The Botswana GAZETTE

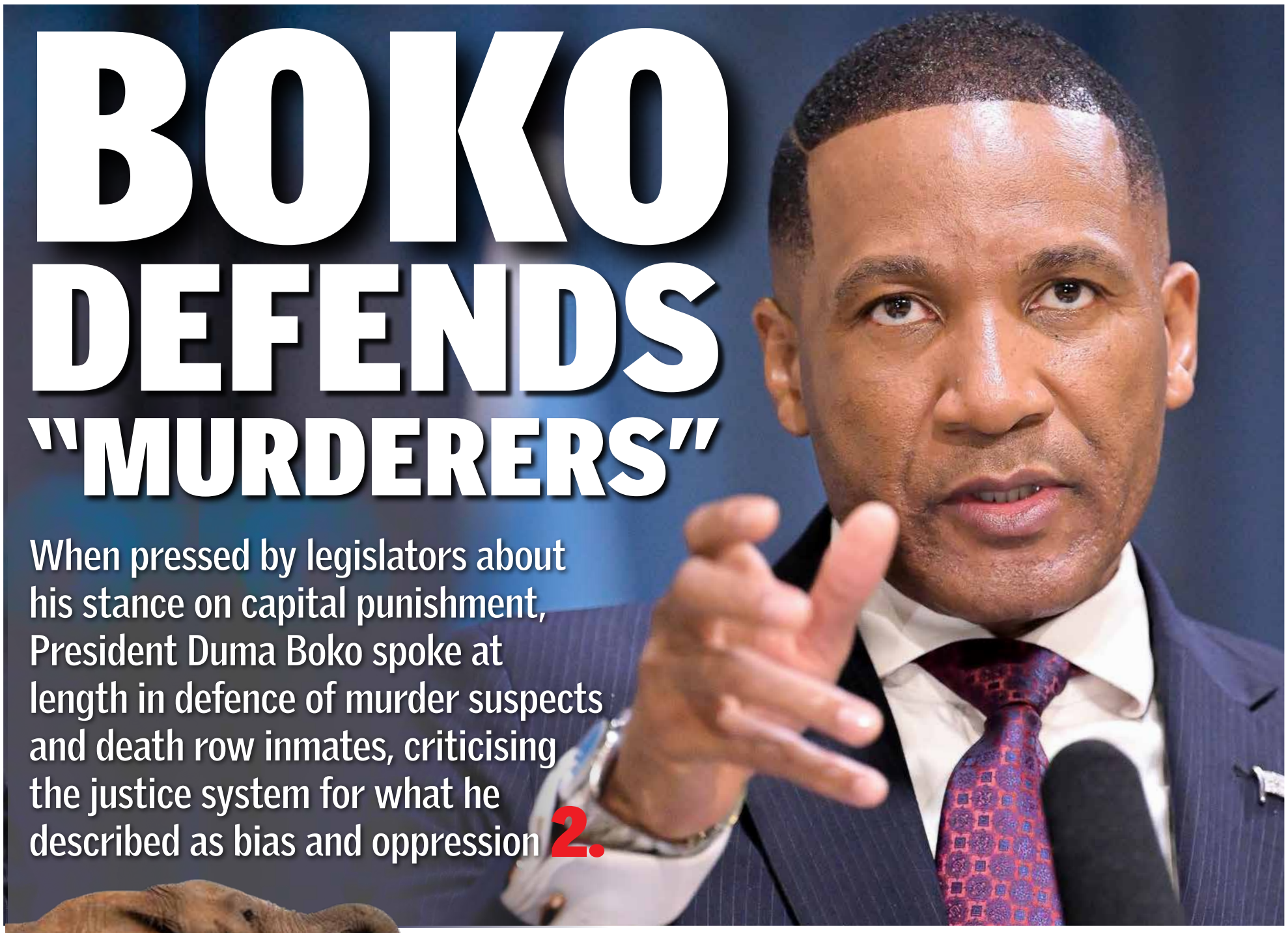
WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2025 SINCE 1984



Business Woes Hit Dada 6.

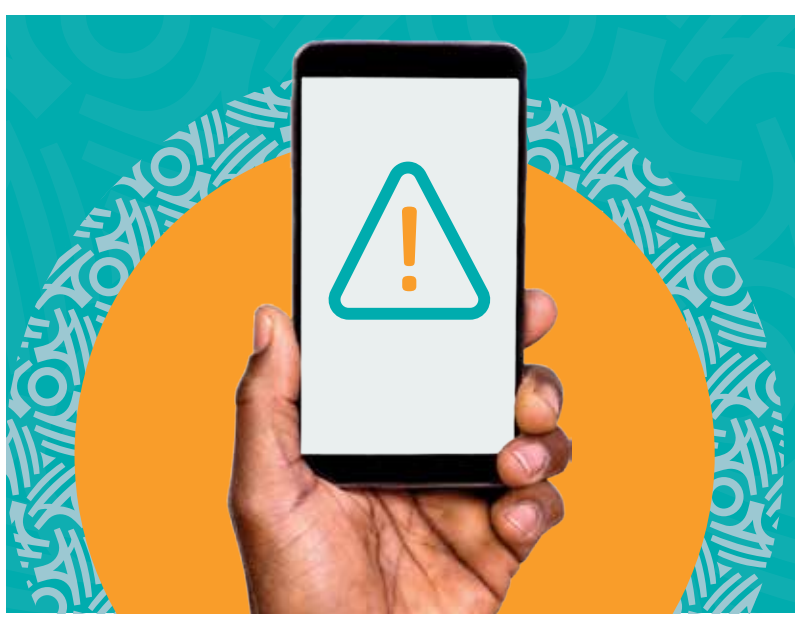
BOKO DEFENDS "MURDERERS"

When pressed by legislators about his stance on capital punishment, President Duma Boko spoke at length in defence of murder suspects and death row inmates, criticising the justice system for what he described as bias and oppression 2.



GOVT KILLING ELEPHANTS AT POACHER LEVELS- 3. REPORT

Photo Credit: National Graphic



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BOKO DEFENDS "MURDERERS"

When pressed by legislators about his stance on capital punishment, President Duma Boko spoke at length in defence of murder suspects and death row inmates, criticising the justice system for what he described as bias and oppression

GAZETTE REPORTER

President Duma Boko on Tuesday found himself pressed hard by legislators as he struggled to separate his long-held personal convictions about capital punishment from the constitutional obligations of his office.

The President, a seasoned lawyer who has represented death row inmates for years, appeared reluctant to engage fully on the issue, prompting accusations of indecision and inconsistency.

Boko began his response with an emotional recollection of his past interactions with the death penalty as a defence lawyer. He told Parliament that some of his clients were executed while he was en route to visit them, experiences he said continue to haunt him.

He then recounted the case of a man he described as Mosarwa, portraying him as a casualty of societal ill treatment and what he called a defective justice system that provides inadequate legal representation to capital offenders. Many convicted persons, he argued, are driven to their crimes by broader societal failures and are then left to face the hangman with little meaningful support.

QUESTIONS OVER MERCY PROCESS

The President also criticised the Prerogative of Mercy process, calling it opaque and biased against condemned prisoners. Under Botswana's Constitution, when a person is sentenced to death, the President must obtain a confidential report from the trial judge, alongside any other material he may request, and submit it to the Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy.

This report, Boko noted, is never shared with the condemned inmate, who has no idea what it contains or how it will influence the Committee's recommendations. The Advisory Committee comprises the Vice-President (or a minister appointed by the President), the Attorney-General, and a medical practitioner. Its proceedings are closed to the prisoner, who is also barred from presenting written submissions.

Human rights group DITSHWANELO has long raised concerns about the lack of transparency in this process, arguing that it denies prisoners the opportunity to participate in a mechanism that may determine whether they live or die.

MPs PUSH BACK

At one point, Okavango West MP Kenny Kapinga, also a lawyer, interrupted the President, urging him to state his position plainly. Kapinga argued that if Boko personally opposes the death penalty, the Constitution empowers him to act accordingly, and that prolonged indecision only deepens the psychological torment of those on death row.

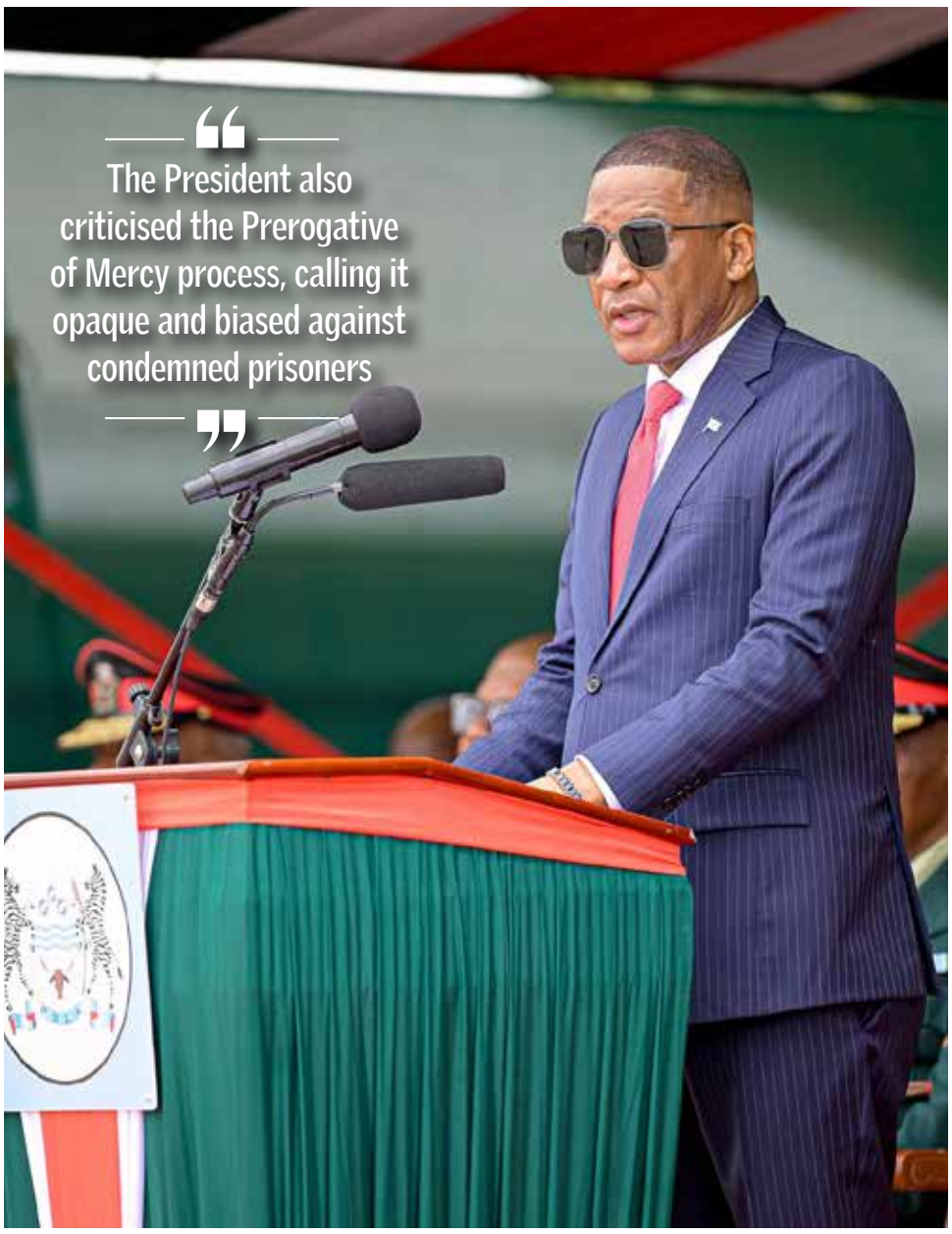
Boko attempted to defend the delays using philosophical illustrations, but under sustained interrogation eventually conceded that the process remains unresolved.

NO DECISION YET

In the end, the President insisted he has made no pronouncement on the death penalty and promised that he will not allow his personal beliefs to dictate the fate of condemned prisoners. Each case, he said, will be handled individually and with thorough attention.

"I will apply myself thoroughly, and it doesn't happen in a day. The process is ongoing," he said.

Recent reports indicate that between 16 and 17 inmates are currently on death row in Botswana.



Is the U.S Shutting Out NGOs?

The United States has begun closed-door negotiations with African governments over the future of American health funding, but key community voices are being sidelined

GAZETTE REPORTER

Most of Botswana's civil society organisations — including long-standing HIV actors such as the Tebelopele Wellness Centre — have been excluded from high-level negotiations on the future of the country's HIV response. This is according to a new report by the European AIDS Treatment Group, which warns that sidelining NGOs threatens Botswana's hard-won gains in the fight against HIV.

The report notes that "Negotiations about the future of Botswana's HIV response are underway." However, it reveals that Tebelopele's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Gaone Makwinja, "was not invited," despite the organisation's central role in HIV testing and prevention.


Donald Trump

TALKS DRIVEN BY U.S. POLICY SHIFT

The negotiations follow the Trump administration's introduction of the America First Global Health Strategy, which seeks to redirect how Washington funds global health programmes on the continent.

"As part of its new America First Global Health Strategy, the Trump administration is drafting bilateral deals with African countries to fund global health programs, including HIV services. The team from the State Department arrived yesterday in Botswana to start talks there," the report states.

Traditionally, U.S. funding for HIV in Botswana has flowed through NGOs — both local ones like Tebelopele and international partners. The new policy, however, proposes directing funds straight to Botswana's government, which would then decide how resources are allocated.

TEBELOPELE'S CRUCIAL COMMUNITY ROLE

The report emphasises that Makwinja leads one of the most critical community-based HIV organisations in the country. Tebelopele conducts more HIV tests than any other NGO and runs eight clinics that have become safe spaces for vulnerable populations, including gay men and sex workers.

"It seems like all the populations that don't go to government facilities, we became the alternate option," Makwinja is quoted as saying.

Tebelopele has relied heavily on U.S. funding, which the Trump administration paused in February before partially reinstating it — though only at selected sites and under strict limitations. For example, the organisation was allowed to provide prevention services only to pregnant women.

TEMPORARY FUNDING REPRIEVE, GROWING FEARS

According to the report, Tebelopele's funding agreement expired at the end of September. But unexpectedly, "the State Department granted the NGO six more months of support in October – and even allowed Tebelopele to resume all of its prevention programs."

These programmes have become more vital as the U.S. cut support over the past 10 months to other Batswana organisations serving vulnerable communities.

Civil society groups fear that the Botswana government has shown "no real interest" in supporting NGO-led HIV work. Makwinja notes that after the U.S. stop-work order earlier this year, authorities made no effort to understand the impact.

EXCLUSION DEEPENS CONCERNS

The European AIDS Treatment Group says fears escalated when the government declined to invite Makwinja and most NGO leaders to negotiations with the visiting U.S. delegation.

Civil society organisations warn that excluding those closest to communities could undermine Botswana's progress and weaken the country's ability to reach those most at risk.

Govt Killing Elephants at Poacher Levels-Report

New research by Elephants Without Borders warns that Botswana's wildlife authorities may now be killing as many elephants as poachers

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's own wildlife authorities may now be killing elephants at levels comparable to poachers, according to a new scientific assessment by conservation organisation Elephants Without Borders (EWB).

The report raises alarm over a sharp spike in elephants killed under Problem Animal Control (PAC) and warns that the combined impact of poaching and state-sanctioned killings could undermine the sustainability of Botswana's elephant population and trophy hunting sector.

PAC ELEPHANT KILLINGS SURGE DRAMATICALLY

The report reveals a startling rise in elephants killed by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) as part of efforts to manage human-elephant conflict (HEC). Between 2010 and 2020, DWNP killed an average of 10 elephants annually, with yearly totals ranging between zero and 34.

But after 2020, the numbers surged. In 2021, DWNP killed 91 elephants. In 2022, the number remained high at 90, and in 2023 it climbed to 146, according to EWB.

"Since 2021, the number of elephants killed each year by DWNP may be on the same order as the number being killed by poachers," the report states.

POACHING REMAINS RELENTLESS

Poaching in Botswana has remained relatively stable at around 100 elephants per year, mostly targeting mature bulls. Earlier EWB research recorded 156 poached carcasses during 2017–2018 aerial surveys, estimating total losses at around 400 elephants in poaching hotspots.

The new analysis confirms that poaching remains active. Between October 2023 and May 2025, researchers documented 120 freshly poached elephants, particularly in NG15 and NG18. During a separate six-month anti-poaching operation, authorities intercepted seven armed gangs and confiscated 103 tusks weighing nearly three tonnes.

DOUBLE PRESSURE MAY UNDERMINE SUSTAINABILITY

The report warns that high poaching rates combined with rapidly rising PAC killings could "cumulatively influence hunting outcomes," especially because both poachers and hunters disproportionately target older bulls.

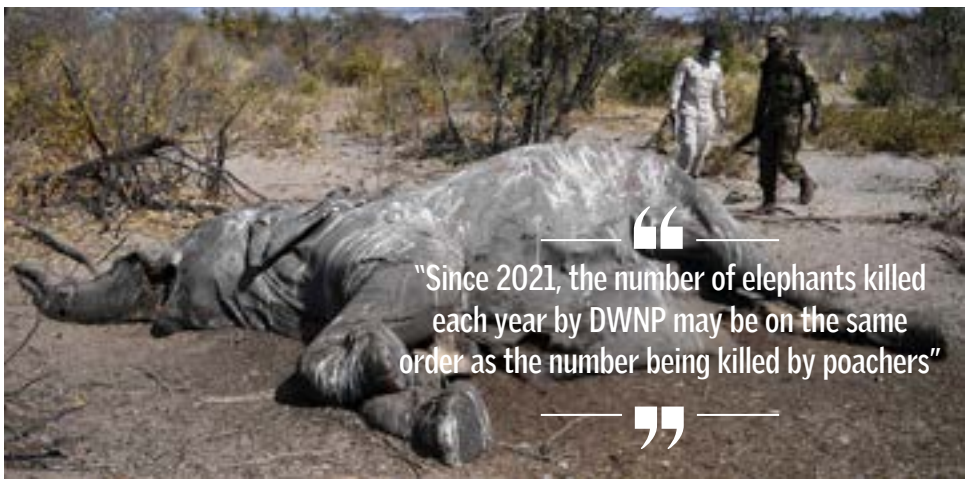
Even current poaching levels already affect trophy sizes and the availability of mature bulls. Yet DWNP has never released data on the age or sex of elephants killed under PAC, a major gap that hampers scientific assessment.

"Killing bulls will have a larger and more immediate impact," the report notes, adding that research across Africa shows older males are most involved in crop-raiding, making them more likely to be targeted during conflict responses.

CALLS FOR TIGHTER QUOTA CONTROLS

EWB warns that if hunting quotas are set without considering poaching losses, Botswana risks overhunting.

The report recommends strengthened aerial surveillance of poaching hotspots and systematic mortality monitoring. It concludes that Botswana's elephant management strategies must urgently integrate poaching data and PAC trends "to ensure long-term sustainability of the population and the industries dependent on it."





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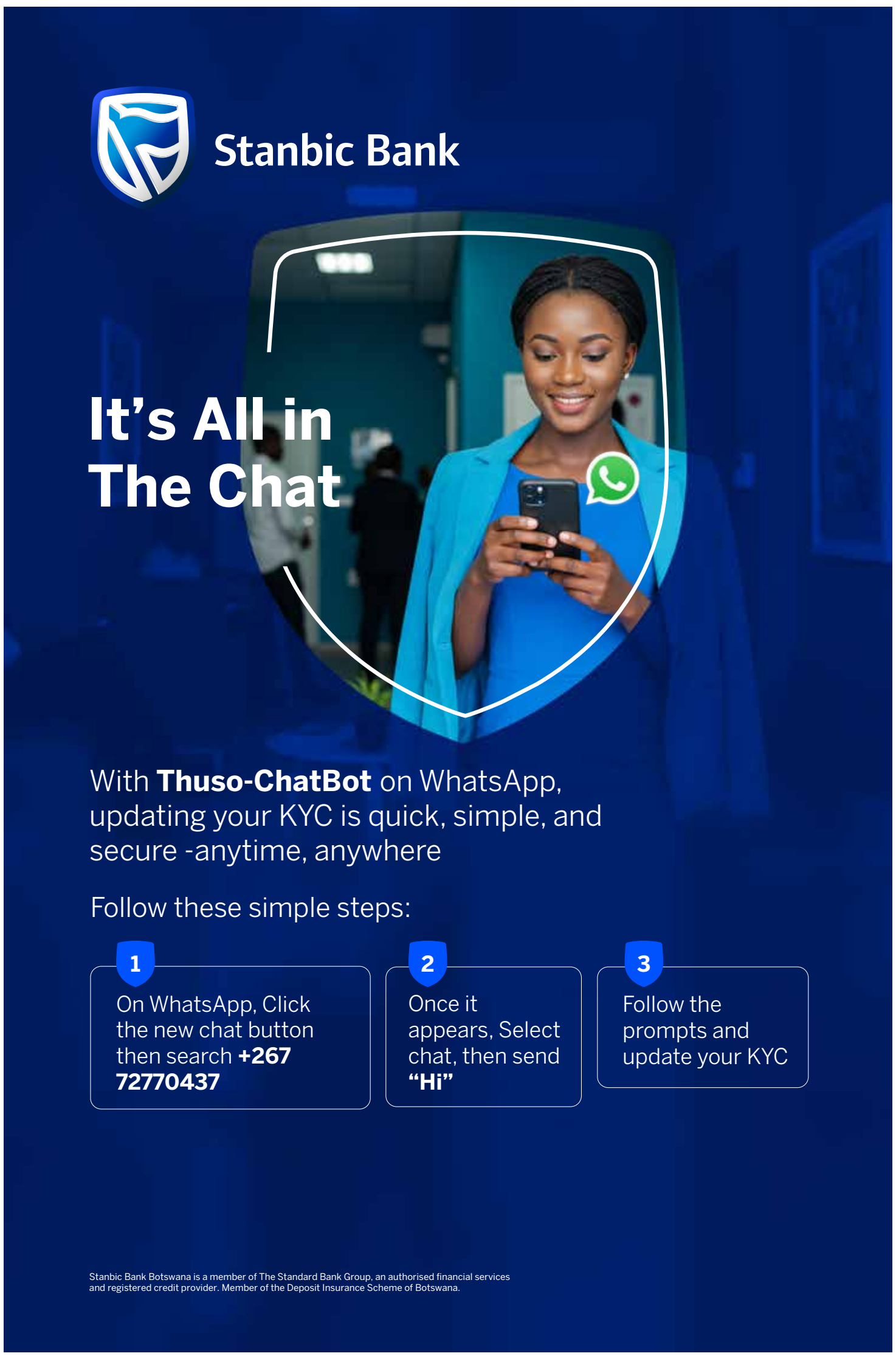
SPAR

Business Woes Hit Dada

Businessman and former BDP treasurer Satar Dada has confirmed a sharp decline in his business ventures, including challenges from unpaid government debts, but says it is too early to link his troubles to the recent political shift



(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)



GAZETTE REPORTER

Businessman and former Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) treasurer, Satar Dada, has openly acknowledged a recent downturn in his business ventures, citing among others, unpaid government debts as a key challenge but stressed that it is premature to attribute his financial difficulties to the historic fall of the BDP.

Dada, who has long traded with the government selling vehicles, some of which remain unpaid, said "it is too early, and may be unfair, to blame his recent business challenges on the change of political power."

"Business has slowed significantly, with sales at a standstill and outstanding payments from the government are yet to be settled," Dada said, attributing part of the problem to the current fiscal climate that has affected purchasing power.

BDP LEGACY AND MONOPOLY ALLEGATIONS

Dada was a key figure under the BDP and became the government's go-to dealer for vehicles for many years. Opposition parties, now part of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), previously criticized this arrangement as monopolistic due to his political connections.

Reports suggest that the new government prefers to deal with alternative dealers in the motor industry, away from Dada's long-standing government contracts.

Asked whether the UDC's approach had caused his business decline, Dada said:

"It is too early to link our current business declines to politics or change of power."

> "Reports suggest that the new government prefers to deal with alternative dealers in the motor industry, away from Dada's long-standing government contracts"

WELL-MEANING

Despite speculation about political motives affecting his business, Dada expressed hope that the government's intentions are genuine and for the public good.

"I want to believe they mean well for all of us and that they genuinely have the best interests of all citizens at heart, as they have pledged," he said, adding that he does not want to see himself "as the only businessman facing difficulties in the current economic climate".

POLITICAL EXIT

Dada resigned from his position on the BDP central committee in November 2024, following the party's historic loss in the national elections. While some media reports described his resignation as an immediate "quitting," Dada had previously announced his plan not to seek re-election when his term was set to expire.

Fears Mount for Batswana Recruited for Russian War


Pic Credit; lemonde

Young men from Botswana and South Africa who were recruited for what was sold as a "personal development" programme in Russia are now feared to have been coerced into military conscription and sent to the Ukraine frontline

GAZETTE REPORTER

Mounting fears are growing in Botswana and South Africa after several young men recruited under the pretext of a "personal development" programme in Russia were reportedly forced into military training and deployed to the frontlines of the Russia–Ukraine conflict.

Among them are at least two Batswana, whose families are now desperately seeking answers on their whereabouts.

The alarm was first raised after distress calls — including SOS messages — were reported by South African media outlets TimesLive and Sowetan. The young men were allegedly taken to Russia after being approached by Duduzile Zuma-Sambudla, daughter of former South African president Jacob Zuma.

THE ORDEAL

A 39-year-old mother, whose Botswana-born son and nephew were among those taken, said the ordeal began earlier this year when Zuma-Sambudla introduced what she described as a "personal development course" in Russia. The woman, who requested anonymity for safety reasons, said she last spoke to her 19-year-old son in August.

"She told us it was a development course. When my son got to Russia, she then told me he was undergoing military training," she said. "I would never have agreed had I known. I want my son back."

CONTRACTS IN RUSSIAN

The mother later discovered that her son and other recruits had been forced to sign contracts written in Russian. After having them translated, she learned they were conscription papers for the Russian military. Her son, who had never handled a firearm before, reportedly injured his hand after a gun backfired during training.

She said her last contact with him was on August 27. Days later, through other parents, she learned he had supposedly been moved to the frontlines on August 28.

"I would not want to believe the woman my son calls aunty Dudu would put his life in danger," she said.

Two weeks ago, she joined a tense conference call with Zuma-Sambudla, the boy's father, and other affected parents. According to her account, Zuma-Sambudla tried to shift blame to unnamed individuals.

"The children say she was the one who brought Siphokazi and convinced them to sign contracts," she insisted.

She has since reported the matter to the government of Botswana, calling it "a clear case of human trafficking."

REPATRIATION EFFORTS

South Africa's Presidency spokesperson, Vincent Magwenya, told TimesLive that there was still no update on efforts to repatriate the men. Meanwhile, parliamentary committees in South Africa have launched investigations into how the recruits were processed into the Russian military system.

Attempts to obtain comment from Botswana authorities were unsuccessful.

The fears add to growing concerns in Botswana after The Gazette recently reported that the US State Department indicated some Batswana women were also taken to Russia in suspected human trafficking schemes.

Registrar Pulled Into BPF Battle

Retired General Gaolatlhe Galebotswe's camp believes only an independent entity like the Registrar of Society can settle the matter of legitimacy that is also claimed by a faction led by Lawrence Ookeditse

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The faction of the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) led by Gaolatlhe Galebotswe has asked the Registrar of Societies to intervene in the party's leadership dispute because it holds that only an independent entity can determine which group is acting within the bounds of the constitution of the BPF.

This follows a letter issued by Lawrence Ookeditse's committee through their attorneys at Otto Itumeleng Law Chambers ordering Galebotswe to cease presenting himself as party president.

Speaking in an interview with *The Botswana Gazette*, the Publicity Secretary of the Galebotswe faction, Modiri Jojo Lucas, said they have formally requested the Registrar of Societies to investigate both sides for constitutional compliance.

CEASE-AND-DESIST LETTER IGNORED

Lucas said the Registrar's findings should compel both factions to account for their actions. "Once the investigations are completed, we want the Registrar to call Ookeditse's committee to clarify why it claims the legitimate leadership of the BPF," he said.

He dismissed the cease-and-desist letter from Ookeditse's faction, saying Galebotswe's committee does not recognise its authority.

"We do not recognise the letter and its contents because there is nowhere in the constitution that favours their action," said Lucas.

BPF DIVIDED

He emphasised that faction of retired General Galebotswe will continue to operate, insisting that only the Registrar's intervention can resolve the leadership standoff that has divided the BPF for months.

Reached for comment, the Publicity Secretary of Ookeditse's committee, Ogaufi Nthobelang, confirmed receipt of a letter from the Registrar of Societies requesting submission of the party's security clearance.

However, he cited Clause 15.4.12 of the BPF constitution for giving the Ookeditse committee the authority to expel Galebotswe, whom he said cannot claim any legitimacy as president of the BPF.

"GALEBOTSWE IS AN ILLEGITIMATE PRESIDENT"

He added that Clause 16 legitimises the Ookeditse committee as purportedly elected at the recent Serowe congress. "Besides that, Clause 20.1 of the BPF constitution confirms that Galebotswe is an illegitimate president," Nthobelang said.



"He does not meet the requirements to be president, so there is no way he could be legitimate. We advise the media to stop engaging his committee as they are illegitimate."

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Old-Age Pension Adjustment in April

The government has confirmed that the long-promised increase to the old-age pension will finally take effect in April 2026, raising monthly payouts to P1,800

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The government will increase the monthly old-age pension to P1,800 in April 2026, the Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Traditional Affairs, Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, has announced.

Motshegwa revealed the planned adjustment while responding to a supplementary question in Parliament from the Member of Parliament for Kgatleng East, Dr Unity Dow.

Dr Dow had sought clarity on the government's long-standing pledge to improve welfare support for senior citizens by raising the old-age pension to P1,800, a promise initially made by the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC).



The government will increase the monthly old-age pension to P1,800 in April 2026, the Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Traditional Affairs, Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, has announced.

Her follow-up question came after an inquiry from Mogoditshane East MP Letlhogonolo Barongwang, who had requested data on the bulk monetary pay-outs to old-age pensioners since the increase from P800 to P1,400, comparing it with the same period in the prior financial year.

INCREASE FACTORED INTO UPCOMING BUDGET

The minister told Parliament that the increase has already been incorporated into projections for the upcoming financial year and will take effect once the new budget is approved. He stressed that the adjustment demonstrates the government's commitment to cushioning pensioners against rising living costs and ensuring older citizens maintain a decent standard of living amid ongoing economic challenges.

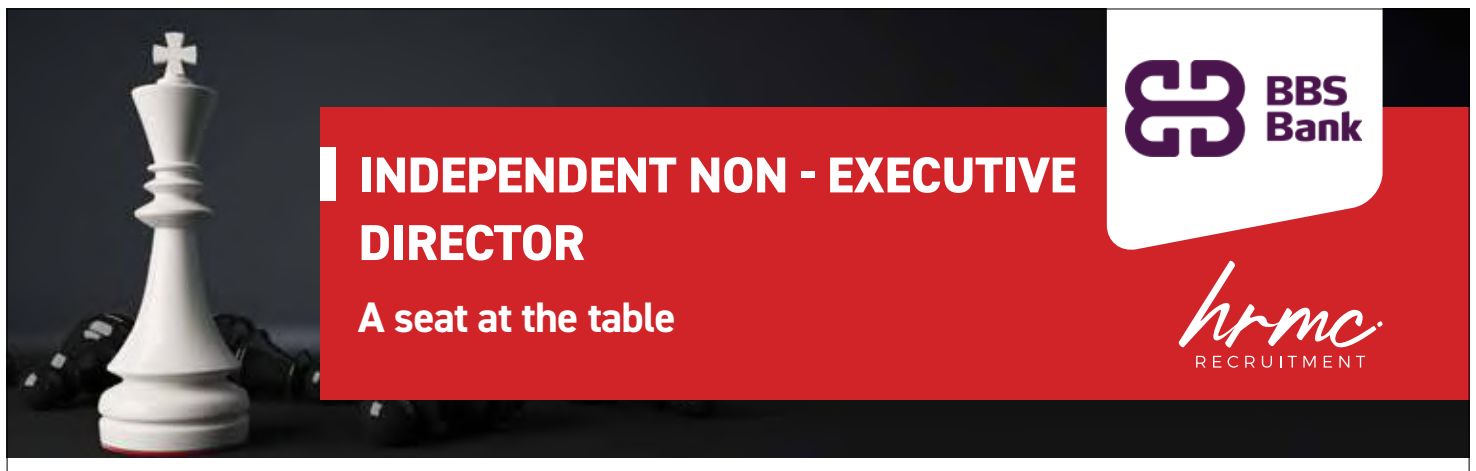
CURRENT PENSION AND MOUNTING CRITICISM

The old-age pension currently stands at P1,400, following an adjustment earlier this year. The delay in implementing the increase to P1,800 has attracted criticism from opposition parties and members of the public who accuse the government of failing to honour promises made during the 2024 general elections.

CUMULATIVE PAY-OUTS

Motshegwa added that despite the significant rise in monetary pay-outs after increasing the pension to P1,400, the government remains committed to fulfilling its pledge of reaching P1,800.

"The cumulative monetary pay-out to old-age pensioners for the past 12 months, from April 2025 to March 2026, is projected at P2,561,029,800. For the same period in the previous financial year 2024/25, the cumulative pay-out was P1,431,725,862. The difference between the two periods reflects an increase of P1,129,303,938," stated Motshegwa.



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WHEN YOU NEED PROFESSIONALS

Unpaid Grain Threatens Food Security

Botswana's farming sector is facing what industry leaders describe as an imminent collapse with thousands of jobs at risk and the country's food security under threat



Two independent reports, one by the Pandamatenga Farmers Association and another by the Botswana Grain Producers Association (BGPA), paint a stark picture of an agricultural sector on the brink of collapse as the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB) fails to pay farmers for grain delivered months ago.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Two independent reports, one by the Pandamatenga Farmers Association and another by the Botswana Grain Producers Association (BGPA), paint a stark picture of an agricultural sector on the brink of collapse as the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB) fails to pay farmers for grain delivered months ago.

According to the Pandamatenga Farmers Association, more than 55,000 tonnes of grain worth P260 million have been delivered to BAMB this season, yet farmers "have received zero Pula to date." The association says producers across the country, from smallholders to large commercial farms, are now in severe financial distress, forced to rely on expensive bank overdrafts with interest rates of Prime plus 9 percent.

NATIONAL CRISIS

"This is now a national crisis. Grain farmers across Botswana are at risk of bankruptcy because of these delays," the association warned. It says farmers continue to pay workers, service machinery, buy fuel, and transport produce — yet without payment for their harvest, they are sinking deeper into debt while "the only players winning in this chaos are the banks."

Small-scale farmers have already abandoned fields because they cannot buy seed, repair broken equipment, or hire labour. Commercial farmers described as the backbone of national grain output — are reportedly approaching "breaking point."

ACCESS TO LOANS

"Some farmers do not even have access to loans from NDB or CEDA and depend entirely on cash flow from produce sales. Those farmers are already out of business," the Pandamatenga report states.

The crisis is becoming more dire as the rainy season begins, the most critical planting window of the year. Thousands of hectares remain unplanted because farmers cannot afford inputs. "The rains don't wait for payments. If farmers cannot plant on time, Botswana risks losing an entire season of grain production," the association cautioned.

BGPA: "This is no longer a warning. It is a plea."

AGRICULTURAL MELTDOWN

A separate report by the Botswana Grain Producers Association reinforces the gravity of the situation, saying "the country is now on the verge of an agricultural shutdown." The BGPA warns of catastrophic consequences: collapsing farms, mass job losses, and a crippled agricultural value chain affecting millers, suppliers, transporters, and rural communities dependent on farm employment.

The association accuses BAMB of longstanding operational inefficiencies and persistent late payments, saying farmers have spent years alerting government to the institution's financial instability.

Farmers have "gone to great lengths to support the search for alternative funding," the BGPA says, including proposing joint financing models and identifying external buyers for surplus grain.

Both reports urgently call for intervention from government, banks, and national institutions.

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The Job
The position will be responsible for, inter alia, the following:
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- Leading organisational transformation and championing the digital transformation of HR and adoption of workforce analytics to support data-driven decision-making.
- Driving talent management, workforce planning and succession initiatives to build leadership bench depth and strength.
- Leading change initiatives to sustain a positive workplace culture.
- Overseeing employee engagement, performance management and reward frameworks to enhance productivity and motivation.
- Providing effective governance and oversight to instil the necessary discipline in policy enforcement, issue resolution and risk management across all people-related processes.

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The right candidate will possess the following:
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- At least 10 years of relevant HR experience, with a minimum of 3 years at managerial level.
- Knowledge of employer value propositioning and employer branding.
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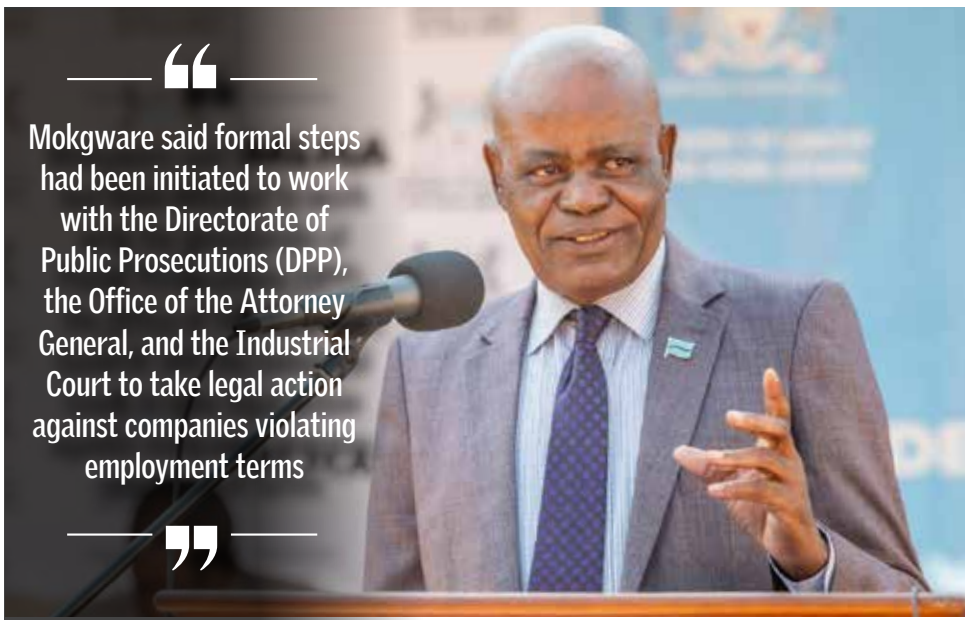
PEOPLE CONNECTIONS
connecting people and business

Will Employers Face Jail Time?

Business Botswana says it was shocked by government's threats to jail employers who fail to pay staff, insisting that no position has been reached on that issue

BONGANI MALUNGA

Business Botswana says that, as far as it is concerned, there is still no definitive position on the proposed clause in the revised Employment and Labour Act that would impose jail terms on employers who fail to pay their employees' monthly salaries.



This follows recent comments by the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Pius Mokgware, who revealed that under the newly revised Act, employers who fail to pay staff could face up to a one-year jail term. The updated provisions are part of the reviewed Act, which is expected to come into effect by March 2026.

Delivering his keynote address at the Choppies Long Service and Excellence Awards in Gaborone last week, Mokgware said formal steps had been initiated to work with the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP), the Office of the Attorney General, and the Industrial Court to take legal action against companies violating employment terms.

"I want to remind all business owners and employers that the newly revised Employment and Labour Act will be in effect soon. As the line ministry, we will not tolerate situations where workers are unpaid under the pretense of financial constraints. By March next year, no local business will be able to evade paying their employees," Mokgware warned.

BUSINESS BOTSWANA RESPONDS

In response, Business Botswana's newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Tumi Mbaakanyi, told The Voice that while the organisation regularly engages with government through sectoral and high-level consultative forums, it has no record of the matter being finalised at the level suggested by the Minister.

"Some of these issues directly affect the Act itself, and consultations are still ongoing on several points to ensure mutual benefit. The matter you raise has not been finalised as reported," Mbaakanyi said. She added that dialogue continues with government to address concerns from the business community while balancing employees' rights.

STRICT MEASURES AND RETRENCHMENT RULES

Minister Mokgware emphasized that the law will be strictly enforced. "If you don't comply by paying salaries, then you are better off closing up shop. Awaiting payment from external sources will no longer be an excuse. Failure to pay a wage is a criminal offence, which will carry an imprisonment of 12 months. Once the President confirms the law, we will encourage complainants to report directly to the police and subsequently to court," he said.

The Minister also highlighted changes to retrenchment procedures, stating that emergency retrenchments will no longer be allowed without prior consultation. "Workers have to be consulted and notified before such decisions are taken. The retrenchment process must be approved by the Commissioner of Labour," Mokgware said.



Saleshando Revives Battle Over Okavango Lodge

In addition to ending the controversy surrounding its acquisition by the previous government, the Leader of the Opposition says returning the land to Tawana Land Board would ultimately benefit local communities



Maun North Member of Parliament (MP) Dumelang Saleshando has renewed efforts to block the government from constructing a planned presidential lodge in a disputed portion of the Okavango Delta, which was controversially acquired by the state. *Photo Credit: Social Media*

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Maun North Member of Parliament (MP) Dumelang Saleshando has renewed efforts to block the government from constructing a planned presidential lodge in a disputed portion of the Okavango Delta, which was controversially acquired by the state.

Saleshando initially raised concerns in August, submitting a parliamentary question seeking clarity on whether the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government would return land taken from the Tawana Land Board by the previous administration. At the time, the Minister of State President Moeti Mohwasa told Parliament that the government had no intention of returning the land for potential allocation to local residents.

MOTION CALLS FOR LAND TO RETURN

Following Mohwasa's response, Saleshando has escalated the matter by drafting a motion to compel government to abandon the lodge project. The motion, expected to be tabled in Parliament soon, urges the government to cancel plans for the lodge and return the land to the Tawana Land Board, which Saleshando says is the rightful custodian.

He argues that once returned, the land could be allocated to the district council for developments that directly benefit local communities, rather than serving what he describes as exclusive presidential interests.

> "The motion, which is expected to be tabled before Parliament soon, will urge government to scrap plans for the lodge and hand the land back to Tawana Land Board as the rightful custodian"

BACKGROUND TO GOVERNMENT'S LODGE PLANS

The disputed land, measuring 8 km by 81 km and located within NG 28 and NG 21 concessions in the North West District, was acquired by the former Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) administration to develop a presidential lodge for hosting state dignitaries.

The previous government justified the acquisition, saying the lodge would reduce costs associated with accommodating visiting dignitaries in privately owned tourism establishments.

Govt Toughens Penalties For Illegal Mining

Botswana has tightened mining regulations with harsher fines and jail terms to curb illegal activities, strengthen compliance and promote responsible mineral resource management



Photo Credit: DailyNews

BONGANI MALUNGA

The government has decided to tighten regulatory compliance in the mining sector by increasing penalties for breaches of the Mines and Minerals Act.

Under the proposed revisions, offenders will face a significantly harsher punishment, a fine of up to P500 000 and a jail term of up to five years, as authorities intensify efforts to curb illegal mining and enforce responsible resource management.

TENFOLD INCREASE

Addressing a kgotla meeting in Mahalapye last week, the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo, announced that violations of the revised Mines and Minerals Act now carry a fine of P500 000, a tenfold increase from the previous P50 000 and a jail term of five years, up from the previous one-year term.

Under the revised terms of the Mines and Minerals Act, the government has issued a stern warning to illegal miners, operators who fail to comply with licensing requirements, those with poor record-keeping practices, and activities that cause environmental harm or undermine citizen empowerment initiatives. Non-compliance will result in legal action and the possible revocation of mining rights, Kenewendo stressed.

INCREASING FINES AND PENALTIES

"We are set to increase penalties for non-compliance. We have significantly increased fines for those who contravene the Act. In previous years a person convicted of an offence would face a fine of P200.00, this has now increased to P5000.00. Additionally, any breach of the provision of the Act will increase from P50 000.00 to P500 000.00," Kenewendo revealed.

"The first conviction fine not exceeding P1000 has increased to not less than P500 000, or a one year jail term revised to five years. A fine of not more than P5000 has been revised to not more than P500 000. A fine of not more than P100 000 has been revised to P1 million," she added.

Botswana to Sell Diamonds Directly to India

Bypassing middlemen means enhanced value capture within Botswana's diamond sector while Indian processors stand to benefit from more predictable supply lines and potentially more competitive pricing


Pic Credit; Duma Gideon Boko

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana and India have reached a landmark agreement that will see rough diamonds supplied directly to the Indian market, cutting out third-party trading hubs in the process.

The new arrangement signals a strategic shift in how Botswana channels its minerals to global buyers while strengthening its economic ties with India, the world's largest diamond cutting and polishing centre.

MORE REVENUE FOR BOTH COUNTRIES

Under the deal, Botswana's diamonds will be exported straight to Indian manufacturers in a move expected to boost efficiency, reduce transaction costs and increase revenue retention for both countries.

> "Around 90 percent of the global roughs reach India for cutting and polishing and this direct linkage with the miners in Botswana will cut costs and increase supply"

Delegates from India's Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) advanced the proposal during Indian President Droupadi Murmu's state visit to Botswana earlier this month.

According to Indian media reports, the GJEPC delegation was among the special guests invited to a Presidential dinner held in honour of President Murmu in Gaborone.

DEAL CLINCHED IN PRESIDENTIAL DINNER

Following the high-profile banquet, the delegation was granted a separate meeting with President Duma Boko and a select group of cabinet ministers.

During this engagement, the proposal for direct diamond trade between Botswana and India was examined in detail, with both sides exploring its potential impact on efficiency, value retention and the restructuring of long-standing supply chains.

INTERMEDIARIES ELIMINATED

The shift is likely to be felt in traditional trading hubs such as Dubai, Antwerp and Tel Aviv, which have long relied on acting as intermediaries between African producers and Asian manufacturers.

With Botswana and India opting for a direct pipeline, these centres may lose a portion of the rough diamond volumes that previously passed through their markets.

Jayanti Savaliya, the Regional Chairman of GJEPC told Indian newspaper *Deccan Chronicle* that the deal between Botswana and India will help reduce the cost of rough diamonds by 15 percent for Indian consumers.

INCREASED SUPPLY

"Around 90 percent of the global roughs reach India for cutting and polishing and this direct linkage with the miners in Botswana will cut costs and increase supply," Savaliya was quoted as saying.

"We hope to see auctions by ODC to start in the Special Notified Zone in Surat in a few months."

BCP Slams Boko's Health Progress Claims

The official opposition says President Duma Boko's claims of recovery in the health sector ignore ongoing drug shortages, staffing gaps and service delivery failures nationwide

BONGANI MALUNGA

President Duma Boko's recent claim that the country's health sector is showing positive signs of recovery is sharply at odds with conditions on the ground, the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) has said.

In a statement release after a fact-finding mission at Princess Marina Hospital on Monday this week, the BCP said the public health sector remains in a dire state.

It noted that contrary to the President's optimistic outlook, healthcare facilities across Botswana continue to grapple with chronic shortages of essential drugs, understaffing and deteriorating service delivery.

LONG WAITING TIMES

The BCP, which is Botswana's official opposition, contends that communities are still experiencing long waiting times, inconsistent access to life-saving medication and systemic management failures.

"The statement by the President exposes the widening gap between UDC and the reality lived by Batswana," it said. "We found conditions that point to a system in crisis rather than one in recovery.

"The BCP reiterates that access to quality health care is a constitutional and a moral obligation. Until hospitals are adequately staffed and stocked, claims of improvement remain empty words.

EMPTY WORDS

> "Until hospitals are adequately staffed and stocked, claims of improvement remain empty words"

"Accountability begins with telling the truth, acknowledging the depth of the crisis and presenting a clear recovery plan."

The BCP used the statement to announce that its Shadow


Pic Credit; Duma Gideon Boko

Minister of Health, Phil Aaron, will present recommendations to the Minister of Health, Stephen Modise, based on its findings from the fact-finding mission.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has confirmed the arrival of a major consignment of theatre medicines, pain-management drugs and essential laboratory reagents at the Central Medical Stores (CMS) last Friday.

TIMELY OPERATIONS

The delivery is expected to ease the shortages that have affected surgical theatres and laboratory services in hospitals across Botswana, restoring capacity for timely operations and critical diagnostic work.

This follows MoH's drone delivery of essential medicines to health facilities in remote locations across the country.

"The use of drone technology in the delivery of essential medicines to people in remote areas will be time and cost-effective," said President Boko in Maun recently.

"We want to ensure that citizens around the country have access to medicines, regardless of their location."

SOAB Perturbed By Govt Plans To In-Source Security Services

In addition to lack of consultation, the Security Officers Association of Botswana fears increased exclusion by demanding minimum qualifications when the government in-sources security services

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO



The Security Officers Association of Botswana (SOAB) has expressed deep concerns about recruitment criteria following the government's announcement that it will in-source security services currently handled by private firms.

The Security Officers Association of Botswana (SOAB) has expressed deep concerns about recruitment criteria following the government's announcement that it will in-source security services currently handled by private firms.

Speaking in an interview with ***The Botswana Gazette***, the Chairman of SOAB, Batanani Morapelo, said they are in the dark about how the government plans to hire officers once the in-sourcing takes effect.

Key questions for the association, he noted, are whether the government will impose minimum age limits and educational qualifications or mandatory prior training.

CURIOUS ABOUT CRITERIA

"Private security companies currently hire officers without considering age or qualifications," Morapelo said. "But with the government, minimum qualifications are usually required. We are curious about what criteria will apply."

He acknowledged that roughly 90 percent of private-sector security officers have never received even basic training before joining the companies, saying only three security firms provide structured training to new recruits.

SOAB's concerns are not about standards only but are also about inclusion. Morapelo criticised the government for making the decision without sufficient consultation.

BROADER REFORMS

"Had SOAB and the Private Security Services Licensing Board been consulted, we would have presented these concerns," he said. "As it stands, we are in the dark about what is going to happen."

The government's push to in-source security services comes as part of broader reforms under the Draft 12th National Development Plan (NDP12) (2025–2030) recently announced by the Minister for State President, Moeti Mohwasa.

Presenting NDP12 in Parliament, Mohwasa explained that the government will move to a hybrid public service delivery model, placing greater emphasis on in-sourcing rather than outsourcing.

BIDPA ASSESSMENT

He said the decision was informed by an evaluation of the Public Service Outsourcing Programme (PSOP) by the Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) that found that outsourcing had led to poor working conditions, job insecurity and inconsistent service quality.

Reached for comment, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Major General Pius Mokgware(rtd), sought to allayed fears by emphasising that the process will be transparent.

"We are currently working on the process that is going to be transparent and fair," he said.



Tlokweng Readies for 145-Year Jubilee

LEATILE ZACHARIAH

The Tlokweng Main Kgotla recently hosted a community briefing where Kgosi Puso Gaborone updated residents on preparations for the upcoming 145-year celebration of Tlokweng and the 200-year commemoration of Kgosi Gaborone I.

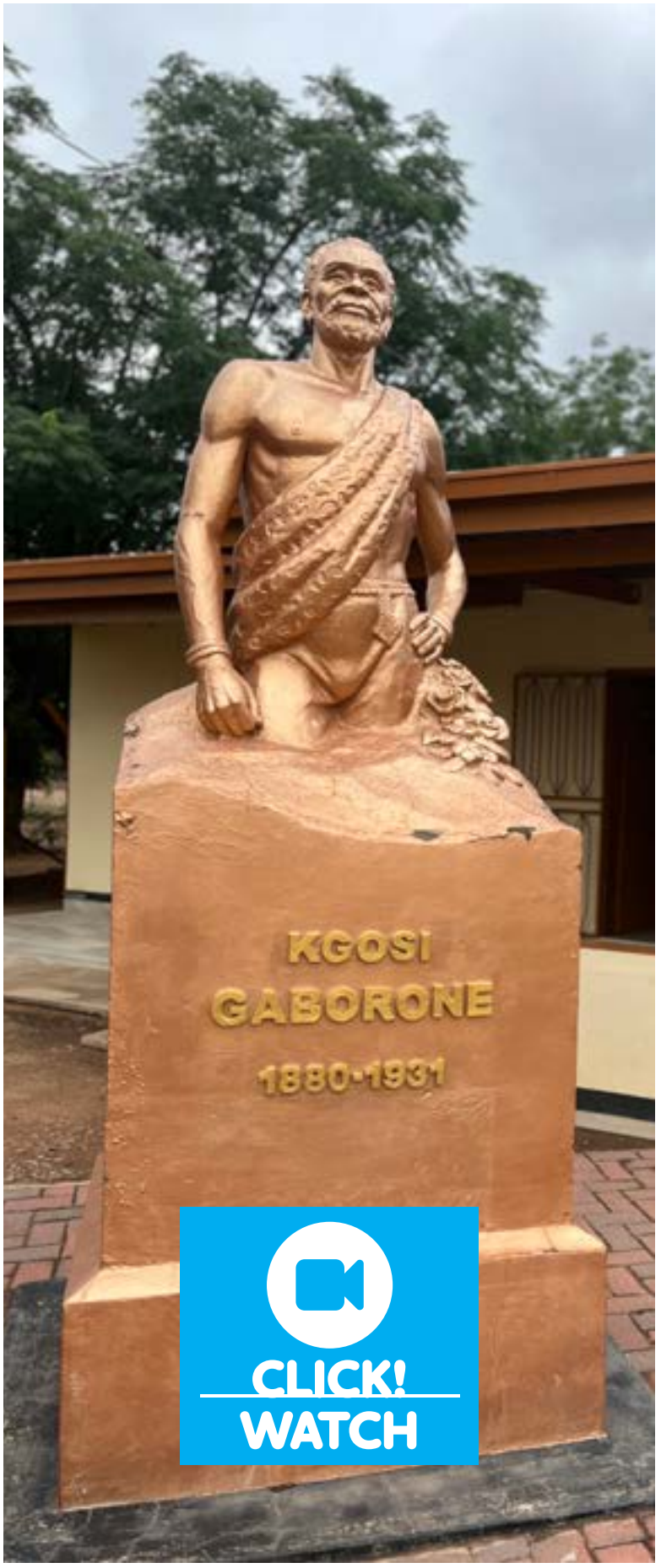
REGIONAL ATTENDANCE EXPECTED

He said the main celebration will be held on 29 November at Royal Aria in Tlokweng, bringing together Batlokwa from across Botswana and descendants from Lesotho, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. Batlokwa from villages including Mmatseta, Mogobane, Oodi, Tobane, Ramotswa, and Kweneng are expected to attend.

PRE-EVENT ENGAGEMENTS

Ahead of the gathering, Batlokwa bogosi from various regions will arrive in Tlokweng on 27 and 28 November for cultural and lineage-focused engagements.

A key precursor event was the launch of the roving torch on 23 November during a prayer session at the main kgotla. Seitshiro Matlala of the Batlokwa Royal Council explained that the torch symbolises the Batlokwa journey, heritage and intergenerational continuity. The torch is currently moving through wards, heritage sites, and notable landmarks to spiritually prepare the community for the celebrations.



> Kgosi Gaborone also updated residents on the transition of the Batlokwa Development Trust into the Batlokwa Royal Trust, a restructuring he said draws inspiration from the Royal Bafokeng model

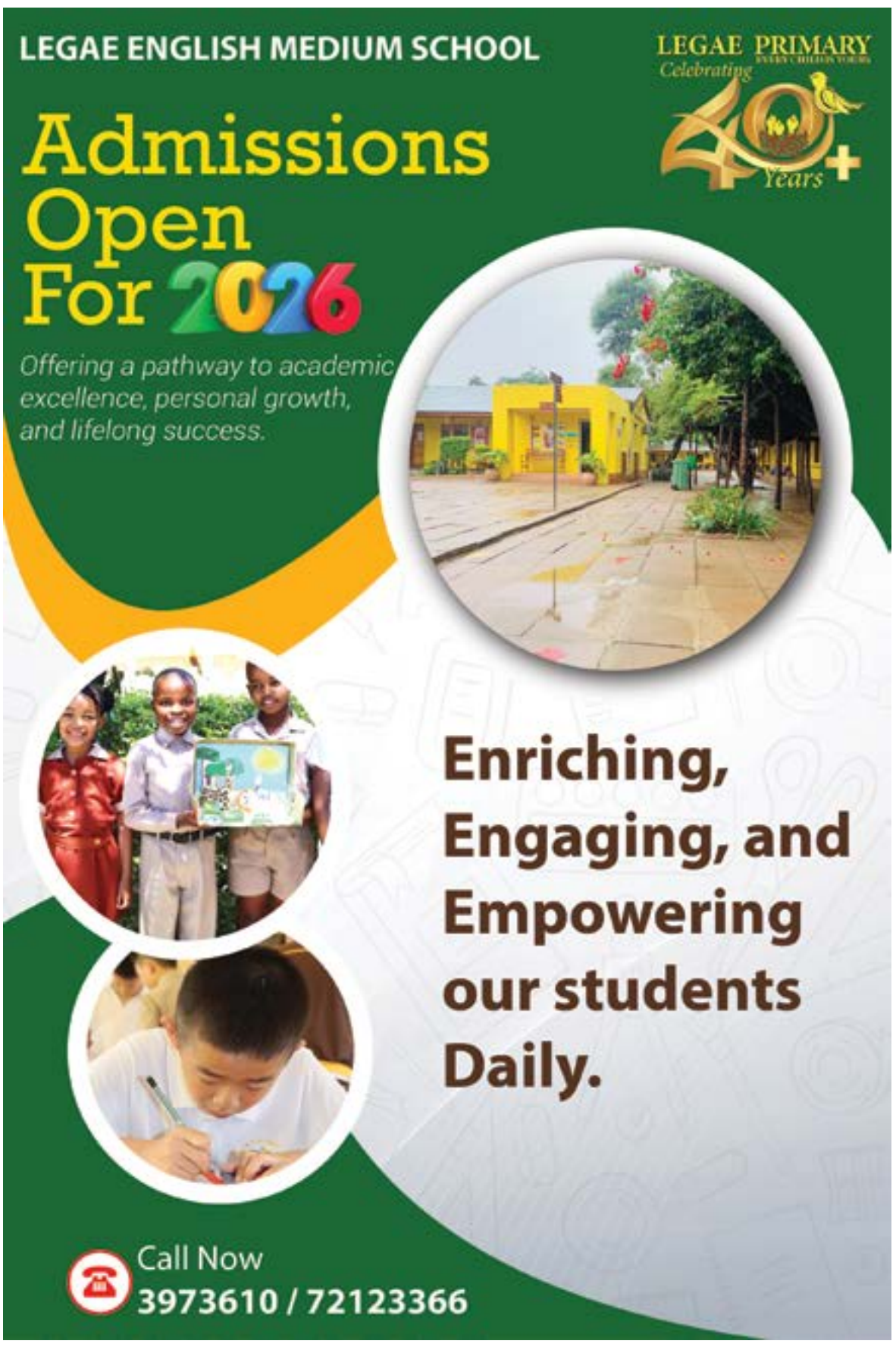
TRUST RESTRUCTURED

Kgosi Gaborone also updated residents on the transition of the Batlokwa Development Trust into the Batlokwa Royal Trust, a restructuring he said draws inspiration from the Royal Bafokeng model. The trust aims to attract investment, generate revenue, and acquire land for tribal development.

He reiterated a proposal for an annual P200 contribution per homestead to support cultural programmes and long-term development starting next year.

LOOKING AHEAD

Kgosi Gaborone said the celebrations offer both historical reflection and an opportunity to shape Tlokweng's future vision of becoming a smart, modern village that retains Batlokwa identity.



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Gaolathe Sets Out Transformation Plan

He outlines government's BETP agenda, presenting it as a shift toward delivery. While officials highlight revived projects and investor interest, the programme's reliance on reforms and coordinated execution has prompted concerns about implementation capacity



Botswana's Vice President and Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe, has outlined what he called "a new economic path" under the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP).

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's Vice President and Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe, has outlined what he called "a new economic path" under the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP). Addressing media and financiers, he said the programme aims to steer national efforts toward a "digitally enabled, export-led, and diversified high-income economy."

SECTOR FOCUS AND NATIONAL DIRECTION

The BETP centres on six economic sectors—Tourism, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Financial Services and Digitalisation, Energy and Mining, and Infrastructure—and three social priorities: Healthcare, Education and Social Protection. Gaolathe said each area has been aligned to a long-term "True North," which he described as the country's unified direction of travel.

STALLED PROJECTS AND EXECUTION RISKS

Gaolathe said the BETP consolidates projects that have previously stalled due to coordination or regulatory constraints. Examples he highlighted included the A1 Highway upgrade, Milk Valley Farm, Chobe-Zambezi and the National Digital ID. He said these initiatives are now moving forward under a single execution framework. He also noted that implementation will require sustained discipline, adding that "success is defined not by what we envision, but by what we deliver."

PRIVATE SECTOR AND INVESTOR INTEREST

The programme includes a P514 billion project pipeline over the next decade, with 60 percent earmarked for private-sector leadership. Gaolathe said investor interest had emerged in projects such as Xinii Resort, TEMCO Hospital, the Centre for Nuclear Medicine & Theragnostic, the Glen Valley Wastewater Plant redevelopment and the expansion of Maun Airport. He added that findings from project labs are shaping proposed amendments to the Energy Act, Environmental Assessment Act and Agrochemicals Act.

DELIVERY MECHANISM AND PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION

A BETP Secretariat is being established to coordinate implementation and report to senior leadership. Gaolathe said the programme draws on 6,925 public submissions, refined into 186 projects through four-week BETP Labs. He encouraged financiers, media and citizens to engage with the newly launched BETP digital portal for project information.

TENDER NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

MVA FUND
Living the promise.

Tender Reference No: RFP-11-2025

Procurement Requirements: Right of Recovery Debt Collection Services (3 years contract)
Procurement Method: Open Domestic Bidding
Prescribed Reservation Schemes: Reserved for 100% Citizen Owned Companies
PPRA Codes: Code: 314 Finance Related Servies, sub code 01-Finance Management
Tender Fees: A non-refundable standard fee of **P150.00** and **P75.00 VAT inclusive** for youth owned companies in Botswana upon submission of proof of registration.

Tender Closing: Friday 05 December 2025 at 1500hrs

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI-03-2025)

Procurement Requirements: Inclusion Into MVA Fund Legal Services Database

Tender Closing: Monday 1st December 2025 at 15:00hrs

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Motor Vehicle Auction Sale



Bank Gaborone would like to notify the public and its valued customers of the upcoming auction of repossessed motor vehicles. The auction will be held at Lot Bank Gaborone, Head Office in CBD Gaborone, on the 5th day of December 2025 at 0930hrs. Finance is available at affordable rates to qualifying applicants

For more information please contact: 3671500, 74004159 71374432, and 71374427



RESERVE PRICE :P2,950,000.00
MAKE: Scania
MODEL: G460 A6 6x6 NA

YEAR: 2023
FUEL TYPE: Diesel

MILEAGE: 260 000km

MAKE: Tank Clinic
MODEL: Tridem Semi Tanker Trailer
YEAR: 2022
REGISTRATION: B 533 BRV



RESERVE PRICE :P2,900,000.00
MAKE: Scania
MODEL: G460 A6 6x6 NA

YEAR: 2023
FUEL TYPE: Diesel

MILEAGE: 273 611km

MAKE: Tank Clinic
MODEL: Tridem Semi Tanker Trailer
YEAR: 2022
REGISTRATION: B 531 BRV



RESERVE PRICE :P750,000.00
MAKE: FAW
MODEL: JH6 33.420FT T/T C/C
YEAR: 2024
FUEL TYPE: Diesel
MILIAGE: 64 583km



RESERVE PRICE :P360,000.00
MAKE: SA Truck Bodies
MODEL: Tandem Side Tipper Front
YEAR: 2019
REGISTRATION: B 470 BWK

MAKE: S A Truck Bodies
MODEL: Tandem Side Tipper Front
YEAR :2019
REGISTRATION: B 473 BWK



RESERVE PRICE :P100,000.00
MAKE: Scania
MODEL: G460 CA 6x4 HSZ
YEAR: 2019
FUEL TYPE: Diesel
MILEAGE: non-moving



RESERVE PRICE :P400,000.00
MAKE: Toyota
MODEL: Quantum GL SLWB 14 Seat H/R
YEAR: 2023
FUEL TYPE: Diesel
MILEAGE: 125 675km



RESERVE PRICE :P40,000.00
MAKE: Nissan
MODEL: MP300 2.5 TD 4x4 P/U D/C
YEAR: 2015
FUEL TYPE: Diesel
MILEAGE: 36 3931km



RESERVE PRICE :P350,000.00
MAKE: Toyota
MODEL: Fortuner 2.8 GD-6 4x4 A/T EPIC Black A
YEAR: 2020
FUEL TYPE: Diesel
MILEAGE: 141 569km



RESERVE PRICE :P230,000.00
MAKE: Cherry
MODEL: TIGO 8 PRO MAX 390T
YEAR: 2023
FUEL TYPE: Petrol
MILEAGE: 70 305km



RESERVE PRICE :P30,000.00
MAKE: Toyota
MODEL: Etios 1.5 Sprint
YEAR: 2019
FUEL TYPE: Petrol
MILEAGE: 262 415km



RESERVE PRICE :P300,000.00
MAKE: Toyota
MODEL: Fortuner 2.4 GD-6 4x4 A/T
YEAR: 2021
FUEL TYPE: Diesel
MILEAGE: 107 432km



RESERVE PRICE :P190,000.00
MAKE: Isuzu
MODEL: D-Max 250 HO HI-Rider A/T D/C P/U
YEAR: 2021
FUEL TYPE: Diesel
MILEAGE: 92 233km

Important Terms and Conditions of the sale

1. Registration fee: P5,000.00
2. Registration fee will be paid on or before the 4th day of December 2025 at 1600hrs and refunded to unsuccessful bidders starting from the 8th day of December 2025.
3. Registration fee shall be deducted from the successful bids therefore, it is non-refundable to the successful bids;
4. All motor vehicles shall be sold as is (voetstoots)
5. All motor vehicles shall be sold without (roadworthy certificate)
6. Flagging and/or traffic offence charges shall be paid until the date of sale and any flagging after sale shall be the responsibility of the buyer or bidder.
7. Motor vehicle shall be released to the successful bidders only if the purchase price has been paid fully;
8. No motor vehicle shall be returned by the successful bidder after it has been removed from the auction premises.
9. Viewing at Bank Gaborone Head Office in CBD and Rent a Store in Mmamashia shall be conducted from Monday to Friday between 14:30pm to 16:30pm;
10. Successful bidders will only be given access to the motor vehicle after full payment has been made;
11. Payment of the balance shall be made within 14 days from date of sale,
12. Acceptable payment method for registration fee and purchase price: bank transfer (EFT)
13. The bank reserves the right to remove any motor vehicle from the auction without giving any reason.
14. Transfer of ownership to the successful bidders shall be done within 14 working days from date of full payment

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Govt Spending Slowdown Shapes Business Outlook 2025

A new BoB survey shows firms citing pressure from slow government spending and the weak Pula, while others point to stable utilities and domestic demand as supportive factors

GAZETTE REPORTER

Firms in Botswana reported that slow government spending and an unfavourable exchange rate environment continued to weigh on operations in the third quarter of 2025, according to the Bank of Botswana's Quarterly Business Expectations Survey – September 2025.



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FISCAL CAUTION A KEY DRAG

The report attributes the cautious fiscal stance to the country's weak fiscal position, driven largely by lower earnings from diamond exports. Firms also cited subdued international demand and limited external financing as additional constraints.

SUPPORTIVE CONDITIONS NOTED

However, the survey states that "firms highlighted several supportive conditions for business activity." These included reliable water supply, a stable political environment, a predictable regulatory framework, the availability of skilled labour, and steady domestic demand.

> "Sentiment moderated for the fourth quarter of 2025."

OPTIMISM MODERATES AHEAD

While firms were more optimistic about the third quarter compared to the second, expectations weakened for the fourth quarter of 2025 and the 12 months to September 2026. The report notes that the softer sentiment is linked to uncertainty around government spending and the overall fiscal position.

FINANCING PATTERNS HOLD

Firms continued to rely primarily on retained earnings to finance operations, followed by loans and equity. The proportion of firms preferring equity decreased slightly to 14 percent from 15 percent in the previous survey, while no firm opted for a composite financing source compared to 2 percent earlier.

SECTOR DIFFERENCES

The preference for retained earnings remained common across most sectors. Firms in Finance, Professional and Administrative Activities, and Construction and Real Estate showed a higher inclination toward loans, reflecting sector-specific financing needs.

BoB Details Pula Exchange Pressures

Bank of Botswana outlines factors influencing the Pula, while the report also highlights pressures that may slow or counter expected movements, including domestic inflation risks and structural challenges in South Africa

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Pula exchange rate continues to be driven by movements in its basket of currencies and the predetermined annual rate of crawl, the Bank of Botswana (BoB) says in its latest Monetary Policy Report.

BoB notes that once the composition of the currency basket and the rate of crawl are set, "daily fluctuations in the Pula's value against other currencies are a result of movements in the cross rates of the South African rand and the SDR constituent currencies against each other, as well as their relative weights within the composite currency basket."

RAND MOVEMENTS EXPECTED TO SHIFT

According to the report, the South African rand is projected to appreciate against major international currencies in the fourth quarter of 2025, supported by rising gold prices as investors seek safe-haven assets amid geopolitical uncertainty.

However, it adds that the rand is expected to depreciate from early 2026 into the medium term due to "persistent structural constraints within the domestic economy." These include subdued GDP growth, high unemployment, and the resurgence of rotational power outages. While Eskom has offered assurances of a stable power supply during winter, the report states that ongoing energy instability continues to undermine productivity.

DOLLAR OUTLOOK INFLUENCED BY TARIFFS

The report also shows that the US dollar is projected to depreciate against SDR constituent currencies over the next four quarters. This is largely attributed to concerns over the economic impact of newly implemented tariffs, US trade policy, and fiscal policy. President Donald Trump "reaffirmed a 10 percent baseline global tariff and imposed reciprocal duties of up to 41 percent on countries without trade agreements with the US," the report says.

It states that a further 40 percent tariff on goods deemed transhipped to avoid existing duties has heightened trade tensions. Although the dollar may experience short bursts of safe-haven demand, the report indicates this could only partially offset its expected depreciation.

DOMESTIC EFFECTS ON THE PULA

Domestically, the Pula is projected to depreciate against the rand into the medium term. The report links this to the anticipated short-term appreciation of the rand and recent adjustments to exchange-rate parameters.

"While the rate of crawl exerts a gradual influence on the value of the Pula, the widening of trading margins has had a more immediate impact on its market valuation," the report says. It adds that these revisions will continue guiding the Pula's trajectory, with the market adjusting over time.

The report notes that the expected depreciation of the Pula against the rand may place upward pressure on domestic inflation due to Botswana's dependence on South African imports.

BHC Targets Growth in Housing Demand

BHC reports stronger rental revenue and expanding urban demand, while its confidence in digital upgrades and construction technologies contrasts with concerns about rising reliance on rentals as the main income stream



Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC) says it is positioned to take advantage of rising housing demand, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas, as it diversifies products for various market segments. Chairman Moemedi Gabana says this includes low-income households and first-time home buyers.

GAZETTE REPORTER

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RENTAL REVENUE UP 21 PERCENT

In its 2024 Annual Report, BHC states that rental revenue grew by 21 percent to P339 million, up from P280 million the previous year. The Corporation attributes the increase to new rental units added to its portfolio and a rental subsidy from its shareholder. Rental income again surpassed sales revenue as BHC's main revenue stream.

VACANCY RATE WITHIN TARGET

BHC recorded 9 855 rental units at year-end, occupied by individuals, corporates and government entities. The vacancy rate stood at 1.87 percent, which the Corporation describes as within its strategic goal of maintaining very low vacancies. While BHC views rental stock as key to financial sustainability, the continued dominance of rental income may raise questions about the pace of growth in housing sales.

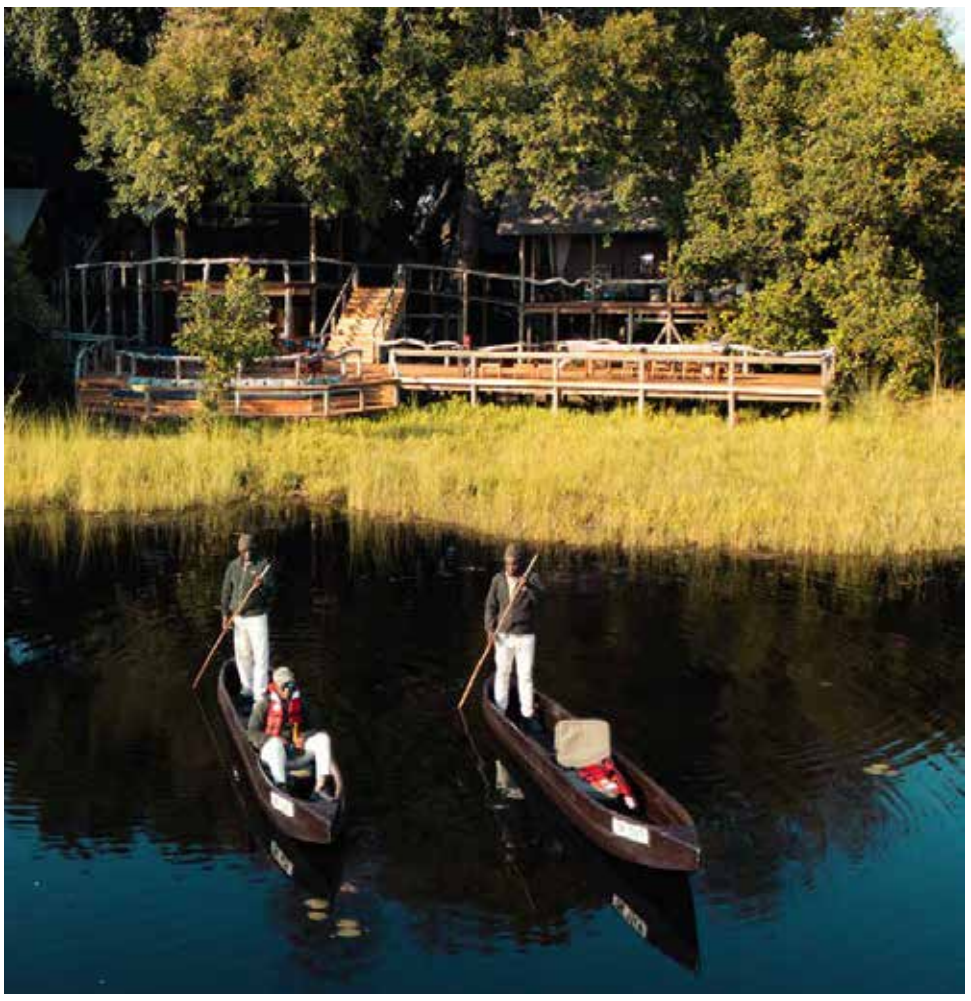
TECHNOLOGY AND EFFICIENCY MEASURES

Gabana says investments in digital technologies are intended to enhance customer engagement and operational efficiency. The report adds that BHC is adopting construction technologies to reduce timelines and costs, while strengthening partnerships across sectors.

"Our long-term focus going forward is cost containment, supply chain optimisation, and leveraging economies of scale," it states.

Chobe Expects Higher Half-Year Profit

Chobe Holdings expects a stronger profit for the half-year but cautions investors to await full results, as required by the Botswana Stock Exchange.



Chobe Holdings Limited says its Profit Before Tax (PBT) for the half-year ended 31 August 2025 is expected to rise by close to P40 million, according to a Cautionary Statement released recently.

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Chobe Holdings Limited says its Profit Before Tax (PBT) for the half-year ended 31 August 2025 is expected to rise by close to P40 million, according to a Cautionary Statement released recently. Under the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) Listings Requirements, issuers must alert the market to developments likely to materially affect upcoming financial results.

> "The Group will be publishing its unaudited results on or before 30 November 2025"

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

The company said its PBT is projected to be between 15 and 25 percent higher—approximately BWP 24.4 to 40.7 million—than the BWP 162.9 million reported for the comparative period ended 31 August 2024.

"The Group will be publishing its unaudited consolidated summarised financial results for the half-year ended 31 August 2025 on or before 30 November 2025," it stated.

MARKET DISCLOSURE

Chobe added that the forthcoming results will include commentary on the factors behind the improved performance. The statement also advised shareholders and investors "to exercise caution when dealing in the Company's securities until the results are formally published."

COMPANY BACKGROUND

Formed in 1992 through the merger of Chobe Game Lodge and Desert & Delta Safaris, the Group positions itself as an ecotourism operator listed on the BSE. It notes a long-standing focus on environmental stewardship and community engagement across its properties.





Duras Ai Wins Orange Summer Challenge

A drone-powered wildlife protection system has been crowned the 2025 Orange Summer Challenge winner, highlighting how young innovators are responding to national challenges

A wildlife-protection technology developed by Duras AI has won the 2025 Orange Summer Challenge (OSC), emerging first out of more than 180 entrants in one of the competition's most competitive editions. The finals were held at Avani Gaborone Resort and Casino, showcasing projects addressing issues such as human–elephant conflict, digital identity, agriculture and health access.

TOP PROJECTS ADDRESS NATIONAL PRESSURES

Duras AI received P50,000 for its AI-driven drone system designed to help manage human–elephant conflict. The technology aims to reduce threats to rural livelihoods while supporting conservation and the tourism economy.

PATHWAY TO GLOBAL STAGE

Following the win, Duras AI will represent Botswana in the global Orange Social Venture Prize, competing against innovators from 17 countries. Project Lead Nathan Tshamba said the recognition demonstrates the potential of young developers to contribute to national solutions. "Opportunities like this give us the confidence and platform to transform ideas into real solutions that can benefit the country," Tshamba said.

RUNNERS-UP SUPPORT KEY SECTORS

Second-place Nkitsi won P30,000 for a reusable digital identity verification platform intended to streamline onboarding across banks, telecoms and government services. Third-place Introspect received P20,000 for an AI-supported diagnostics tool designed to ease pressure on health facilities. Passage Greens came fourth with its soil-free vertical farming model, earning P10,000 for a system aimed at improving food security with minimal labour and water use.

SUPPORT FOR DIGITAL SKILLS

Orange Botswana CEO Néné Maïga highlighted the economic value of local innovation and reaffirmed the company's commitment to free digital education through the Orange Digital Center.





Spar Expands In Tlokweng

A new SPAR opens in Tlokweng, responding to growing demand for accessible retail and local job opportunities

Tsetseng Retail Group (TRG) has opened a new SPAR outlet at Batlokwa Centre in Tlokweng, an expansion welcomed by traditional leaders, government officials and community representatives. The development coincides with the village's commemoration of 145 years and its ongoing transition toward becoming a modern, service-oriented settlement.

ADDRESSING COMMUNITY PRESSURES

Paramount Chief Puso Gaborone noted that Tlokweng's rapid growth continues to strain essential services. He said the new store, along with other facilities at the centre, responds to long-standing concerns about limited retail access for the expanding population.

LOCAL JOB CREATION

SPAR Northrand, South Africa representative Jerome Jacobs said the Batlokwa Centre outlet is the group's 33rd store and has created 73 new jobs, bringing its total workforce to more than 2,800. He emphasised that community support remains central to the store's operations.

MEETING CUSTOMER NEEDS

TRG Head of Human Resources Elizabeth Leepile said the group aims to increase access to essential goods as Tlokweng grows. She highlighted TRG's partnership with the University of Cape Town for staff development and confirmed compliance with revised minimum wage regulations.

ALIGNING WITH NATIONAL ECONOMIC GOALS

Tlokweng MP Phenyo Segokgo said the development aligns with national priorities under the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme and NDP12, which emphasise private-sector-led growth. He encouraged the retailer to strengthen ties with local farmers and suppliers to broaden community benefit.

The store's opening comes as more families settle in Tlokweng, heightening demand for convenient services, employment and accessible retail options.



First Capital Bank, BLH Sign Funding Pact

A new partnership between First Capital Bank and Bamalete Lutheran Hospital aims to ease mounting healthcare pressures through targeted infrastructure and staffsupport



First Capital Bank and Bamalete Lutheran Hospital (BLH) have entered a two-year partnership valued at P700,000 to support improvements in healthcare delivery. The agreement was formalised in Gaborone on 19 November.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND STAFF SUPPORT

According to Acting CEO of First Capital Bank, Lebogang Seleke, P400,000 will be allocated this year to refurbish the hospital's TB and maternity wards. An additional P300,000 is planned for 2026 to address other priority needs. She said payments will be made directly to suppliers to strengthen accountability, while the partnership will also provide financial literacy and wellness programmes for hospital staff.

ONGOING PRESSURES AT THE FACILITY

BLH Board Chairperson Joyce Sengate said the hospital faces challenges linked to ageing infrastructure and economic constraints. She noted that the contribution arrives at a time when demand for services continues to rise and thanked the institution's former CEO for helping establish the partnership.

CALL FOR BROADER CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

Kgosi Mosadi Seboko welcomed the collaboration and stressed the importance of institutional partnerships in sustaining health services. She also encouraged more private-sector involvement to help strengthen public health facilities.

The agreement is expected to support patient care and staff wellbeing through targeted upgrades and wellness interventions.

My SPAR Campaign Nears Finale



Ten weeks into the nationwide My SPAR My Botswana: Level Up Your Hustle 2025, the atmosphere in stores across Botswana remains charged. With every weekly profile shared on social media and partner newspapers, a new face and a new story emerges: a student paying their way through school, a mother stretching her monthly budget, a pensioner who never expected to win anything at all. These stories have become the real heartbeat of the campaign.

POWERED BY EVERYDAY BATSWANA

At its centre, the promotion has always been about acknowledging the people who shape SPAR Botswana's identity every day. To SPAR, their shoppers are more than customers; they are parents, students, hustlers and caregivers. They are the communities SPAR Botswana serves and the communities SPAR Botswana grows with. The campaign is one way of giving back, recognising loyalty and creating chances for anyone, regardless of circumstance, to enjoy a moment of unexpected joy.

HOW TO ENTER

Participation remains straightforward and accessible:

1. Sign up for a SPAR Rewards card.
2. Swipe your card at the till.
3. Spend P200 or more on your groceries.
4. Purchase any participating product(s).
5. Write your name, surname, ID number and cellphone number on the back of your till slip and drop it in the entry box in-store.

> "For SPAR Botswana, impact is the real win"

Every swipe on participating products counts as a single entry, making the process easy for regular shoppers who are already buying their everyday necessities.

PRIZES STILL UP FOR GRABS

With just a short stretch left in the promotion, major prizes are still waiting to be won, including:

- 4 brand-new Suzuki Baleno MY22 1.5GI cars
- 10 winners of P50,000 cash

As well as weekly prizes of P25,000 cash, P12,000 loaded onto a SPAR Gift Card, P1,500 vouchers through instant daily wins in-store, P1,500 vouchers through Facebook page engagement, plus a surprise moment for some shoppers with free groceries at the till.

A MOMENT OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

Reflecting on the campaign's momentum so far, North Rand Division Advertising Manager, Palesa Monaushared: "We've had a wonderful run, truly. Seeing the smiles on people's faces and hearing what these wins mean for their homes has been the most rewarding part of this journey. We've enjoyed bringing a little light into everyday life across Botswana, and we're not done yet. There are still many prizes to be won, including the grand prizes, cash rewards and vouchers. We look forward to closing this campaign as strongly as it began, with the same essence of community and appreciation."

With just a few weeks remaining, the excitement has not slowed down, and neither has the sense of community that has defined the promotion from day one. For SPAR Botswana, that impact is the real win.

Microinsurance Is Africa's Next Insurance Frontier



Peter West and Mayibongwe Sangweni, Financial Institutions Group Client Coverage at Standard Bank

Africa's insurance sector remains largely underpenetrated, with most markets (apart from South Africa) reporting penetration levels below 3%, compared to a global average of upwards of 7%. Insurance penetration is closely tied to macroeconomic realities and given Africa's low GDP levels, limited disposable income, and widespread financial illiteracy.

THE LOW PENETRATION COMES AS NO SURPRISE

The informal sector dominates the African workforce, posing challenges to traditional insurance models. Yet, with the United Nations (UN) projecting the population to reach 2.5 billion people by 2050, the challenge of adapting insurance models to this unique economic landscape becomes increasingly topical.

According to the World Bank, Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) accounts for 16 percent of the world's population, but 67 percent of the demographic lives in extreme poverty, making insurance products unaffordable or deprioritised in favour of immediate survival needs. This restricts the development of robust insurance markets and limits the scale at which insurers can operate profitably. Moreover, financial literacy remains a major barrier. Many individuals lack basic understanding of insurance products, leading to mistrust, underutilisation, and poor claims experiences.

Whilst these macroeconomic challenges demand agile strategies and strong institutional backing, foreign investment in Africa's insurance sector remains robust, highlighting clear investor conviction in the continent's growth trajectory. A recent strategic alliance between a leading African player and an international insurer highlights the growing momentum across the continent, forming a pan-African financial services powerhouse with a presence in over two dozen African countries, with ambitions to be a leading player in all its markets. This move reflects more than scale; it's a strategic bet on Africa's untapped potential in insurance penetration.

UNLOCKING AFRICA'S INSURANCE GROWTH: WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

One pathway to unlocking insurance growth in Africa is through Microinsurance. Low-cost, simple insurance products tailored to low-income households. Typically covering health, life, property, agriculture, or accidents, but with lower premiums, simplified terms, and smaller coverage amounts compared to traditional insurance. This is a product well suited to Africa given its vast informal population.

One of the defining features of Microinsurance in Africa is its reliance on alternative distribution channels tailored to reach low-income and currently excluded, underserved populations.

Traditional insurance is largely dependent on agents, brokers, and physical branches to serve urban, formally employed clients. Microinsurance instead embraces digital innovation to overcome barriers of access, affordability, and complexity. Mobile platforms and Insurtech solutions have emerged as tools to simplify enrolment, reduce costs, and extend coverage to those currently excluded.

This shift is particularly relevant given the dominance of the informal sector across the continent, which accounts for over 80% of employment and drives a significant portion of economic activity. From street vendors and transport operators to cross-border traders and micro-entrepreneurs, these individuals form the backbone of Africa's commerce yet remain largely outside the reach of traditional financial services. Their resilience and economic contribution make them a compelling target for insurers

> "One pathway to unlocking insurance growth in Africa is through Microinsurance"

SCALING INSURANCE THROUGH MOBILE MONEY INTEGRATION

Mobile money has unlocked a mechanism to access Africa's informal sector, revolutionising how millions of people transact, save, and access financial services. With SSA now accounting for over half of the world's mobile money accounts, with more than 330 million active users in 2023, Africa has become the epicentre of mobile-led financial inclusion. By bridging the gap between the unbanked and the formal financial system, mobile money has become a cornerstone of commerce in the untapped informal economy.

Its widespread adoption, particularly in East Africa (where platforms like M-PESA, Airtel Money, and MTN Mobile Money dominate), has made mobile money an increasingly effective distribution channel.

Kenya, for instance, boasts an 80.8% smartphone penetration rate, and access to formal financial services has surged from just 26.7% in 2006 to 84.8% in 2024 on account of financial technology and innovations, especially in mobile money.

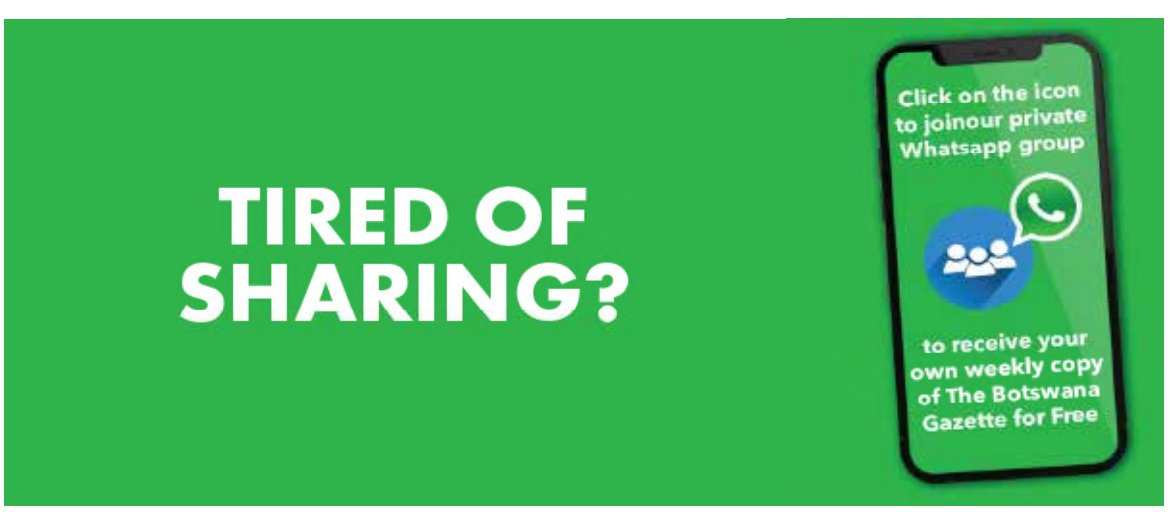
This digital infrastructure has opened the door for microinsurance to scale. By integrating with mobile money platforms, insurers now have a channel to reach low-income and currently excluded populations. Mobile money enables simplified enrolment, frictionless premium collection, and efficient claims processing, often through USSD codes or mobile apps, making insurance more accessible, affordable, and relevant to the realities of the informal sector.

In this context, mobile money isn't just a distribution tool, it's the catalyst for inclusive insurance growth across Africa. It aligns with the needs of the informal economy, offering insurers a scalable, trusted, and cost-effective way to deliver protection to millions who need it most.

While Africa faces persistent challenges, ranging from infrastructure gaps to regulatory fragmentation, the informal sector remains a vital engine of economic activity. Within this space, microinsurance has emerged as a promising avenue for growth, particularly through mobile money platforms that have revolutionised access and affordability.

In closing, microinsurance represents a transformative opportunity for Africa's insurance sector. By embracing innovation, forging strategic partnerships, and prioritizing the needs of underserved communities, insurers can drive meaningful progress toward financial inclusion and resilience. The journey ahead requires commitment, collaboration, and a willingness to adapt, but the potential rewards, for both industry and society, are immense.

As we continue to monitor emerging trends in the sector, Microinsurance stands out as a strategic growth vector with the potential to expand the continents coverage and we believe that it will continue to grow.



Botswana Ends 2025 Facing Hard Economic Truths



DOUGLAS RASBASH,
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT

A year into the new government, the country closes 2025 with deeper structural pressures than anticipated — from shrinking minerals and strained fiscal space to rising climate vulnerability and a misaligned currency.

Services growth
below 2%

As 2025 draws to a close, Botswana finds itself confronting a reality sharper than the promises that opened the year. The first full year of the new administration has revealed an economy shifting beneath its feet — diamonds fading, revenues tightening, inflation turning, and climate impacts accelerating. Far from a passing downturn, the data suggests a long-term transformation now underway.

RECESSION TURNS FROM CYCLE

5.3%
GDP Q2 contraction

TO STRUCTURE

Botswana is now six quarters deep into recession — its longest since the early 1990s — signalling a transition from temporary weakness to structural change. With diamond production projected to fall by more than 40% from peak levels and non-mining sectors still sluggish, the assumptions that once underpinned NDP12 no longer hold.

Diamond droduction drop
40% from peak

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NMi BOTSWANA

Fiscal Pressures Mount as Buffers Shrink

Inflation remained subdued in July and August before rising sharply in September, signalling a change in price direction. Meanwhile, the P64 billion NDP12 funding gap and rising domestic borrowing have narrowed fiscal space significantly, turning 2025 into one of Botswana's tightest budgeting years in recent memory.

Public debt: over
P50bn

NDP12 funding gap:
P64bn

Inflation spike:
1.1% - 3.7%



Credit Downgrades Signal a Loss of Confidence

S&P and Moody's both downgraded Botswana during Q3 and Q4, citing persistent recession, shrinking diamond revenue, and weak project execution. Under-subscription of government bond auctions underlined investor caution and the rising cost of sovereign borrowing.

August bond auction:
P3.0bn offered, P1.47bn taken



S&P rating:
A– → BBB (Negative)

Moody's rating:
A3 → Baa1

Pula Holds Steady, But Fundamentals Don't

Despite trading at 14.8–15.2/USD after the July adjustment, the Pula's stability is more engineered than organic. With reserves falling from historical highs and productivity weakening, the currency's alignment with long-term economic needs is now in question.

Reserves:
US$3.5–3.7bn

Import cover:
5–6 months

Exchange range:
14.8–15.2/USD



Markets Boom While the Economy Shrinks

The Botswana Stock Exchange recorded its highest-ever turnover as pension funds shifted to local assets. Yet government bond demand weakened sharply, revealing a market that is bullish on private assets but cautious on sovereign risk.

Equity turnover:
P5.34bn

Total market turnover:
P5.78bn

Govt bond turnover:
down 52%



Private Sector Shifts to Energy, Water, and Data

Rather than collapsing, the private sector is redirecting investment into solar, hybrid energy systems, warehousing, logistics, and digital infrastructure. Meanwhile, speculative megaproject proposals have increased, creating emerging governance risks.

Solar IPP pipeline: 335MW

Warehouse occupancy: up 10–15%

Digital service demand: 20–35% growth



Green Economy Emerges as Botswana's New Frontier

Investment momentum is rising in climate-aligned sectors: solar energy, battery storage, water reuse, EV infrastructure, and carbon credits. Yet global climate finance is increasingly tied to credibility and measurable delivery.

Electricity access: 76.6%

Biomass cooking: 33.9% of households

Emissions target: 15% reduction by 2030



Climate Shocks Become a Macro-Economic Threat

Drought, water stress, rising temperatures, and surging electricity demand have now crossed into the realm of sovereign risk. Agricultural losses alone can wipe out 1–2% of GDP in bad years.

Drought losses: P1.5–P2.0bn

GDP drag: 1–2% in bad years

Rising electricity demand (trend)



A New Economic Era Begins

The third quarter of 2025 confirms a shifting economic model: diamonds are waning, revenues tightening, and resilience sectors — energy, water, digital systems, climate adaptation — rising in importance. Execution, not planning, will define the next decade.

Digital readiness: 108th globally

Reserves: 6 months import cover

Debt over P50bn





Africa's G20 Moment Botswana Still on the Sidelines

The first G20 summit on African soil delivered a sweeping declaration on inequality, climate, global finance and governance reform. But Botswana's absence from the guest list raises a sobering question: can a middle-income democracy afford to watch history unfold from outside the room?

Douglas Rasbash, Gazette Correspondent

G20 ARRIVES IN AFRICA — WITHOUT BOTSWANA

When the G20 motorcades rolled into Johannesburg, the world entered new territory. For the first time, the globe's most influential economic forum met in Africa, gathering under the theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability." South Africa expanded participation to 42 countries, transforming what is usually a tightly controlled platform into an enlarged forum for global political and economic debate. Yet Botswana was not among the invited states, an omission that speaks volumes given our longstanding identity as a stable, respected democracy with deep regional credibility.

$14 TRILLION

Global wealth gap between richest 1% and poorest 50%

42% YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Average rate across Southern Africa.

Even with the United States boycotting the event, South Africa secured a 122-point Leaders' Declaration adopted unusually at the start of proceedings. The document placed Africa's priorities at the centre of global discourse: inequality, debt, climate adaptation, industrialisation, technology transfer, and governance reform. For Botswana, the question is not whether these issues matter — they do — but whether we are positioning ourselves to shape them instead of absorbing them passively.

INEQUALITY, GENDER VIOLENCE AND YOUTH FRUSTRATION TAKE CENTRE STAGE

Johannesburg forced the world to confront a longstanding truth: global inequality is not only a moral issue; it is a threat to stability. A landmark inequality report commissioned under South Africa's G20 presidency fed directly into the Leaders' Declaration, framing widening disparities as a political and economic risk.

Beyond the controlled environment of the summit grounds, domestic activism shaped the narrative. The "G20 Women's Shutdown" protests, driven by frustration with South Africa's staggering femicide rates, pressured the government to declare gender-based violence a national disaster. That extraordinary step fed directly into the G20's commitments on women's safety, legal and financial access, and broader social protections.

For Africa's restless youth, including Botswana's own under-employed generation, the summit placed renewed emphasis on industrialisation as the engine of job creation. The Compact with Africa was repositioned as a preferred vehicle for private investment, training partnerships and economic diversification. Johannesburg's subtext was clear: without dignity, jobs and safety, democracies everywhere will feel the strain.

CRITICAL MINERALS AND TECHNOLOGY PUSH AFRICA TOWARD VALUE CHAINS

The technological agenda in Johannesburg marked a decisive break from the old model of extraction and export. South Africa and the European Union announced a critical minerals partnership linking African ores to renewable energy technologies, battery manufacturing and electric vehicle supply chains. Rather than exporting raw materials and importing finished goods at a premium, the aim is to embed African economies deeper in global value creation.

1 IN 3 WOMEN

Proportion of women worldwide experiencing gender-based violence.

$16 BILLION

Projected size of Africa's battery minerals market by 2030.

The Leaders' Declaration reinforced commitments to expand clean-technology deployment in the Global South, ease intellectual property constraints and build digital public infrastructure to strengthen trade and service delivery. For Botswana — which is debating electric vehicle strategies, solar industrialisation and opportunities in green metals — these shifts are deeply relevant. Countries that prepare regulatory frameworks and industrial ecosystems will be able to capture new value chains. Those that fail to evolve will remain quarry sites feed-

3% LOCAL PROCESSING

Proportion of Africa's minerals refined on the continent.

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From Page 26

ing other nations' factories.

DEBT, FINANCE AND THE RE-ENGINEERING OF GLOBAL MONEY

Economically, the Johannesburg summit focused intensely on restructuring the global financial system. With the United States absent and Argentina re-

70% OF COBALT

Africa's share of global cobalt supply.

fusing to endorse the declaration, the remaining G20 members and 16 guest states signalled their willingness to press ahead regardless. That alone represents a shift in global political gravity.

Debt restructuring, particularly for low- and middle-income countries, was a central theme. So too was the long-delayed reform of the IMF, World Bank and

$100 BILLION

Global climate finance pledge still not fully delivered.

other standard-setting institutions to better reflect the interests and voting power of the Global South. Although no sweeping solutions were offered — climate finance remains slow and development finance remains insufficient — the politics have clearly shifted. Consensus without Washington is no longer impossible.

Botswana, constrained by its "upper middle-income" classification despite development challenges that resemble those of poorer states, should note the implication: accessing new financing opportunities requires diplomacy, visibility



and credible, green-ready projects. Remaining silent or passive risks missing out on emerging concessional windows designed for countries exactly like ours.

CLIMATE POLICY MOVES FROM LECTURE TO SURVIVAL

The environmental dimension of the G20 tilted climate policy away from lofty promises toward pragmatic survival. The declaration emphasised climate adaptation, disaster-risk reduction and the need for predictable, long-term financing. It sharpened the focus on a "just energy transition," recognising that the path to net-zero cannot condemn developing countries to stalled growth.

Southern Africa's climate realities — drought, heatwaves and episodic flooding — are already measuring the cost of inaction. Botswana, exposed and still reliant on coal, now faces a stark choice. Johannesburg offers both warning and opportunity: the world is cooling on coal, but warming to solar, mobility electrification and resilience financing. Whether Botswana responds with forward-looking policy or clings to outdated models remains to be seen.

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE SHIFTS AS AFRICA DEMANDS POWER

Geopolitically, the summit tested the

$1.1 TRILLION

Annual external debt servicing cost for developing countries.

architecture of global leadership. The US boycott, built on contested allegations about South Africa's treatment of white farmers, did little to disrupt proceedings. Instead, the declaration reaffirmed support for reforming the UN Security Council, with a call for stronger African representation. While incremental, this shift reflects a broader erosion of legiti-

5 AFRICAN SEATS

Countries advocating expanded African representation in the UNSC.

macy for post-war governance structures.

South Africa used the moment to reinforce multilateralism and collaborative problem-solving. President Ramaphosa heralded the declaration as evidence that global cooperation is still possible in an increasingly fragmented world. For Africa, the message was unmistakable: the continent is no longer content to be spoken for. It intends to speak for itself.

WHERE DOES BOTSWANA STAND?

As the dust settled in Johannesburg, the most pressing question for Botswana was not what the G20 accomplished, but why Botswana was not present to help shape it. The summit demonstrated that Africa's ascent in global politics is now unmistakable. Power is shifting from aid to architecture, from extraction to value addition, from symbolic inclusion to substantive influence.

Botswana now faces a defining choice: remain a polite bystander or become an assertive participant in shaping global rules. Africa's moment at the top table has begun. Whether Botswana occupies a seat, or merely reads the minutes afterward, is a matter of political will.



Get training on the new 2025 VAT Amendment Act



Jonathan Hore



Gavin Mashiri



Onalenna Rangale

The Ministry of Finance gazetted the Value Added Tax Amendment Bill 2025 on 8 August 2025 and the said Amendment Bill was then passed by Parliament in the week ending on 16 August 2025. The said Bill was then enacted as the Value Added Tax Amendment Act Number 16 of 2025 on 17 October 2025. In this article, we seek to examine the major details of the Amendment Act, at a high level. We highly recommend that organisations obtain bespoke internal training on this new law which, as stated above, was assented to on 17 October 2025. The law is expected to commence as from either 1 March or 1 April 2026.

REVERSE VAT ON VAT REGISTRANTS

The Amendment Act introduces a reverse VAT mechanism, requiring every VAT registrant to account for output VAT on services imported from outside the country. In practice, nearly all businesses import services with common examples including Microsoft 365 licenses, consultancy services, management fees, trademark royalties, and similar cross-border transactions. Under the proposed framework, VAT registrants will be obligated to charge output VAT on such imported services and adhere with other compliance matters. This results in notional sales which mustn't affect profits or revenue.

REVERSE VAT ON NON-VAT REGISTRANTS

Notably, even suppliers who are ordinarily exempt from VAT such as educational institutions, medical facilities, churches and NGOs (among many others) will be required to pay VAT when they procure services from non-residents as long as their annual income exceeds P1m. Such entities will also be required to first register for Reverse VAT, followed by regular VAT returns filings. Mixed suppliers, such as banks will continue to account for VAT on imported services as currently practiced, albeit under the framework of Reverse VAT.

ELECTRONIC FISCAL DEVICES

The Ministry of Finance, through various public addresses, highlighted loopholes in the VAT collection system, particularly the under-declaration of output VAT by some traders. In response, the Ministry seeks to close such tax gaps through the new legislation. The Amendment Act introduces a requirement for every VAT-registered person to procure VAT Billing machines that will interface directly with the BURS system. Once acquired, all invoicing must be conducted through these machines. As invoices are generated, the system will automatically transmit the data to BURS, thereby eliminating the manipulation of sales figures and output VAT.

VAT ON TECH-GIANTS

The tax authorities have long signalled their intention to introduce VAT on digital services supplied by international tech giants that have no physical presence in Botswana who nonetheless derive substantial revenue from the local market. These include the likes of Netflix, iTunes, Google, Facebook, and similar service providers, who will now be required to register for VAT in Botswana. Offshore tourism agents will also be required to register for VAT with BURS. We are aware that the tourism industry is lobbying for amendments to this requirement.

PROCURE TAX TRAINING!

We urge corporates and other organizations to seek bespoke in-house training which addresses the pertinent features of the new law in as far as they affect their businesses. This, unlike general training at workshops, is designed after considering the exact business of the impacted entity and it is therefore precise in as much as it is relevant. The new law introduces highly technical matters which will affect businesses' IT systems and tax records. Various penalties will be levied for non-compliance with the said laws.

Contacts: You may contact us at +267 7181 5836 or +267 393 9435 or jhore@aupracontax.co.bw or www.aupracontax.co.bw. This article is general, and tax advice is recommended if decisions are to be made. If you require to join our free Tax WhatsApp groups or to know more about our 9 Tax e-books, please send us a text/whatsapp on the number above.

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Thuo Ditsele (HR Consultant)



Tumisang Bagidi (Lead HR Consultant)

Employment and Labour Relations Bill: Compassion Becomes Law (Family Responsibility Leave)

In Botswana's evolving labour landscape, the recognition of Family Responsibility Leave marks a significant step in aligning employment law with modern realities of work-life balance. Traditionally, this type of leave was not provided for under the Employment Act, it existed only as a courtesy extended by compassionate employers who recognised that workers sometimes needed time off to attend to urgent family matters. However, under the Employment and Labour Relations Bill, Family Responsibility Leave has transitioned from being an act of goodwill to a statutory right, ensuring uniform protection and fairness across all workplaces.

Family responsibility leave recognises that workers are not just workers; they are also parents, spouses, caregivers, and members of families and communities. In the past, workers who needed time off to deal with pressing family issues such as a child's illness, the death of a close relative, or urgent family emergencies often had to rely on their employer's discretion or request unpaid leave. This arrangement lacked consistency, leaving many workers vulnerable to income loss or even disciplinary action for absenteeism.

The Bill

Under Section 221, the Bill corrects this imbalance by codifying family responsibility leave as a statutory entitlement. This means that all eligible workers, regardless of their employer's internal policies, are now legally entitled to take time off work to attend to family obligations. The Bill provides clear guidance on the duration, qualifying circumstances, and documentation required to access this leave. This development demonstrates the legislature's acknowledgment of the human and social dimensions of employment, that productivity and wellbeing are closely linked to family stability and personal balance.

The Bill stipulates that workers can take 3 days of Family Responsibility Leave in a leave cycle, if there is illness or death of a spouse, child, parent, grandparents, brother or sister, the Bill further caters for adoptive family being parent, child, grandparents, sister or brother, and it is worth noting that family under this section has been extended to Father-in-law and Mother-in-law. The leave allows workers to handle matters of compassion and care without the fear of losing their job or income. Importantly, this type of leave is paid, meaning the worker continues to receive their full salary during the authorised absence, provided they meet the qualifying conditions set out by law.

To consult, contact us on
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+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 Employer

For Employers, the shift from courtesy-based to statutory family responsibility leave means adapting systems to ensure proper record-keeping and fair application. HR departments must update employment contracts, staff handbooks, and leave management tools to align with the soon to be new law. They must also train line managers to handle such leave requests sensitively and consistently, avoiding bias or unfair treatment that could lead to disputes or claims of discrimination. This leave further means that now workers have more days away from work, and for those production-based companies, it may affect them in reaching their targets and potentially loosing money.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the formal recognition of Family Responsibility Leave under the Employment and Labour Relations Bill, is a great development in Botswana's labour law. It signals a progressive move toward protecting workers' family and social responsibilities while ensuring business continuity and fairness. No longer left to the discretion of the employer, this leave type now forms part of the broader rights framework that strengthens workplace compassion, promotes equity, and acknowledges the realities of modern life. This, however, does not take anything away form the fact that employers may be exposed to abuse of such. The silver lining is that it is only three (3) days in a leave cycle.

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DATA ESSENTIAL FOR BUSINESS DECISIONS



Rachel Hore



and Thobo Pone

As a firm specializing in market research, feasibility studies, surveys, polls etc., we share highlights regarding the critical importance of data in the formulation of business decisions. Botswana is in a crucial stage of digital transformation, as the launch of BoFiNet's Digital Delta Data Centre marks a major step in innovating the nation's digital ecosystem, positioning Botswana as a competitive data hub in Southern Africa. In today's Information Age shaped by shifting consumer behavior, rising competition and economic uncertainty, businesses that rely on intuition suffer serious disadvantages.

BUSINESS FAILURES

Research by Botswana Youth indicates that 42% of business failure in Botswana is attributed to poor market research, and nearly 80% of all startups collapse within the first 18 months (Mmegi, 2024). This article examines why data has become one of the most valuable assets for modern business and how companies can use it more efficiently for success.

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Data has evolved into a capstone for competitive advantage. When businesses rely on assumptions, they risk misconstruing customer needs, underestimating threats and reacting slowly to competition. Data provides the facts firms needed to understand markets, monitor performance, predict trends and reduce uncertainty in decision making, helping managers to plan their resources efficiently.

A local example is Kago Dichabe, the founder of CK Foods. Before setting up his food business, Kago assessed the CBD area before securing a vending spot near FNB. In his interview on the Deep Dive Sessions podcast, he emphasized that preparation and research were critical lessons gained from his poultry business journey. His experience demonstrates how data-based informed planning improves business outcomes.

DATA INFORMS DECISIONS

Firms that fail to adopt data-driven decision making often fail to recognize change in market dynamics until it's too late. They repeat mistakes, misallocate resources and gradually lose relevance to more adaptive competitors. Kodak, at its peak, controlled 85% of the global camera market. Despite inventing the digital camera circa 1970s,

Kodak failed to act on its own innovation. As digital photography advanced, the company failed to adapt strategically, which led to its decline and eventual bankruptcy filing in 2012. Its inability to translate research into action cost it its dominant position.

In Botswana, the main challenge is not data collection but data utilization. Many organizations collect data like sales records, inventory logs and customer details. However, this data is rarely integrated into strategic planning. It remains stored in physical files or isolated digital systems. Transport shortages also delay processing of physical data. These inefficiencies result in backlog costs and limited information access for the public.

SmartBots aims to digitalize such services by gradually moving many services online to improve efficiency, accessibility and transparency. However, this shift exposes the gap between data availability and data analysis. Demand for skilled data analysts and professional research firms that convert raw information into action is therefore derived. Without such expertise, many organizations risk making poor decisions and losing potential opportunities.

To improve their use of data, businesses must adopt a structured approach by firstly defining their goals and identifying which decisions require data support, particularly in areas such as finance, marketing, human resources and the likes. Businesses should then consult professional, independent research firms like Easternman Data Collection and Analysis to close the gap with accuracy and relevance.

DATA IS NOT OPTIONAL

As Peter Sondergaard stated, information is the oil of the modern era, and analytics is the engine that drives it. Data-driven decision making is no longer optional, but essential for survival. Businesses that invest in reliable data systems and professional research partnerships gain a competitive advantage. Those that ignore data risk falling behind and losing their position in market.

Our services: We offer market research, feasibility studies, surveys, polls and any service related to data collection and analysis. You can contact us on research@easternman.co.bw, +267 7187 0023 or on +267 3939 435.

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2025

Bifm Traditional Music Expo Returns



Botswana's longest-running December music tradition returns with a star-packed lineup and a renewed call to protect and elevate the nation's cultural sound

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

For 22 years, the first Thursday of December has carried a familiar rhythm at Botswana Craft. This year, the BIFM 2025 Traditional Music Expo continues that legacy on 4 December, bringing back the country's biggest celebration of heritage music under the glow of the BIHL Group's 50th-anniversary milestone.

Event organiser Losika Seboni says this year's edition will rewind the clock. "As the headline sponsor marks its 50th anniversary, we are digging deep into Botswana's musical history, rewinding and playing the classics we enjoyed in the past decade," he said.

A LINEUP ROOTED IN NOSTALGIA

The 2025 lineup reads like a living archive of Botswana's sound. Big Fish will host the evening, while performances include Dr Vom, Bana Bana Ba Ntogwa, "Morwalela" hitmaker Ezra Neethings, Makgathanna Thapong Cultural Ensemble, Culture Spears with Charma Girl, WDP Band Ensemble, Anafiki, George Swabi, and Banjo Mosele.

> "Traditional music is our heritage and deserves more space on our airwaves"

Seboni hints at musical surprises: "WDP Band are practicing classics that they will reveal on stage, and Charma Girl rarely performs with Culture Spears—so this will be special."

A TASTE OF CULTURE



True to Botswana Craft tradition, guests will enjoy a diverse buffet of traditional cuisine alongside traditional beer and gemere. Seboni added that this year's expo will also gift artists professional-grade video content for their reels, ensuring strong digital visibility.

BEYOND THE STAGE

Last year, the expo expanded its purpose with masterclasses on branding, financial literacy and social media etiquette—an approach that underlined its ambition to support artists holistically.

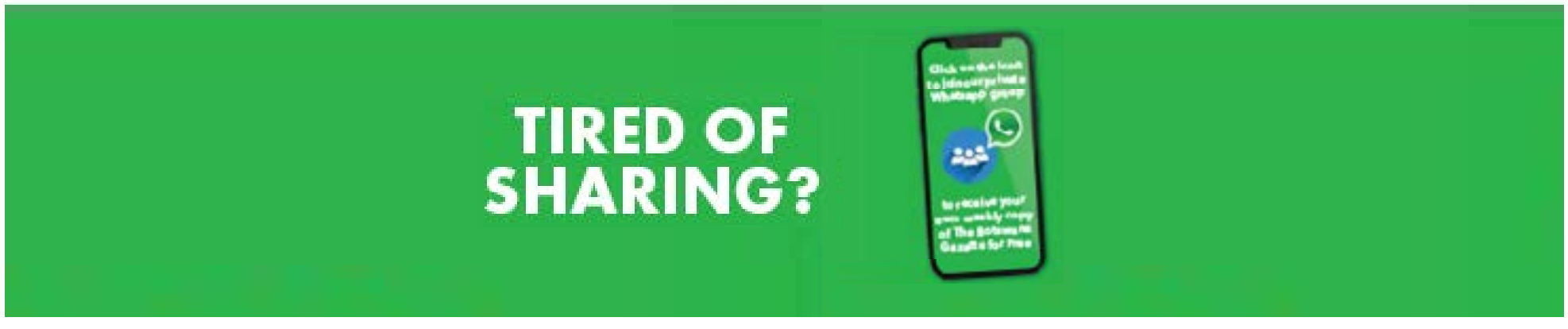
"Traditional music is our heritage and deserves more space on our airwaves, with increased quota and recognition," Seboni emphasised.

Dress Code: Traditional/ Cultural attire

Tickets: P1,000 single | P10,000 table of 10

Contact: 71 6000 60







WILDERNESS COUNTS ITS WILD YEAR

At the Okavango Wilderness Stakeholder Engagement, Wilderness Chairman Kabelo Binns delivered a candid year-end reflection on a season shaped by extreme weather, booming tourism and hard-earned victories

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

At the Okavango Wilderness Stakeholder Engagement held at Botswana Craft in Gaborone recently, Wilderness Chairman Kabelo Binns opened the event with a year-end account that felt equal parts confession and celebration.

> "Our secret ingredient is our powerful staff, partners and guests"

"This year has not been any different for us," he began, describing a season where nature threw "all kinds of challenges" at their operations. December scorched the Delta with relentless heat, and by early January, the skies reversed course, unleashing some of the heaviest rainfall. Camps soaked, airstrips closed, schedules shifted.

WHEN WEATHER DISRUPTS

Beyond the climate whiplash, Binns noted ongoing concerns around human–wildlife conflict—an issue increasingly affecting communities and operators in shared landscapes. Finding solutions, he stressed, remains one of their most pressing commitments. Yet, against this turbulent backdrop, the year brought Wilderness its busiest season post-COVID, signalling a global appetite for Botswana's wild spaces.

And with guests came recognition: Wilderness Mombo camp was voted the best safari lodge in Africa, while Wilderness DumaTau claimed the same accolade and added a new one as one of the world's top honeymoon destination.

THE SECRET INGREDIENT

Binns credited these milestones not to luck, but to the teams on the ground. "Our secret ingredient is our powerful staff, partners and guests," he said, emphasizing suppliers who delivered under impossible conditions.

He closed with a reminder of Wilderness's long-term ethos: "Botswana is a wonderful destination to operate in… and we commit to leave the planet in a better state than we found it and this is evident in the impact initiatives that we have undertook."









PRIEST

URGENTLY REQUIRED: Botswana Hindu Society urgently requires the services of a qualified and experienced Priest to cater for the needs of the Botswana Hindu Society and the Temple based in Gaborone.

The incumbent should hold a Degree in Sanskrit/Dharmashashtra and be a total vegetarian & teetotaler having work experience in performance of Pujas (Hindu Prayers), Havans, Yagnas.

The candidate must be willing to work scattered and prolonged hours. Good knowledge of Sanskrit (Indian ancient language), Hindi, English and ability to interpret epics to the devotees. Must be able to give discourses to devoted Hindu Groups on regular basis.

Minimum of 5-8 years work experience in similar positions.

This position offers attractive salary and other fringe benefits to the successful candidate.

Interested applicants should urgently apply in confidence with full details to:-

THE CHAIRMAN
BOTSWANA HINDU SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 201086, BONTLENG
GABORONE

Cell. 75936532
Email. secretary@bhs.org.bw

CLOSING DATE: 28/11/2025



BK Proctor Launches Mega Sale

Collections by BK Proctor is rolling out a nationwide Black Friday sale, offering major discounts and new releases for budget-conscious shoppers

GAZETTE REPORTER

Collections by BK Proctor will stage a two-day Black Friday Mega Sale on 28 and 29 November, extending across all its stores and online platforms. The retailer expects high turnouts as shoppers seek discounted fashion ahead of the festive season.

DISCOUNTS AND NEW COLLECTIONS

The sale features up to 60% off selected items and introduces new collections that will be available in stores for the first time. The brand says the timing is intended to ease customer pressure during the holiday period by making premium clothing more affordable.

CUSTOMER-FOCUSED HIGHLIGHTS

Early shoppers will receive free breakfast vouchers, and Chef Gustos is scheduled to make appearances at two major outlets. Founding Director BK Proctor said the event marks a key moment for the brand and the wider retail sector.

GIVING BACK

Proctor said the discounts are meant to acknowledge customers who have contributed to the company's growth across major malls and urban centres. He added that the release of new merchandise ahead of the festive rush aims to give shoppers earlier, more convenient access to high-demand items.

"We are raising the bar this year. This is not just a sale; it is a national shopping moment, and we want every customer to feel the energy and excitement of what we have prepared," he said.

> "This is not just a sale; it is a national shopping moment"

HIGH FOOT TRAFFIC

The sale will run from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at all stores nationwide. The combination of entertainment, extended hours and new stock is expected to draw significant foot traffic as customers look for limited-time deals.

Festive Cheers for Seniors

Thamaga is preparing a festive celebration dedicated entirely to its elders, blending culture, gratitude and community pride in an event set to redefine the holiday spirit

GAZETTE REPORTER

Thamaga is gearing up for a landmark celebration as beloved radio personality Lets Montsosa joins hands with former Chief Justice Terrence Rannowane to host the village's Senior Citizens Lunch. The event, scheduled for 6 December 2025 at the storied Flamboyant Gardens, aims to recognise the elders whose wisdom, resilience and cultural stewardship have long shaped the community.

A TRIBUTE LONG OVERDUE

Organisers say the luncheon seeks to restore joy and dignity to older citizens who are often overlooked during end-of-year festivities. Montsosa noted that December usually belongs to the youth, with parties, festivals and road trips dominating the calendar. The Senior Citizens Lunch, he said, is designed to "flip the script" by dedicating a full day to honouring those who carried families and traditions for decades.

"We want them to walk in and say, 'today is for us.'"

A FESTIVAL OF GRATITUDE

> "We want them to walk in and say, 'today is for us'"

The celebration promises live music, comedy and hearty meals, with community members already pledging contributions to the feast. Traditional beer will also be served, marking the day as a warm and spirited festival of appreciation. Flamboyant Gardens—renowned for its tranquil greenery and long-standing role in hosting major events—will offer the perfect setting for the gathering.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN FULL FORCE

With anticipation spreading across the village, many residents see the lunch as an overdue gesture in a social calendar increasingly dominated by youth-centric events. Montsosa encouraged local businesses to support the initiative and help elevate it into a memorable annual fixture.

BIHL Life Stories Anthology Launched

A pioneering literary partnership has given birth to the BIHL Life Stories anthology, a memoir collection preserving Botswana's lived experiences through the voices of its people

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Botswana's literary landscape entered a defining moment with the official launch of the BIHL Life Stories anthology, a memoir-focused publication created through a partnership between Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited (BIHL) Group, Petlo Literary Arts and Botswana Open University (BOU). The project, which began with nationwide storytelling workshops, aims to build a lasting national archive grounded in the lived experiences of Batswana.

CELEBRATING THREE LIVES

The anthology brings together memoirs from three distinctive figures: musician and karate champion Socca Moruakgomo, teacher and board game innovator Babedi Maruping, and Radio Botswana veteran Batho Molema. Their life stories were developed in collaboration with writers Omphile Sharon Monnana, Gae Maduo and Dr. Teedzani Thapelo, who shaped each narrative into a polished and intimate account.

A COMMITMENT TO LITERACY AND LEGACY

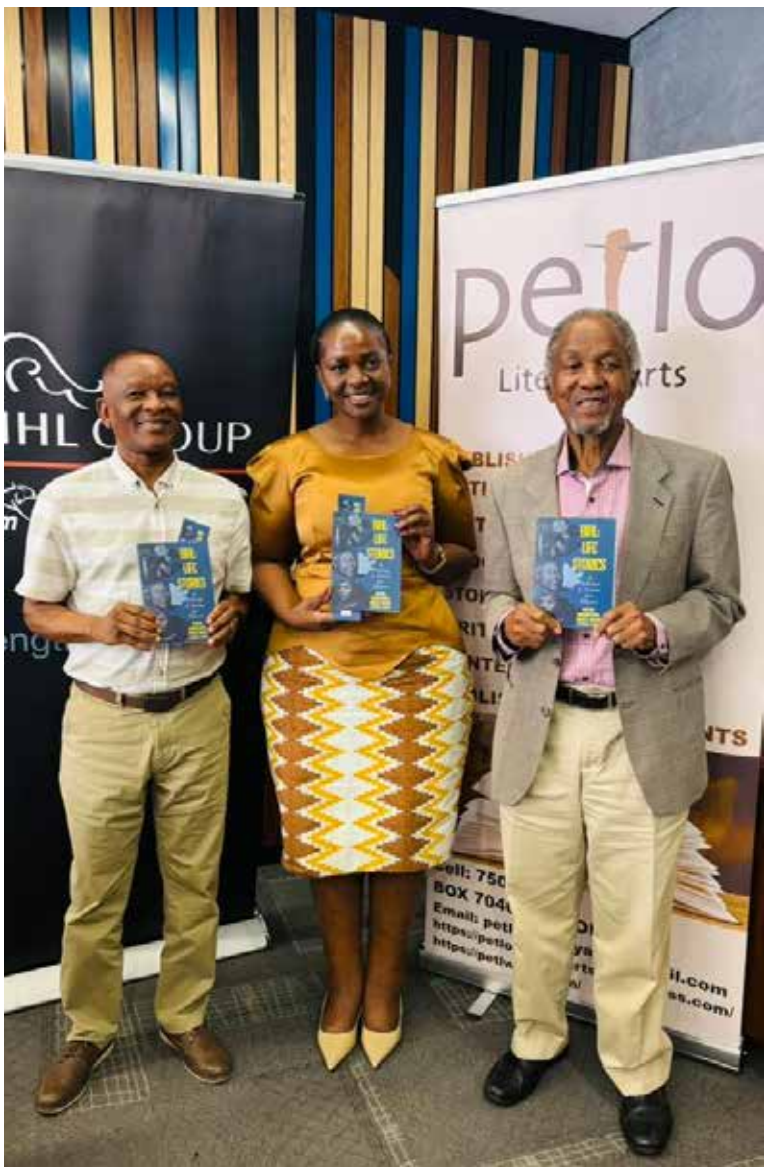
Speaking at the launch, BIHL Group CEO Catherine Lesetedi described the book as the culmination of two years of reflection and intentional creativity. She reaffirmed BIHL's belief that literacy is "a tool for empowerment, identity and societal progress," noting the organisation's longstanding investment in education through literacy programmes and essay competitions.

> The anthology brings together memoirs from three distinctive figures: musician and karate champion Socca Moruakgomo, teacher and board game innovator Babedi Maruping, and Radio Botswana veteran Batho Molema

Lesetedi said the project reinforces BIHL's mission to strengthen communities and safeguard stories before they fade. "Our stories are treasures," she emphasised, pointing to the need to preserve memory as part of national identity.

GUARDIANS OF THE NARRATIVE

Petlo Literary Arts founder



Barolong Seboni called the collection "a testament to the belief that the stories we tell are our most enduring form of wealth."

"A nation without its stories is a nation without a map, and Petlo ensures our map remains detailed and readable for generations to come," he said.

He credited BOU as the project's architectural backbone, providing workshop spaces, mentorship environments and technical expertise that shaped the anthology into a refined publication.

With its blend of personal history, professional craftsmanship and national pride, the BIHL Life Stories anthology marks a powerful step toward building a comprehensive literary archive for future generations.



When Tswii Meets Pasta

Seasoned head chef from Seronga turns a humble Delta staple into a dish that charms both travellers and food lovers

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

At the Okavango Wilderness Stakeholder Engagement in Gaborone last week, Head Chef Ipeleng Gaesemodimo of Vumbura South, which is Wilderness' luxury tented camp in the Okavango Delta drew a quiet crowd simply by doing what she does best—turning tradition into theatre.

Ready to showcase her culinary skills, Gaesemodimo leaned over her demonstration table with the confidence of someone who has shaped dough a thousand times over. Her hands moved with a dancer's rhythm—press, fold, cut—before she sprinkled in the star ingredient: tswii, the waterlily tuber so central to northern Botswana's cuisine. As she stirred the strips of fresh pasta into the tswii mixture, cameras hovered and murmurs built. A humble ingredient suddenly felt elevated.

> The tswii pasta has become one of Chef Gaesemodimo's star creations, a culture-rich invention that never fails to surprise guests, who consistently rave about its ingenuity

The tswii pasta has become one of Chef Gaesemodimo's star creations, a culture-rich invention that never fails to surprise guests, who consistently rave about its ingenuity.

A CAREER RISING SLOWLY, STEADILY

Taking a brief pause from the demonstration, the Seronga-born chef reflected on her 39-year journey through hospitality.

"I started in the scullery, then housekeeping, then as a waiter," she told Time Out. "I always gave my all. That's how I earned my place in the kitchen as the head chef after I underwent training."

Her smile widened as she added, "With this role, I've unlocked my true passion and creativity. Cooking is something I can take home with me when I retire."

A DISH ROOTED IN CULTURE

Tswii, she explained, is endlessly adaptable—fine with fish, meat or even dried into powder. Sourced from local harvesters, her version requires only salt, pepper and confidence in the ingredient's purity.

"Through the tswii dish we are sharing our culture and story as a people with the world through food. Food that is simply healthy and nutritious," she said.

Maifala's Little Sparks of Peace

Phakalane Golf Estate and ReCurate unveil Naledi Maifala's debut solo exhibition, a tender meditation on memory, gratitude and the quiet rhythms that shape village life



GAZETTE REPORTER

Phakalane Golf Estate's Convention Centre is set to open its doors to the first instalment of the "Art of Heritage" series, presenting artist Naledi Maifala's inaugural solo exhibition, **Little Sparks of Peace**. Running from 4 December 2025 to 31 January 2026, the show marks a defining moment for Botswana's art landscape and for the rising artist whose work is drawing continental attention.

PAINTING STILLNESS INTO STORY

Fresh off her ANNA Award win and a strong showing at the renowned Woordfees Auction in Cape Town, Maifala arrives at this solo exhibition with a body of work rooted in serenity, gratitude and memory. Her paintings capture a quiet life in the village: families lingering at sunset, breakfast warming over a fire, livestock wandering freely, and conversations that rest gently on the day's ending.

Light is her language. She paints the way it settles on flowers at dusk, how it touches rusted metal or the worn edges of old tables. Each canvas becomes an archive of everyday tenderness.

THE INTENTION BEHIND THE BRUSH

Maifala's dual upbringing between city and village fuels her appreciation for simplicity. "To love with all you have, to be fully present… feels vital, because these moments soon become memories," she reflects. Her reverence for ageing objects, those that "hold stories within them" infuses her art with warmth and nostalgia.

> "Her reverence for ageing objects, those that "hold stories within them" infuses her art with warmth and nostalgia"

A COLLABORATION ROOTED IN LEGACY

For Phakalane Golf Estate, the partnership with ReCurate signals a deepened commitment to nurturing Botswana's creative identity. The exhibition, they note, is an invitation to open new avenues for local artists and to honour art as a living legacy woven into community life.

Understanding Perimenopause And Menopause

The Tea Lovers Club will be hosting a bold, wellness-driven gathering to help women understand perimenopause and menopause and talk openly about changes long kept in silence

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Tea Lovers Club is turning a quiet Saturday in Gaborone into a moment of collective awakening. On 29 November 2025, women will gather at Protea by Marriott Gaborone Masa Square for an intimate and empowering event dedicated to understanding perimenopause and menopause, stages of life often endured quietly and misunderstood widely.

For many, these transitions come with hot flashes, mood swings and puzzling emotional shifts. Yet, as the organisers note, "these are topics our parents never spoke about," leaving countless women to navigate alone. The Tea Lovers Club aims to change that narrative.

A PANEL ROOTED IN COMPASSION

The event brings together some of Botswana's most respected health and wellness professionals. Obstetrician and Gynecologist Dr. Taylor Zhang Tao known for his deep commitment to serving Botswana beyond his tenure with the Chinese medical team, will lead medical insights.

Joining him is Dr. Orapeleng Phuswane-Katse, the celebrated public health specialist whose leadership has shaped national health strategies.

> "These are topics our parents never spoke about"

Also speaking is Justice Tapologo Mercy Garekwe, a pioneering figure in the judiciary, and Dr. Paphani Chalashika, a nutrition expert with extensive clinical experience.



TEA, COMMUNITY AND COURAGE

At its heart, the Tea Lovers Club creates spaces where women connect over tea and truth — gently but boldly. "Glow through what you go through" is more than a theme; it's an invitation to reclaim understanding, dignity and support.

With limited seats priced at P450, the organisers encourage women to join the conversation, one cup, one story, one empowered step at a time.

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 324/24

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
formerly **BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** **Plaintiff**
And
SEGAMETSI LEJAGE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the right, title and interest to and in the following immovable property of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by **Deputy Sheriff Ookeditse Masolotate** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 19th December 2025
VENUE : Tribal Lot 333, Tatisiding
TIME : 1400 Hours
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's right, title and interest to and in certain piece of Land being Tribal Lot 333, Tatisiding, measuring 1000m² (One Thousand Square Metres), held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 1059/2019 dated the 4th day of October 2019 and made in favour of **SEGAMETSI LEJAGE** together with developments thereon, being a walled yard consisting of a Three bedroomed house with Master ensuite, bathroom/toilet, living room, dining room, kitchen, laundry room and a double door garage.
TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank transfer only.

CONDITIONS OF SALE may be inspected at the offices of the hereunder mentioned Deputy's Sheriff's offices at Lotsane Ward, Palapye, Gampone's Complex, Next to Standard Chartered Bank, Palapye. He can be contacted at 74724543.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS THE 11TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025

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

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 451/23

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
formerly **BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** **Plaintiff**
And
BONTLE PRUDENCE MAELE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the right, tittle and interest to and in the following immovable property of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by **Deputy Sheriff Ookeditse Masolotate** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 18th December 2025
VENUE : Tribal Lot 13204, Mahalapye
TIME : 1100 Hours
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Piece of Land being Tribal Lot 13204, Mahalapye, measuring 600m² (Six Hundred Square Metres), held under Notarial Deed of Cession No FT MA16/2019 dated the 12th day February 2019 and made in favour of **BONTLE PRUDENCE MAELE**, together with developments thereon, consisting of Two bedroomed house, Kitchen, Living room, Toilet and Bathroom.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank transfer only.

CONDITIONS OF SALE may be inspected at the offices of the hereunder mentioned Deputy's Sheriff's offices at Lotsane Ward, Palapye, Gampone's Complex, Next to Standard Chartered Bank, Palapye. He can be contacted at 74724543

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS THE 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025

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

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000274-23

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
formerly **BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** **Plaintiff**
And
DINKWETSI JENNIFER SMITH **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the following immovable property of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by **Deputy Sheriff Ookeditse Masolotate** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 19th December 2025
VENUE : Lot 10367, Francistown
TIME : 1100 Hours
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Piece of Land being Lot 10367, Francistown, measuring 675m² (Six Hundred and Seventy Five Square Metres), held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 267/2008 dated the 18th day of April 2008 and made in favour of **DINKWETSI JENNIFER SMITH**, together with developments thereon, being a Three Bedroomed house with master ensuite, bathroom Toilet and open kitchen.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank transfer only.

CONDITIONS OF SALE may be inspected at the offices of the hereunder mentioned Deputy's Sheriff's offices at Lotsane Ward, Palapye, Gampone's Complex, Next to Standard Chartered Bank, Palapye. He can be contacted at 74724543

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025

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

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE (GABANAGE J)

CASE NO. CVHGB-001674-25

In the matter between
BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION **Plaintiff**
And
ELIZABETH CHIBAYA **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following movable property hereunder of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE : 12th December 2025
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 AM
PLACE OF SALE : Broadhurst Police
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 2 piece sofas, Sony plasma, decoder, 2 speakers, Sony home theatre, arm chair, side lamp, cow skin AEG fridge, Kelvinator 4 plate stove, defy washing machine, defy microwave, cooler, side table, 3 queen beds, golden aircon, 2 wall mirrors, dressing table, 4 chairs and round glass table, deep freezer.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS : Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 21ST DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025.

OMPHEMETSE P. KAISARA c/o
GORATA SEROLE CORPORATE COUNSEL
BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION
Plaintiff
Plot 5129, Main Mall
P.O. Box 412, **GABORONE**

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE (GABANAGE J)

CASE NO. CVHGB-001554-25

In the matter between
BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION **Plaintiff**
And
SEITSHIRO MATLALA **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following movable property hereunder of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE : 12th December 2025
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 AM
PLACE OF SALE : Broadhurst Police

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Hisense Fridge, Defy 4 plate stove, king bed, folding table, 3 x mattresses.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS : Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 21ST DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025.

OMPHEMETSE P. KAISARA c/o
GORATA SEROLE CORPORATE COUNSEL
BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION
Plaintiff
Plot 5129, Main Mall
P.O. Box 412
GABORONE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE (Before MAPHAKWANE J)

CASE NO. CVHGB-000500-25

ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
(formally Barclays Bank of Botswana Limited) **Plaintiff**
and
MOSES OTUKILE MOTSWAGOSELE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE : 5th December, 2025
179TIME OF SALE : 1000hours
PLACE OF SALE : Plot 41165, Gaborone
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendant's right, piece of land being **Lot 41165, Gaborone**, measuring 566m² situated in Gaborone West Extension 43, held under deed of transfer No **2048/2014** dated 9th day of **October 2014**, with developments there being 3 bedroomed house, fitted kitchen, lounge and common bathroom plus servants quarters and the yard is paved with a screen wall and security fance, made in favour of **MOSES OTUKILE MOTSWAGOSELE**.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS : Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 20th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025.

RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

NONOFO MABINA c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4853, Independence, Avenue, Extension 11
P.O. Box 70567, GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/16550)
71657100

Future Series Pushes Botswana Badminton Forward

Botswana Badminton Association celebrates a breakthrough moment as its Future Series event draws unprecedented international attention and marks a bold step toward elevating the nation's standing in world badminton

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO



Botswana Badminton Association (BBA) president Modisaotsile Badubi says the Botswana International 2025 has set a new benchmark for local sporting events, describing the Future Series tournament as "executed to perfection."

In a telephone interview after last week's competition, Badubi said both the Association and visiting teams were impressed by the organisation — from accommodation and logistics to the quality of the court setup, which he said matched "proper international standard."

GROWING GLOBAL RECOGNITION

The tournament drew players from major badminton nations including India and Malta — a turnout Badubi believes reflects Botswana's rising reputation in the sport.

He said the international response showed growing confidence in the country's ability to host complex events and signaled Botswana's emergence within global badminton circles.

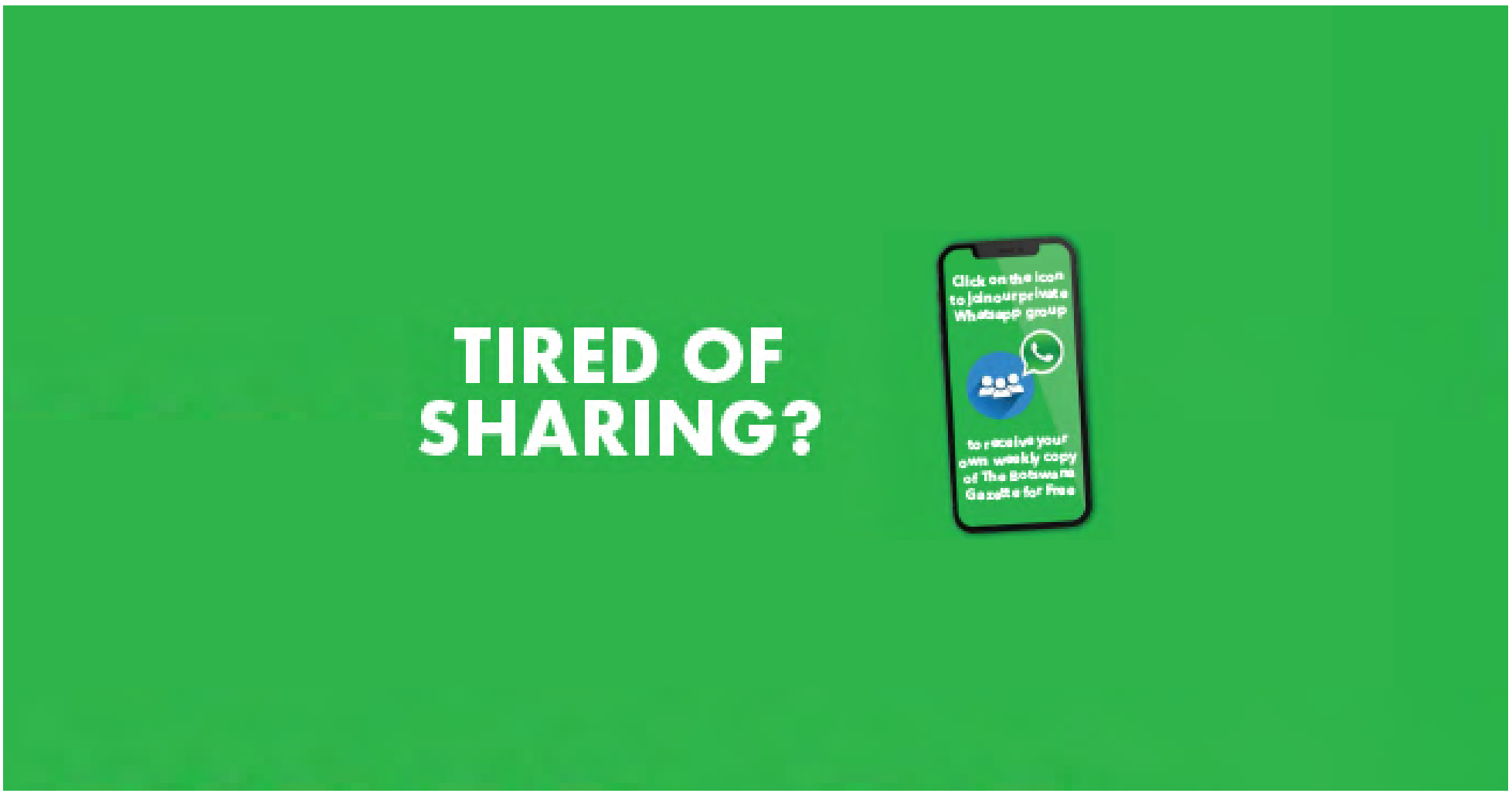
"This demonstrates that nations recognise our vision and trust we can deliver exactly what international athletes expect," he said.

BUILDING STRONGER TEAMS

Badubi also highlighted the Association's deliberate push to strengthen the national team throughout the year.

Selections for both juniors and seniors were completed early in the year, followed by intensive training camps and a high-performance programme led by visiting Danish coaches.

He said this long-term investment aligns with the Association's goal to upgrade the Botswana International from a Future Series — an entry-level event — to an International Series in the near future.



Botswana Tennis Rising With Momentum

Following a highly competitive J60 tournament, Botswana's tennis scene is gaining international recognition, with local players making notable strides and the sport contributing significantly to the country's economy



"If our players could reach the quarterfinals consistently, then we would be on the right track."

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The recent J60 tournament, held at Gaborone's National Tennis Centre, showcased a strong turnout from local players, with eight Batswana girls and seven boys participating. "The level of tennis during the J60 was far too good," said Botswana Tennis Association President Oaitse Thipe in a telephone interview, reflecting on the high-quality performances.

NOTABLE PLAYER ACHIEVEMENTS

While the association acknowledges that many players still need to refine their skills, several standout performances drew attention. Ntungamili Raguin dominated both the singles and doubles events, maximizing points, while Seabo Saleshando reached the doubles finals. Rising star Malak Macheng also earned valuable international ranking points, signaling promise for the future of Botswana tennis.

Thipe remains optimistic about the future: "If our players could reach the quarterfinals consistently, then we would be on the right track." His comments underline a growing commitment to developing local talent while positioning Botswana as a rising hub for international tennis.

ECONOMIC IMPACT GROWING

Thipe highlighted the broader benefits of these tournaments, emphasizing their contribution to the hospitality sector, airlines, and seasonal employment opportunities. The successful livestreaming of the J60 on YouTube further boosted engagement, allowing fans to follow matches in real time and increasing overall participation.

Meanwhile , the association is busy with the J100 tournament currently underway in Gaborone. Then the association will open the year with the ITF/CAT Zonal Championships in January 2026, which is expected to bring approximately 130 players to Botswana.

DREALS BasketBall Tour Comes to Gaborone

Botswana to host high-profile 3x3 basketball showcase with global partners



Pic Credit: Botswana Basketball Association

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Basketball Association (BBA) and France-based events company DREALS PARIS have announced that Gaborone will host the Open House Gaborone, a major stop on the DREALS 3x3 Tour 2025. The event is scheduled for 29–30 November at Airport Junction Mall and is expected to bring elite competition, youth development programmes, and international coaching expertise to Botswana's rapidly growing basketball scene.

In a joint statement released Monday, the partners said the showcase will feature high-level 3x3 match-ups, interactive fan zones, skill contests, youth camps, and coaching formations. It will also double as a men's and women's qualifying tournament for the FIBA 3x3 Pro Circuit.

BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY

Ahead of the tournament, BBA and DREALS PARIS will run a multi-day training camp from 26–28 November for U16, U23, and Open 3x3 teams from across Africa. The programme includes referee and coaching workshops aimed at strengthening Botswana's technical backbone in the sport.

The camps will be led by BBA Women's Commission chair Boitumelo Bante and Coach Balezi Shagwa. International expert Richard Brillant — a former professional player and long-time coach with the French 3x3 national teams — will head referee and coaching sessions. Brillant brings nearly two decades of experience from the French National Basketball Training Centre and has coached teams at the U20 World Cup and Asian Cup.

"The Open House Gaborone deepens a partnership committed to elevating African basketball on the world stage."

A combined USD 1,700 prize purse will be awarded across the tournament's categories.

COMMUNITY AND EXCHANGE

Beyond competition, the tour emphasises community engagement. DREALS PARIS will visit two Gaborone-based basketball academies as part of its ongoing social and humanitarian efforts, promoting youth participation and local development.

Founded in 2017 by former player and five-time French university champion Jean-Marc Aloumon, DREALS PARIS has staged more than 20 events across Africa and Europe, attracting thousands of spectators and contributing to basketball development in countries including Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Niger, Guinea, and France.

STRENGTHENING A PARTNERSHIP

The collaboration between BBA and DREALS PARIS dates back to 2024, when Botswana's National Women's 3x3 Team competed in the ProLeague 3x3 Hoops Factory Edition in France. That exchange, supported by the French Basketball Federation, opened pathways for Botswana's players to access elite European platforms and technical expertise.

BOBA FINDS ITS MOMENTUM AGAIN

A high-energy crowd, standout performances, and a long-awaited return to live television shaped a defining weekend for Botswana boxing, signaling renewed ambition and sharper direction for the sport's future

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO



(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

Botswana boxing stepped back into the national spotlight this past weekend as the Botswana Boxing Association (BoBA) hosted its National Championships in Gaborone, delivering a compelling blend of athletic talent, community energy, and organisational precision. Speaking on the sidelines of the event, BoBA spokesperson Kabelo Seleka described the Championships as "a strong success," pointing to high attendance, competitive bouts, and the historic revival of live television coverage after more than a decade.

The atmosphere, he said, felt like a sport rediscovering its stride. Crowds were engaged, clubs turned out in numbers, and the quality of boxing on display affirmed that the country's development systems are maturing.

TALENT SHOWING DEPTH

Seleka highlighted several standout performances that captured the Association's attention, particularly from emerging athletes showing technical discipline and ring intelligence well beyond their years. Strong displays across both men's and women's divisions underscored a growing sense that Botswana's talent pipeline is deepening.

"These young boxers showed exceptional promise," he noted, adding that their conditioning and tactical maturity reflected real progress in grassroots and youth development.

SMOOTH EXECUTION OVERALL

From an organisational standpoint, Seleka said the Championships ran smoothly, with officiating remaining consistent and scheduling largely on track. The return of televised broadcasting—long absent from the sport—was handled effectively, marking a key milestone for visibility and professionalism.

One area the BoBA aims to refine is educating clubs and athletes on broadcast protocols to ensure even smoother coverage in future events. Partnerships also played a visible role, with support such as refreshments from Debonairs Railpark reinforcing the importance of nurturing corporate relationships.

> "These young boxers showed exceptional promise, proving our development pipeline is getting stronger."

IMPACT ON FUTURE PLANS

This year's Championships will significantly shape national team selections heading into the 2026 season, Seleka explained. Performances from the weekend feed directly into rankings and will influence upcoming call-ups.

Beyond team selection, the event has given the Association momentum to expand the national boxing calendar, strengthen club licensing systems, and stage more competitions. "The confidence this weekend gives us is invaluable," he said, emphasizing that the sport's upward trajectory feels more tangible than it has in years.

How Involvement Shapes A Child's Sporting Journey

A leading sport psychologist unpacks the fine line between supporting young athletes and overwhelming them — and why a parent's role can make or break a child's love for sport

GAZETTE REPORTER

Parental involvement is one of the quiet powerhouses behind a child's athletic growth — not just in performance, but in whether they actually enjoy showing up to practise. That's the point Professor Tshepang Tshube, a sport psychologist and Associate Professor at the University of Kentucky, drove home as he explained why a parent's presence, attitude, and support matter far more than many realise.

At its core, Tshube says, involvement comes in three forms: under-involvement, over-involvement, and optimal involvement. And each one can steer a child's sporting experience in dramatically different directions.

Under-involvement, he notes, is not merely a parent missing a match or two — it's a pattern of emotional, practical, or physical absence. "Parents are a significant source of confidence for their child," Tshube emphasises. When that support is missing, kids lose out on encouragement, resources, and the steady presence that often keeps them motivated. Enjoyment drops, and performance can follow.

WHEN SUPPORT BECOMES PRESSURE

On the opposite end lies parental over-involvement — the kind Tshube warns can drain joy from sport entirely. Here, parents step beyond support and begin to control: dictating participation, pushing children to compete when they're exhausted, or living vicariously through ambitions they never achieved themselves.

The consequences are predictable and painful: heightened anxiety, relentless pressure to win, and burnout that pushes many young athletes to walk away altogether. "You don't want parental over-involvement," he says plainly, describing scenarios where even a child's plea for rest is dismissed in pursuit of performance.

FINDING THE SWEET SPOT

Between those extremes sits what Tshube calls optimal involvement — the gold standard. This approach gives children autonomy, respects their voice in choosing their sport, and fosters an environment where enjoyment is the engine behind participation. Parents provide the logistics, the cheers, and the financial support, but they let the child lead.

"It should be the child's sport, not the parent's," Tshube reminds. When that balance is struck, confidence grows, pressure eases, and sport becomes what it's meant to be: a source of joy, growth, and possibility.

> "It should be the child's sport, not the parent's."

TIRED OF SHARING?



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BOBA FINDS ITS MOMENTUM AGAIN

A high-energy crowd, standout performances, and a long-awaited return to live television shaped a defining weekend for Botswana boxing, signaling renewed ambition and sharper direction for the sport's future

STORY ON PAGE 38

Photo Credit: Tennis Kenya

