEGAL FIRM
Plaintiff's Attorneys
P.O box 80468, Gaborone
Plot 128, Unit 3, Kgale Mews
Tel: 3165302
Cell: 75948645/75290777



BFA CHARTS FOOTBALL GROWTH

Botswana's football authorities promise professionalism and growth for clubs, but experts question whether governance and funding structures can fully support these ambitions

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Football Association (BFA) president Tariq Babitseng has announced initiatives aimed at strengthening local football through professional leadership, financial discipline, and governance reforms.

PROGRAMME FOCUS

Babitseng spoke at the FIFA Club Professionalisation and Management Programme – African Edition in Gaborone on Monday. He described the initiative as a long-term effort to transform clubs into sustainable businesses and community institutions.

> "Properly managed clubs attract sponsors. Financial discipline builds trust. Strategic planning delivers results"

"This programme is not just a workshop; it's a commitment to equip every club represented here with the mindset and tools to run football as a sustainable business and a social force that unites communities," he said.

HIGHLIGHTING GROWTH STORIES

Citing FIFA president Gianni Infantino, Babitseng said: "For football to thrive everywhere, we must invest in strong clubs and capable leaders, because clubs are the heartbeat of our game." He pointed to Jwaneng Galaxy's rise from a mining-town team to continental competition, with three league titles, two Mascom Top 8 trophies, two FA Cups, and CAF group stage appearances in ten years.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL EXPANSION

The BFA president announced the launch of the Women's National League this season, supported by FIFA, with 20 teams including Double Action FC, Orapa United, and Gaborone United. Babitseng credited partners such as FNB, Lucara, and DTC Botswana for enabling these developments.

"Clubs carry the responsibility of setting the tone for the professional future of women's football in Botswana," he said.

BUILDING INVESTMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

To support these changes, the BFA plans to introduce a Blueprint for Investors in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship and the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC). Babitseng also announced plans for a BFA TV and radio platform to generate content and revenue.

BCA Raises Umpiring Game Standards

Botswana's cricket officials are taking ICC Level 1 certification to improve game management, though experts note that practical exposure remains limited

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The Botswana Cricket Association (BCA) recently concluded an International Cricket Council (ICC) Level 1 Umpiring Course at the BCA Oval in Gaborone, aiming to enhance officiating standards.

PARTICIPATION GROWS

BCA Vice Chairman Sumod Damodar said the course attracted 26 participants, including six women, representing teachers, players, and partial coaches. "Yes, it was very pleasant and pleasing because, for a change, the number of people who showed interest to attend — I think there was a total of 26, out of which six were women as well," Damodar said in a telephone interview. "It was very nice to see that."

The Level 1 certification is considered the entry point for aspiring umpires, focusing on game management, rules, and officiating fundamentals.

FOUNDATIONS OF UMPIRING

"Level 1 is the primary, basic level for umpiring," Damodar explained. "It's important for officials to be categorically certified and qualified to stand in games. Every game that is played, whether it is a domestic league or regional or ICC league, the qualifications and experience of umpires are very important in order to determine the proximity of neutral results."



He highlighted that certified umpires are expected to maintain integrity and impartiality. "They cannot be biased; they have to have integrity and the ability not to be put under pressure by players when they appeal," Damodar said.

PRACTICAL EXPOSURE NEEDED

Course participants are required to pass a test and officiate local matches before advancing to higher ICC levels. "After they do the course, they have to do a test," Damodar said. "Then they have to stand for a number of games over a period of time and after that they can go up to the next level and then move up."

While Botswana has three officials currently in the ICC development panel, experts caution that the country still needs more competitive opportunities to build experience. "Training is useful, but without sufficient match exposure, progression to higher panels may remain slow," said one unnamed cricket analyst.

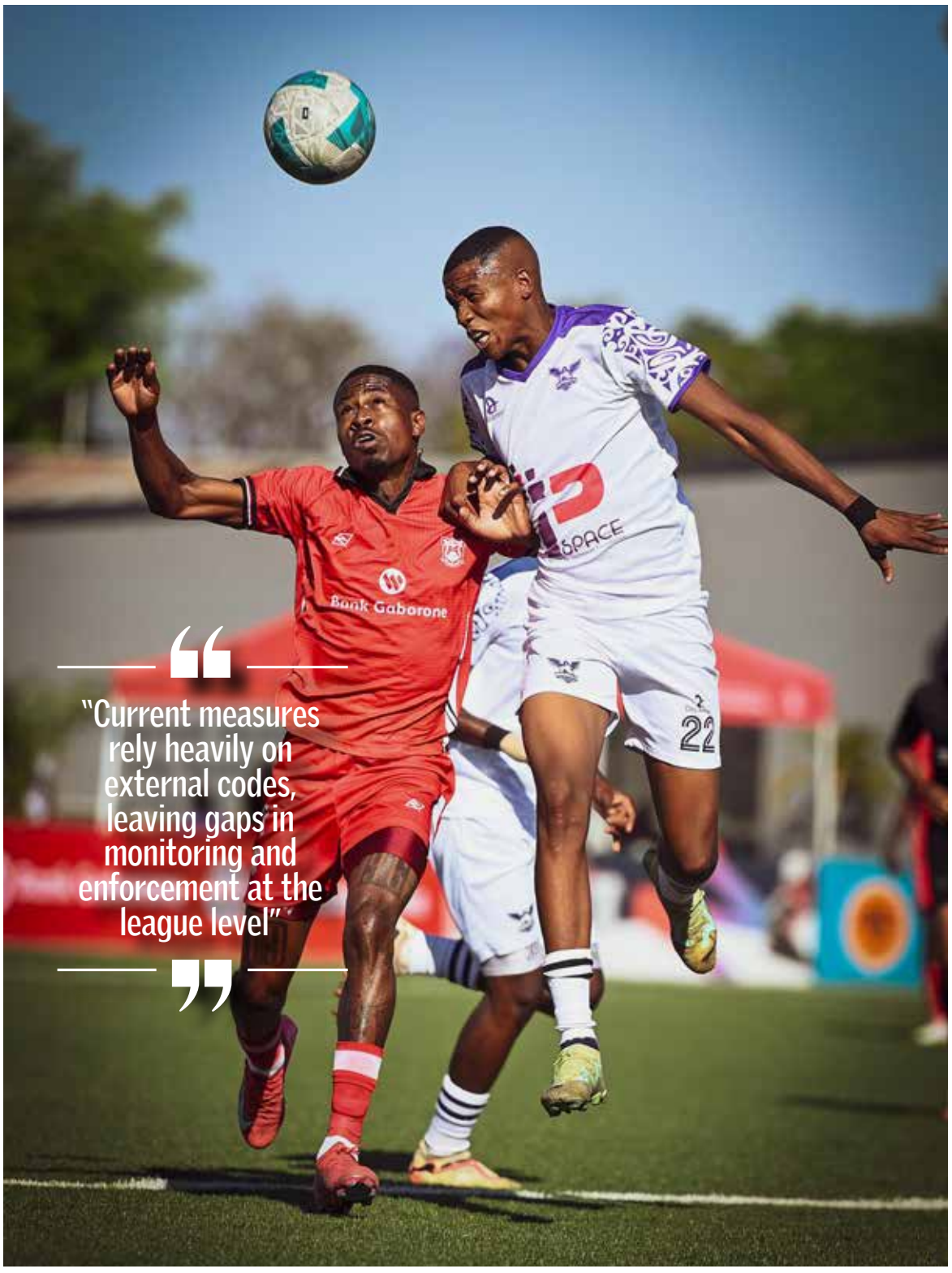
ICC PATHWAY

Damodar noted Botswana is gradually building its umpiring infrastructure. "There's a structure within the ICC — you have a development panel, then an emerging panel, and then an elite panel. So right now we have three in the so-called development panel, and that's a start," he said.

BFL EYES NEW CUP COMPETITIONS

The Botswana Football League is planning to introduce additional cup competitions, but rising betting activity has raised questions about regulation and public awareness. League officials call for a national approach, while critics point to gaps in oversight

GAZETTE REPORTER



"Current measures rely heavily on external codes, leaving gaps in monitoring and enforcement at the league level"

The Botswana Football League (BFL) is seeking to expand its competitions while addressing the challenges posed by increased betting in sports.

EXPANDING COMPETITIONS

Speaking at a recent press briefing, BFL CEO Billy Sekgororoane said the league aims to offer more opportunities for teams and fans.

"The football league organizes and manages competitions for the elite teams. One of the competitions is what we commonly call the league… And then we can organize a cup competition, charity cup, league cup, or any other type of competition," Sekgororoane said.

The league is in discussions with potential partners to launch a new knockout cup, although the format—whether top four, six, or eight teams—has not been finalized. "So, let's call it a cup competition. A cup competition for now. A knockout cup competition for now," he added.

BETTING CONCERNS

Sekgororoane acknowledged concerns over betting, noting the introduction of gambling before adequate public education and regulation.

"Betting, we need to look at it not only as the football league, but as a nation. I think we moved a bit too quickly and introduced betting before we set, before we prepared the groundwork for betting to be active," he said.

Currently, the BFL does not have its own betting code of conduct. The league relies on the Botswana Football Association's regulations and, when necessary, continental and international codes from CAF and FIFA.

"So if you are asking me whether there is a particular BFL code, then I will say we don't have. But there is a code on betting, a code of conduct on betting. Because we will default on the hierarchy," Sekgororoane explained.

CALLS FOR NATIONAL OVERSIGHT

Critics warn that without a specific BFL framework, players, referees, and officials remain vulnerable to betting-related misconduct. A representative from a local sports integrity group noted that, "current measures rely heavily on external codes, leaving gaps in monitoring and enforcement at the league level."

Sekgororoane emphasized that balancing league growth with integrity will be essential as more competitions are introduced.

School Sport Suspension Threatens Future

GAZETTE REPORTER

Newly elected Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) President Tshepo Sitale has warned that Botswana could face a severe shortage of athletes by 2032 if the suspension of school sport is not urgently addressed.

Speaking during a press conference in Gaborone on Monday, Sitale said the absence of school sport (since March 2020, due to budgetary constraints), threatens the foundation of the country's sporting development. He stressed that although the issue largely lies between government, unions, and other stakeholders, the wider sports community must also help find lasting solutions.

He described the matter as "the elephant in the room," noting that the gap created by the suspension could cripple future national teams. "We know that it's a matter between government, unions, and other stakeholders, but we are also players and can offer alternatives to make sure that, at the end, sport wins," Sitale said.

"By 2032 we might run short of athletes because we are going to have a gap and a generation that did not have school sport"

PARTNERSHIPS BEYOND MONEY

Sitale said the new BNOC executive is determined to foster partnerships that go beyond financial assistance, arguing that collaboration and service-based contributions can make a significant difference in developing sport.



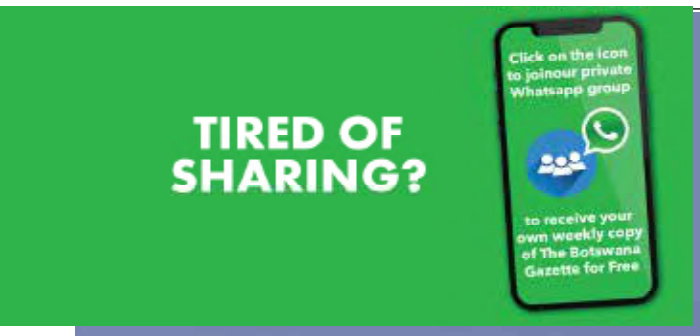
"As a new board, we are intentional about forming partnerships — sometimes it's not about money; it's about service. What matters is that collaboration adds value to our sporting programs," he explained.

COLLABORATION THROUGH DATA

The BNOC president further highlighted the need for unity among sporting codes through data and knowledge sharing, adding that sport science must guide Botswana's next phase of progress.

"Gone are the days when football would play in Uganda and, days later, another code would go there without any background information. Sporting codes must share data and work together — our sport will do wonders if we achieve that," he said.

Sitale concluded by reaffirming BNOC's commitment to strengthening links between national sport structures and development programs such as Re Ba Bona Ha and out-of-school initiatives.



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The Botswana Gazette
SPORT



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BFA CHARTS FOOTBALL GROWTH

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