The Botswana GAZETTE

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2025
SINCE 1984



6.
Botswana, SA In Fresh Veggies Import Ban War

BOKO'S PRIVATE-JET SELF-FUNDED

While critics fear that President Duma Boko's six-day private international trip will strain the already fragile national coffers, the Presidency has revealed that the President is personally covering all his private-jet costs

3.



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IMF Warns Against Buying De Beers

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cautioned Botswana to reconsider its plan to increase its stake in De Beers.

4.



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TIRED OF SHARING?



Boko's Private-Jet Self-Funded

While critics fear that President Duma Boko's six-day private international trip will strain the already fragile national coffers, the Presidency has revealed that the President is personally covering all his private-jet costs



BONGANI MALUNGA

President Duma Boko's Office has moved to allay concerns surrounding his six-day international travel, stating that the trip is strictly private and follows established governmental protocols.

In addition, the presidency said that the private jet used for the trip carries no financial cost to the government.

The President is currently on a private external travel from 5-11 December. Responding to this publication, the Press Secretary to the President Emang Bokhutlo-Mutapati, said the journey does not require an extensive official entourage and is limited to his Private Secretary and the necessary security detail.

NOT AN OFFICIAL STATE VISIT

She emphasized that this setup is standard procedure for private engagements and does not constitute an official state visit. "In accordance with established protocols, the President is on a private trip. This trip does not warrant a large official entourage, except for his Private Secretary and security. The President has been working tirelessly and has only taken less than 20 days of private time the whole year," Bokhutlo-Mutapati told ***The Botswana Gazette***.

NO COST TO GOVERNMENT

"Given the demands of his office, it is essential that the President is able to take periods of personal time in order to perform his duties effectively. The private jet used on this private trip is of no cost to government," the Press Secretary to the President added.

UNDER FIRE

The Office of the President's clarification comes after the President was under fire from opposition legislator Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang over the undisclosed international travel. "It is important to understand that any travel that the President undertakes should never be a state secret. The nation expects the president to be accompanied by local media to ensure transparency which is a key tenet of democracy and good governance," said Dr Gobotswang in a public statement.

> "It is important to understand that any travel that the President undertakes should never be a state secret.."

COMPOSITION OF HIS ENTOURAGE

"We deserve to know where he is going, what he will be doing on a daily basis and the composition of his entourage as well as the people he will be meeting and for what purpose," the Tswapong South legislator added.




(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

IMF Warns Against Buying De Beers

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cautioned Botswana to reconsider its plan to increase its stake in De Beers, warning that the country's fiscal position and heavy reliance on diamonds make such a move risky

GAZETTER REPORTER

The International Monetary Fund has warned Botswana that increasing its stake in De Beers could be risky, given the country's heavy dependence on diamonds and fiscal vulnerabilities.

In its 2025 Article IV Consultation released this week, the IMF highlighted a more uncertain macroeconomic outlook as the diamond sector experiences a sharper-than-expected contraction. The Fund cautioned that the government's plan to raise its shareholding in De Beers from the current 15 percent comes at a time when the global diamond market's recovery "remains uncertain."

"Staff also cautioned the authorities against increasing their stake in De Beers, given the fiscal situation and Botswana's already high dependence on the diamond sector," the report states.

The risks are both global and domestic. Internationally, Anglo American's restructuring plan to divest its 85-percent shareholding in De Beers, announced in May 2024, is reshaping the diamond giant's future. Anglo is shortlisting potential buyers in 2025, with a public listing also under consideration, potentially stretching the divestment process into 2026.

U.S TARIFFS ADDS TO UNCERTAINTIES

The IMF also noted that U.S. tariffs on Botswana's diamond exports add to the uncertainty. Botswana faces a 15 percent tariff on rough diamonds shipped to the U.S., while countries that polish Botswana's stones face an average 28 percent tariff, weighing heavily on demand and production projections.

Domestically, the Fund warned that any further delay in fiscal consolidation could deepen vulnerabilities.

"Possible further postponement of fiscal consolidation efforts is a substantial downside risk," the Executive Board said. If Botswana's export earnings weaken further, "the authorities may need to undertake additional consolidation measures…and consider allowing a faster pace of depreciation."

PUBLIC DEBT COULD CLIMB RAPIDLY

Under the consultation's baseline scenario, public debt could climb rapidly, approaching 60 percent of GDP by 2030, while international reserves risk gradual depletion.

The diamond sector's slowdown has already been more severe than anticipated. Reduced production and weak non-mineral activity are expected to drag growth this year, with only a gradual recovery projected from 2026. Inflation, currently low, is expected to rise toward late 2025 as the pula's depreciation feeds into consumer prices.

Structural risks are also emerging. The IMF highlighted the rapid rise of lab-grown diamonds, which now account for more than 20 percent of global diamond jewellery sales. Retail prices for synthetic stones are up to 90 percent cheaper than natural diamonds, reshaping market dynamics, particularly among younger buyers.

> "Domestically, the Fund warned that any further delay in fiscal consolidation could deepen vulnerabilities"

OTHER CONCERNS

Major producers expect natural diamond demand to recover only partially in the medium term, supported by marketing efforts distinguishing natural from lab-grown stones. But the pace is expected to be slow and uncertain.

Against this backdrop, the IMF urged Botswana to strengthen fiscal buffers, accelerate economic diversification, and avoid additional financial exposure to the diamond industry through expanded ownership in De Beers.



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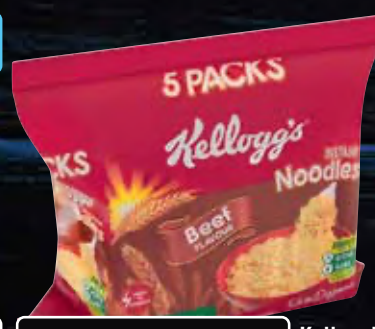

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Bernini Alcoholic Spritzer Assorted 6 x 275 ml
73.95 per pack



Heineken Premium Lager or Sliver Non-Returnable Bottles 6 x 330 ml
101.95 per pack



Belgravia Cooler Non-Returnable Bottles Assorted 6 x 275 ml
88.95 per pack



St Louis Beer Cans 6 x 500 ml
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Flying Fish Premium Beer Assorted 6 x 50 0ml
101.95 per pack

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Botswana, SA In Fresh Verges Import Ban War

Ramaphosa's chief economist has urged the South African government to respond "firmly but sensitively" to Botswana's decision to reimpose import restrictions on fresh produce

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana and South Africa are facing renewed diplomatic and trade tensions after Gaborone reinstated wide-ranging restrictions on imported vegetables, barely a year after the new administration lifted similar bans imposed by the previous government.

In a public notice dated 8 December 2025, the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture announced that a fresh list of commodities—including tomatoes, potatoes, onions, cabbages, carrots, peppers, garlic, butternut and several others—would be "restricted until further notice" due to what the ministry described as "relatively high local production and availability."

The government urged consumers to buy local, signalling a return to protectionist food-security policies.



> The list includes tomatoes, potatoes, onions, cabbages, carrots, peppers, garlic, butternuts and several other fruits and vegetables



SOUTH AFRICAN STAKEHOLDERS CONCERNED

The decision has drawn swift criticism from agricultural stakeholders in South Africa, Botswana's largest fresh-produce supplier and a key partner in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).

Prominent South African agricultural economist Wandile Sihlobo, who also serves on President Cyril Ramaphosa's economic advisory council, expressed disappointment, saying the move undermines ongoing regional integration efforts.

"It is frustrating to witness drastic policy changes with minimal consideration for regional ambitions," he said. "These countries are part of SACU, a bloc promoting free trade, yet Botswana is again restricting imports that do not appear to fit the exemptions allowed under Article 18."

Sihlobo warned that the bans could have serious financial implications for South African farmers who have traditionally relied on Botswana for market access. Botswana has historically absorbed up to 15% of South Africa's vegetable exports, amounting to hundreds of millions of rand annually.

A SETBACK AFTER EARLIER PROGRESS

The tensions come despite earlier signs of rapprochement. In December 2024, South Africa's Minister of International Relations Ronald Lamola publicly welcomed Botswana's decision under President Duma Boko's then-new administration to gradually lift the previous bans, which had cut South African exports to Botswana almost in half in 2023.

At the time, Lamola praised Botswana's commitment to "fostering closer ties and facilitating trade" and expressed optimism about deeper agricultural cooperation at the 2025 South Africa–Botswana Binational Commission.

PRETORIA CONSIDERING ITS OPTIONS

With the latest reversal, however, Pretoria may be forced back into a defensive posture. Sihlobo urged the South African government to respond "firmly but sensitively," cautioning against escalations that could harm regional relations.

"Having hostile neighbours will not benefit any citizens," he said, suggesting that Botswana should instead coordinate import-restriction windows with South Africa and communicate policy shifts more clearly.

BOTSWANA DEFENDS ITS POSITION

Botswana has defended the policy as necessary to boost domestic production, support local farmers and reduce reliance on foreign suppliers. Critics, however, argue that the sudden changes create uncertainty for regional producers and further strain SACU's credibility.

Transport Operators Threaten Nationwide Shutdown

Public transport operators have warned of a possible nationwide shutdown if government does not approve their request for fare increases

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Public transport operators across Botswana have warned that if government delays any further in approving their long-pending request for fare adjustments, they may be forced to withdraw services altogether.

The operators say rising operational costs fuel, maintenance, spare parts and tyres have pushed the sector to the brink, leaving many struggling to stay afloat.

DEEPENING FINANCIAL STRAIN

Speaking at a press briefing on Tuesday, Botswana Bus Operators Association (BBOA) chairperson Tirafalo Mponang said the September fuel price increase had intensified an already dire situation. He revealed that profit margins have evaporated, with some operators now running at a loss, compromising both service reliability and business continuity.

Mponang painted a bleak picture of the daily realities facing long-distance operators, noting that some now collect fares from passengers before purchasing fuel just to complete a single trip. He said the last fare adjustment, effected in 2022, has long been overtaken by economic pressures. Although a review had been anticipated in 2024, operators held off their request at the time, believing conditions were manageable. They now contend that the escalating costs have rendered fare adjustments not just necessary but urgent.

TALKS WITH AUTHORITIES STALL

According to Mponang, operators have held several engagements with the Department of Road Transport and Safety (DRTS), which was expected to escalate their concerns to the Ministry of Transport and Public Works. However, he said no substantive progress has been made, prompting the sector to issue what amounts to an ultimatum.

Operators warn that without swift government intervention, they may have no choice but to stage a nationwide shutdown—an action that would disrupt travel for thousands of commuters who depend on public transport for work, school and essential services.



Public transport operators across Botswana have warned that if government delays any further in approving their long-pending request for fare adjustments, they may be forced to withdraw services altogether.

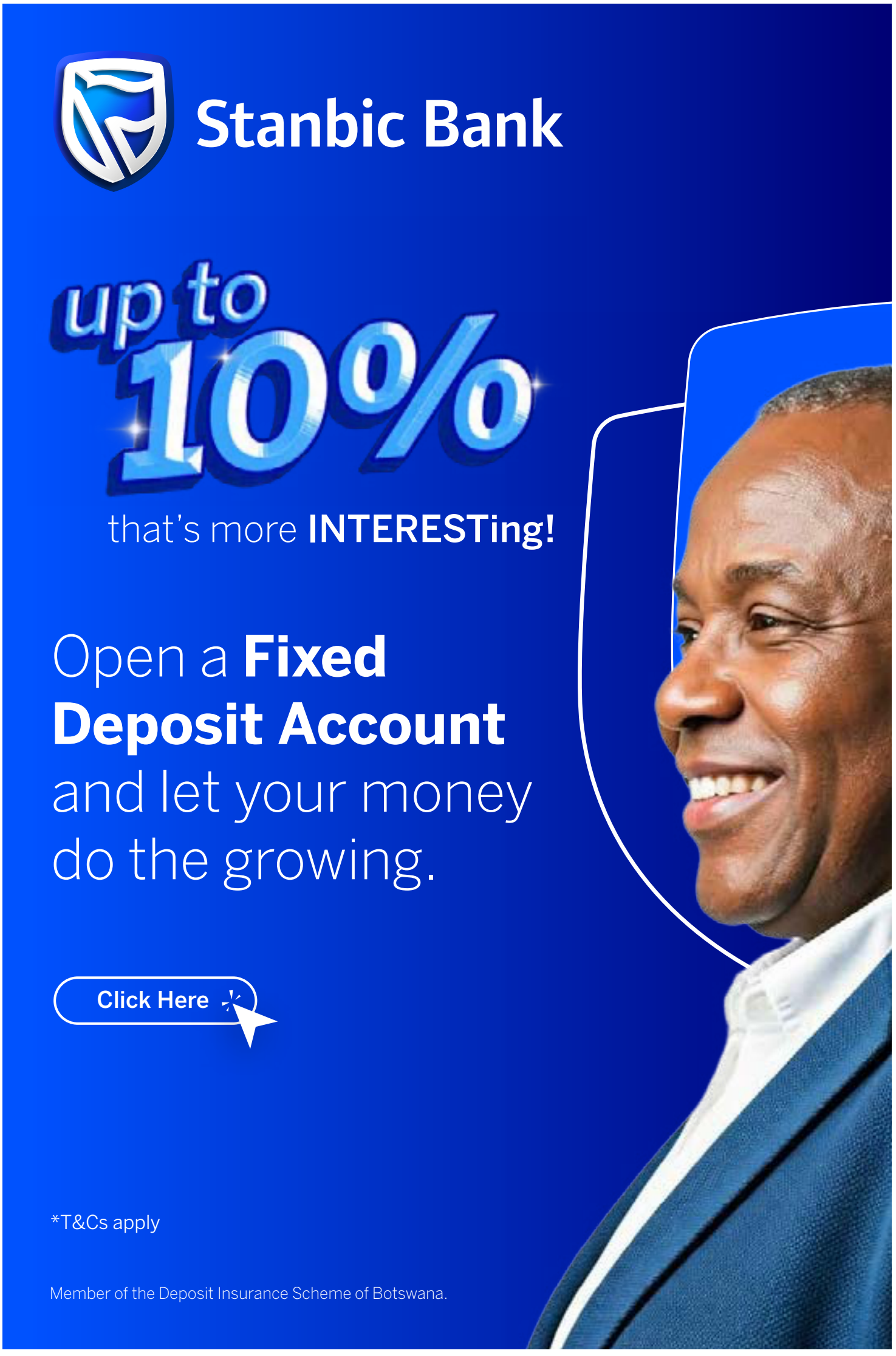
WHAT OPERATORS ARE PROPOSING

The transport operators are proposing adjustments across various services: P36.00 from P33.00 for special taxis, P10.00 from P8.00 for standard taxi fares, P9.00 from P7.00 for combi rides, and 38 thebe per kilometre for long-distance routes.

They argue that these increments would allow them to cover costs and maintain safe, reliable transport services.

GOVERNMENT INVITES PUBLIC VIEWS

In response to the growing tension, the Ministry of Transport and Public Works issued a public notice inviting Batswana to share their views on whether transport fares should be increased.



IMF Urges Urgent Reforms on Fiscal Crisis

Unemployment remains severe, estimated at 28 percent with youth unemployment rising to 38 percent



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's economic outlook has worsened significantly with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) warning that the country faces deepening fiscal and external vulnerabilities unless urgent reforms are undertaken.

In its 2025 Article IV Consultation concluded recently, the IMF issued one of its starkest assessments yet, noting that "Botswana's economic outlook has deteriorated markedly over the last twelve months" as global demand for natural diamonds continues to plunge. The Fund said the decline has been "sharper and is expected to be more persistent than anticipated," with no immediate relief in sight for the country's mineral-dependent economy.

THE DIAMOND FALL

According to the report, Botswana's economic activity contracted by 3 percent in 2024, driven by falling mining output, reduced diamond trading and a slowdown across non-mineral sectors. While construction and tourism registered modest growth, this was outweighed by contraction in manufacturing and agriculture. Unemployment remains severe, estimated at 28 percent with youth unemployment rising to 38 percent.

The IMF now expects the economy to shrink by another 1 percent in 2025, before staging a gradual recovery over the medium term largely dependent on a partial rebound in the global diamond market.

Meanwhile, declining diamond exports and weak capital inflows have deepened the country's vulnerability. International reserves fell further to US$3.5 billion, equivalent to just five months of import cover by July 2025. Inflation, though still within the Bank of Botswana's target range, stood at 3.7 percent year-on-year in September.

GOVERNMENT RESPONDING

Despite the grim outlook, the IMF acknowledged that the government has begun taking steps to respond to the crisis. Authorities have launched the Botswana Economic Transformation Program (BETP) to stimulate private-sector-led growth, ahead of the forthcoming National Development Plan (NDP). To contain fiscal pressures, government has implemented initial consolidation measures, while the Bank of Botswana has tightened monetary policy raising interest rates from 1.9 to 3.5 percent—and adjusted the exchange-rate framework to safeguard reserves.

But these measures, the IMF warned, are still insufficient.

"Unless additional fiscal consolidation and economic diversification reforms are adopted and monetary policy is tightened, public debt could rise sharply over the medium term," the Executive Board cautioned.

PROJECTIONS

Under current projections, the current account deficit is expected to widen to 6 percent of GDP in 2025, driven by weaker exports and lower Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenues. Though a gradual improvement is anticipated over the medium term, the Fund warns that without further action, "persistent external current account deficits and external outflows would contribute to a further decline in reserves."

The fiscal deficit is equally worrying. After rising to 7.1 percent of GDP in FY2024/25 due to weak mineral revenues, it is now expected to exceed 8 percent of GDP in FY2025/26. Without deeper spending cuts and stronger non-mineral revenue generation, the IMF warns public debt could escalate rapidly.

The Fund stressed that structural reforms especially diversification can no longer be delayed.

TARIFF GUIDE

S'kgwama Proposed Pricing Framework

A) Cash-Out via Agents/Merchants

Transaction Amount (BWP)	Proposed Fee (BWP)
Up to P3,000	10.00
P3,001 – P6,999	15.00
P7,000 – P10,000	25.00

B) Wallet & Merchant App Services

Service	Fee (BWP)
Wallet Registration	Free
Wallet-to-Wallet Transfer	1.00
Wallet-to-BSB Bank Transfer	3.00
Wallet-to-Other Bank Transfer	5.00
Own Bank-to-Wallet Transfer	Free
Bill Payments (Water, Power, DSTV)	3.50
Airtime Purchase	Free
Insurance Premium Payment	3.00
Cash-In via Agent	0.45% of Deposit
Merchant-to-Merchant Transfers	3.00
Bulk Payment Processing	2.20
Ngaa Cash Purchase	10.00
Ngaa Cash Redeem	Free
Ngaa Cash Refund	7.00

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MP Petitions Speaker Over Amended Motion

Nkange MP says the amendment violated Standing Orders and distorted what he intended by the motion



The MP for Nkange, Motlhaleemang Moalosi, has lodged a formal complaint against the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Helen Manyeneng, for allegedly violating Standing Order 47.2 by allowing an amendment that purportedly altered the original intention of his motion completely.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The MP for Nkange, Motlhaleemang Moalosi, has lodged a formal complaint against the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Helen Manyeneng, for allegedly violating Standing Order 47.2 by allowing an amendment that purportedly altered the original intention of his motion completely.

At issue is that the motion, Parliament adopted the motion inspite of his objections after it was amended by the Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Keoagile Atamelang.

PROCEDURALLY FLAWED

Moalosi holds that the amendment not only distorted the thrust of his purpose but was also procedurally flawed, prompting his protest to the Clerk of the National Assembly and the Business Advisory Committee.

The MP maintains that the Deputy Speaker should not have permitted the amendment because it effectively turned his motion into something that he did not recognise.

He has threatened to withdraw the motion if his complaint is not addressed.

In a letter addressed to the Clerk of the National Assembly and copied to the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), Moalosi requests a review of the Deputy Speaker's decision.

POINT OF ORDER IGNORED

He argues that Deputy Speaker allowed the amendment to pass despite a point of order that he raised that was supported by the opposition whip Caterpillar Hikuama to highlight contravention of Standing Order 47.2.

Moalosi's original motion had called on government to create a software development hub at the University of Botswana (UB) based on a proposal drafted by UB's Department of Computer Science.

However, he asserts that the amendment tabled by Atamelang framed the issue differently.

TROUBLING MESSAGE

The MP says in its amended form, the motion states that UB, in its quest to become a self-funding High-Performance Organisation (HPO), had proposed using its existing staff, graduates, undergraduates students and computing resources that it currently has to create a software development hub or Botswana Innovation Hub.

In his letter to the Clerk of the National Assembly, Moalosi argues that altering the essence of his motion not only breaches parliamentary procedure but also sends a troubling message to the nation.

"It tells Batswana that it is acceptable for your proposal or idea to be given to another person," he wrote. "It is an unethical thing to do, and Parliament will be setting a wrong precedent."

Millions Lost as NGOs Reel from Aid Cuts-REPORT

An updated report titled "Rapid Assessment Finings: The Impact of the US Government Suspension of Funding of Programmes and Projects In Botswana"paints a sobering account of critical health, social and governance programmes severely crippled

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's civil society sector is reeling from unprecedented financial shocks according to updated findings by the Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO), recently published by Forus, a global network representing over 24,000 civil society organisations worldwide.

The report revealed millions in aid losses due to sweeping U.S. funding cuts introduced during the Trump administration.

The report paints a sobering picture: suspended projects, terminated programs, and sharply reduced delivery of health, HIV, gender-based violence (GBV), youth, and civic engagement services across the country. Organisations dependent on U.S. government support through USAID, CDC, and PEPFAR appear to have been hit the hardest.

MASSIVE LOSSES REPORTED BY KEY ORGANISATIONS

Tebelopele Wellness Centre alone recorded a staggering total loss of $8,217,711.60 (approx. P115 million) across three major programs: Kgatelopele Mo Botsogong 2.0 – $6,680,993 (P93.8m), Unite Towards 100 – $1,008,058 (P14.1m) and EPIC – $528,660.60 (P7.4m).

The organisation has been granted only a temporary 90-day waiver to continue selected HIV testing, care, treatment, and prevention services.

Another anonymous organisation suffered funding losses of P887,523.33, while Bakgatla Bolokang Matshelo lost $200,142 (P2.8m) under the suspended Unite Toward 100 project. Kgasongo Association reported $10,000 (P140,000) in affected services.

Sentebale Charity lost P2.5 million, although CDC eventually lifted the suspension, allowing them to resume HIV/AIDS interventions. BOCONGO's own Secretariat was severely crippled by the termination of a $348,040 (P4.9m) project focused on transparency, accountability, and democratic participation—work that included the Motlhophi Bua podcast done in partnership with Duma FM.

Other organisations facing major setbacks include: Success Capital Organisation – P1,040,000, BOCHAIP – $310,107 (P4.23m), Stepping Stones International – $3,298,000 (P46.3m), Botswana Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Support Centre – $4,431,931.60, and SOCOBA – $48,081 (P553,000).

> "The report paints a sobering picture: Suspended projects, terminated programs, and sharply reduced delivery of health, HIV, gender-based violence (GBV), youth, and civic engagement services across the country"

The full cost of affected services from other organisations—including Mothers Union Orphan Care Centre, Nothing Without Us Society, Humana People to People, Letloa Trust, and BW Nama Development Trust—has yet to be submitted.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES SEVERELY IMPACTED

According to the report, essential health and social services have been "severely impacted," including HIV testing, treatment and prevention, viral load suppression, TB screening, NCD referrals, gender-based violence clinical services, psychosocial support, youth-friendly services, LGBTQ+ health interventions, DREAMS programs, and care for orphans and vulnerable children.

Projects supporting key populations such as transgender communities and men who have sex with men have also suffered major setbacks, reversing years of progress made under PEPFAR-funded initiatives.

The ripple effects extend beyond health. BOCONGO's halted governance project had sought to equip voters with accurate political information, strengthen media-CSO collaboration, and promote accountable leadership. Its termination, BOCONGO warns, undermines civic education efforts, particularly those aimed at young voters.

Unions Seek to Meet Boko

In the wake of perceptions they are akin to a political movement, trade unions are eager to meet with President Duma Boko in order "to clear the air" and reaffirm their commitment to constructive dialogue and improved working conditions for employees across the public service

BONGANI MALUNGA

Trade unions have asked for a meeting with President Duma Boko to clarify wrong perceptions about their decision to hold the government accountable on matters of staff welfare and other issues of national interest.

This came to light at the 7th Triennial Congress of the Botswana Land Boards, Local Authorities and Health Workers Union (BLLAHWU) that was held in Francistown recently.

Speakers emphasised how an engagement with the President should help set the record straight and ensure that their advocacy efforts are understood in their proper context.

DIRECT ENGAGEMENT WITH BOKO

They expressed concern that recent public commentary has distorted their intentions, thus prompting the need for a direct engagement with President Boko to reaffirm their commitment to constructive dialogue, transparency and improved working conditions for employees across the public service.



"We should not allow ourselves as leaders to use our emotions to fight battles that end up affecting the general membership as we use subscription fees to finance legal costs. Legal bills have exceeded P1 million."

The president of the Botswana Doctors Union (BDU), Dr Kefilwe Selema, said unions are growing wary of public assertions that they are morphing into a movement akin to political opposition, adding that such insinuations misrepresent the role and mandate of labour unions.

"STANDOFFS BENEFIT NEITHER OF US"

Dr Selema appealed to the Minister for State President, Moeti Mohwasa, who attended the congress, to facilitate such a meeting.

"We would like to have an open discussion with the President, just to clear the air," he said. "This meeting is vital to ensuring that there is peace between the unions and the government. Standoffs benefit neither of us."

The BDU leader conceded that while the recent registration of the Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC) is a welcome development, the reluctance of unions to openly acknowledge and praise the development has done little to dispel perceptions of tensions between unions and the government.

AMICABLE RESOLUTION

Dr Selema encouraged union leaders to review and reconsider cases that are before the courts and explore if amicable resolutions can be reached in order to prevent further legal costs. "We have to reconsider court cases that are not worth pursuing," he urged.

"This meeting is vital to ensuring that there is peace between the unions and the government. Standoffs benefit neither of us"

"We should not allow ourselves as leaders to use our emotions to fight battles that end up affecting the general membership as we use subscription fees to finance legal costs. Legal bills have exceeded P1 million."

DISS has no place in Tender Adjudication- PPRA

PPRA has emphasised that the role of DISS is strictly confined to conducting national security screening and does not extend to influencing or determining the outcome of any procurement process

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has clarified that the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Service (DISS) has no legal authority to cancel tender applications.

Eager to set the record straight for journalists at a press briefing in Gaborone on Monday this week, the CEO of PPRA, Tumelo Motsumi, said the role of DISS is strictly confined to conducting national security screening and does not extend to influencing or determining the outcome of any procurement process.

NARROWLY DEFINED ROLE

He emphasised that the legal framework governing public procurement assigns DISS this narrowly defined role that is strictly limited to vetting entities involved in sensitive projects.

Beyond this screening function, he stressed, DISS cannot intervene in procurement decisions, direct the course of adjudication or influence which bidders are approved or disqualified.

Motsumi noted that DISS works in tandem with accounting officers only when national security is at risk. "The DIS is only involved in consultation with accounting officers," he said. "They are involved in instances where there are issues of national security and espionage."



CEO of PPRA, Tumelo Motsumi

EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONS BARRED

He added that the Public Procurement Act (2021) prohibits external institutions from interfering with procurement outcomes as doing so would undermine the integrity, transparency and fairness of the public tendering system.

Only legally mandated bodies within the procurement structure hold the power to evaluate, award or cancel tenders because any deviation from established processes would risk eroding public trust in government contracting.

VERY CLEAR

"From 2022 (since the Public Procurement Act took effect), I have not heard of any tender that was cancelled by the DIS because the Act is very clear that tender cancellation is for accounting officers," said Motsumi.

Even so, tender documents submitted to the Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly recently showed that DISS had participated in vetting tender applications, contradicting earlier government denials.

Govt Settles Farmers' Payments

Farmers across Botswana are finally breathing a sigh of relief as government begins settling long-overdue grain payments



BONGANI MALUNGA

The long and often frustrating wait for hundreds of grain farmers across the country is finally easing, as the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture begins settling long-overdue payments that have strained producers for months.

After a protracted period of uncertainty that left many farmers battling cash-flow pressures and mounting debts, government working with the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) and the National Development Bank (NDB has now secured P206 million to start clearing arrears. This amount forms the first and largest tranche of the P271 million owed nationwide. Officials say the financing mechanism for the outstanding P65 million is at an advanced stage, bringing the promise of full settlement within reach.

PAYMENTS FLOWING AT LAST

According to a statement issued by the Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers Association on Tuesday, the long-awaited disbursement process is already underway. The association revealed that farmers owed less than P1 million have now been fully paid, while those owed above P1 million have so far received 74% of their dues.

The association welcomed the development, describing it as a critical intervention for a sector that has been under immense pressure. "We appreciate the Government of Botswana for responding to this urgent need and making resources available to support the sector. And we extend gratitude to farmers for their patience, resilience, and continued commitment," it said.

RESTORING CONFIDENCE

For months, farmer groups have been lobbying government to make good on its commitments, warning that prolonged delays threatened production plans, loan repayments, and overall food security.

This week's breakthrough, stakeholders say, marks meaningful progress and goes a long way toward restoring trust in government support systems. The ministry is reported to be pushing to settle the remaining balance as quickly as possible to stabilize the sector ahead of the coming production cycle.

With payments now flowing and a clear plan for the outstanding amount, relief is finally spreading across farming communities long plagued by uncertainty.

Boko, PPRA Resolve Discrepancy Over Direct Tendering

Public Procurement Regulation Authority has conceded that direct tendering is provided for in the law and embraced President Duma Boko's view that open bids often delay and compromise critical national projects

BONGANI MALUNGA

A recent discrepancy between PPRA and President Duma Boko over the government's preference for direct procurement rather than open bidding has been resolved following a formal engagement, the Public Procurement Regulation Authority has said.

The President had previously criticised oversight bodies for their handling of a system plagued by delays and elements of state capture.

LACK OF A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

While Boko's government favours direct tendering in order to circumvent the slow traditional procurement process, accelerate project implementation and pursue bold economic initiatives, the business community has raised concerns about the lack of a level playing field in the method.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING

PPRA recently mandated the cancellation of a contested P662 million e-learning direct tender by the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, instructing the ministry to either conduct a competitive bidding process or adequately test the market before shortlisting any potential bidders.

The Chief Executive Officer of PPRA, Tumelo Motsumi, told a media briefing in Gaborone on Monday that the President's remarks prompted an engagement to better understand his remarks.

"We were concerned about the President's remarks," Motsumi said. "We requested to meet him to better understand where he was coming from."

STIPULATED TIMEFRAMES

Motsumi acknowledged a further perusal of the Public Procurement Act by the President had revealed provisions permitting direct tendering.

However, he emphasised that this method is appropriate in cases where specialists are required to complete a project within a stipulated timeframe.



A recent discrepancy between PPRA and President Duma Boko over the government's preference for direct procurement rather than open bidding has been resolved following a formal engagement, the Public Procurement Regulation Authority has said.

The President stressed that using an open tendering process for specialised tasks has, in the past, compromised numerous national projects.

BOKO "IS NOT AGAINST OPEN BIDDING"

"The President is not against open bidding," said Motsumi. "When we engaged him, we realised that what he was saying was not different from what is provided for in the Public Procurement Act.

"He took time to read and understand the Act. He explained that according to the Act, there are various methods of procurement, and direct procurement is one of those methods."

He added that in his submissions, the President stated that he "does not understand why when there is insufficient time to deliver projects, procuring entities are favouring or using one method when the direct procurement method is provided for in the Act".



BDP Concedes Audit May Expose Own Members

The former ruling party has acknowledged the likelihood of some of its members being tagged for wrongdoing as the work of the ongoing forensic audit progresses

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) cannot rule out the possibility that some of its members may be implicated as the ongoing forensic audit unravels, the Secretary General of the former ruling party, Kentse Rammidi, has said.

Addressing supporters at the final Moreomaoto by-election rally over the weekend, Rammidi said the party has no intention of protecting or absolving any democrats who may be found to have acted improperly.

He emphasised that the BDP is fully aware that the audit could expose wrongdoing by some of its members and that due process should be allowed to take its course.

"CORRUPTION IS EVERYWHERE"

"We cannot deny that some democrats might be implicated in the forensic audit because maybe among our leaders some were corrupt," said Rammidi.

"The BDP cannot and will not absolve anyone before investigators complete their work. Whoever is implicated will have to account. Corruption is everywhere, and we cannot exclude democrats from possible involvement."

He noted that even some cabinet ministers in the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government have already been linked to alleged corruption despite having been in power for just a year thus far.

BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR

President Duma Boko announced the forensic audit in Parliament early in 2025 after the UDC assumed power following its victory in the 2024 general elections.

According to Boko, the brief of the audit includes examining financial records, transactions, and institutional practices in order to detect signs of fraud, corruption, and other financial wrongdoing.

The audit - which was commissioned by the President earlier this year - began its work in March and is expected to conclude it by early 2026, with preliminary findings anticipated before the end of this year.

WIDESPREAD PUBLIC INTEREST

However, observers have warned that the timeline could shift, depending on the complexity of the investigation.

At the BDP rally in Moremaoto, Rammidi said the BDP supports the process as part of broader efforts to strengthen accountability and restore public confidence in political institutions.

Even with its specific scope remaining undisclosed, the audit has attracted widespread public interest, with critics questioning whether political interference might influence its outcome.

> "The BDP cannot and will not absolve anyone before investigators complete their work. Whoever is implicated will have to account

WITHOUT PRESSURE

Rammidi, however, insisted that the party is committed to transparency and will handle the findings strictly in accordance with the law.

He urged the public and party supporters to allow investigators the space to complete their work without pressure or premature conclusions.

Minister Confirms Foreign Fruit Pickers After Denial

Labour minister Pius Mokgware just resorted to nitpicking and queried figures to downplay his earlier insistence that there are no foreigners employed as fruit pickers at Selebi Phikwe citrus project

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Minister of Labour, Pius Mokgware, has admitted that foreign workers are currently employed in the Selibe-Phikwe citrus project, contradicting his earlier statements to Parliament.

A few months ago, Mokgware firmly denied in Parliament that any foreigners were working on the farm.

He was responding to a question from the MP for Selibe-Phikwe West, Reuben Kaizer, about 150 foreigners that he said were employed on the farm and wanted to know who had authorised their employment over Batswana.

RESERVED FOR BATSWANA

In answer, Minister Mokgware insisted that all jobs at the citrus farm were reserved for Batswana and that his ministry had never employed foreigners and would never do so.

However, last week Mokgware made a U-turn in response to the same question from the same MP when the minister acknowledged that 66 foreign workers are engaged as seasonal farm workers.

He said 320 workers are permanent Batswana, 110 are engaged on a temporary basis, while 200 are seasonal farm workers.

LOCAL PICKERS STRUGGLE

Mokgware asserted that local recruits struggle to meet the rigorous standards required for commercial citrus production, which had led to some fruit rotting on trees and negatively affecting both yield and export quality.

"There are various reasons for importing labour from other countries, and one of them is that the required professional picking and packing skill is not available in Botswana," he said.

"This is a job that is learned over time and needs a lot of practice and muscle memory for one to be able to do it fast without damaging the fruit."

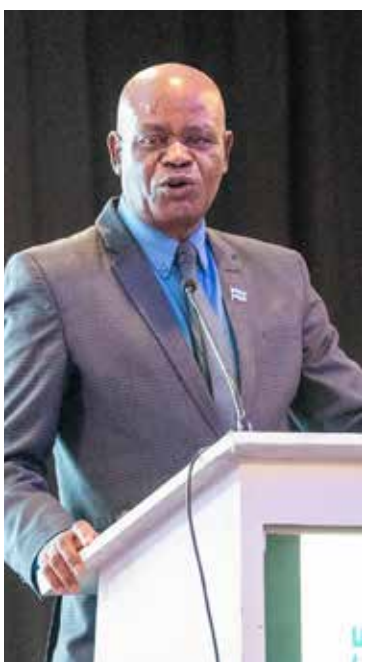
SKILLS TRANSFER

This is why, he emphasised, the farm has employed foreign fruit pickers to transfer expertise to local workers, enhance productivity, and gradually reduce dependence on imported labour.

Responding to *Gazette* enquiries, Mokgware sought to downplay his contradictory answers, saying his initial response was based on the alleged figure of 150 Zimbabweans that was not true.

"Contrary to claims that 150 foreigners were engaged, only 66 have been employed for the picking season only," he said.

Minister Mokgware added that those engaged for the picking season receive their work permits through the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) investors' programme after consultations with Selibe-Phikwe Town Council.





CHARTERED
Insurance Brokers

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Update to the GLIF Policy

Update to the Guaranteed Loans Insurance Fund (GLIF) Policy

Members of the Guaranteed Loans Insurance Fund (GLIF) are hereby informed that, effective 1 December 2025, the GLIF policy has been enhanced to offer improved benefits at no additional cost to members.

These updates have been introduced to ensure that the policy remains competitive and responsive to the evolving needs of our members.

Key Enhancements Include:

- Introduction of a **Funeral Benefit**
- Access to **Trauma Counselling**
- Coverage for **Security Guard Expenses**
- **Emergency Accommodation** benefit
- Cover for **Lost Keys, Locks, and Remotes**

Members may access a copy of the updated policy document at the nearest GEMVAS or LAMVAS offices or download it online at www.cib-bw.com.

For further information or assistance, please contact us at **3168 323** or **3168 242.**

About GLIF

The Guaranteed Loans Insurance Fund (GLIF) is a self-insurance fund established by the Government of the Republic of Botswana and governed by Statutory Instrument No. 118 of 2022 under the Public Finance Management Act.

The Fund provides insurance cover for assets acquired by Government employees through the Government Employees Motor Vehicle and Residential Property Advance Scheme (GEMVAS) and the Local Authorities Motor Vehicle & Residential Property Advance Scheme (LAMVAS).

GLIF is administered by Chartered Insurance Brokers.

3168 323 / 3168 242

MOH CONCERNED OVER RISING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Rising antibiotic misuse is driving dangerous antimicrobial resistance, prompting urgent calls for responsible medication practices to protect public health worldwide

BONGANI MALUNGA



The Ministry of Health (MoH) has issued a strong warning to the public against the widespread misuse and overuse of antibiotics because such practices are fuelling the rise of antimicrobial resistance.

> "Unnecessarily taking antibiotics for the wrong medical conditions is counterproductive because by the time one needs medication for specific conditions, one might resist the medication that one had previously used quite often"

This emerged at the 2025 World Antimicrobial Resistance Commemoration Day in Palapye recently.

The ministry noted that this global health threat has already contributed to the loss of more than five million lives worldwide and stressed that responsible use of prescribed medications is essential to prevent further escalation of the crisis.

Risky and unsafe

Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microbes in the human body no longer respond to medications. According to the MoH, this renders drugs ineffective and allows infections to persist.

As a result, routine medical procedures such as C-sections, hip replacements and cancer chemotherapy become riskier and potentially unsafe.

MoH has highlighted that the misuse of antibiotics, particularly when prescribed for viral infections like the flu, is a leading cause of antimicrobial resistance.

"PATIENTS DEMAND ANTIBIOTICS"

Speaking at the commemoration, the Minister of Health, Dr Stephen Modise, warned that antimicrobial resistance is a silent, insidious threat that transcends borders, posing a global health challenge.

"The main reason for this, in most cases, is that patients demand antibiotics for flu or colds, which are viruses," he said. "They then misuse them or fail to finish the whole course.

"When one does not finish a prescribed course of treatment, one allows the strongest germs to survive and multiply.

COUNTERPRODUCTIVE

"Unnecessarily taking antibiotics for the wrong medical conditions is counterproductive because by the time one needs medication for specific conditions, one might resist the medication that one had previously used quite often."

The ministry urged the public to adhere strictly to medical prescriptions, avoid sharing or stockpiling antibiotics and to seek professional medical advice before taking any medication.

> "The main reason for this, in most cases, is that patients demand antibiotics for flu or colds, which are viruses,"

It emphasised that collective action is needed to preserve the effectiveness of current antibiotics and protect communities from preventable health threats.

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accommodating your future

BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE

1. The Botswana Housing Corporation invites tender proposals from duly locally registered **100% Citizen Owned**, authorized companies with the following **PPRA Codes:**

TENDER No.	DESCRIPTION	PPRA CODES
BHC 40-2025/26	PROVISION OF SECURITY ALARM MONITORING AND RESPONSE SERVICES AT THE CORPORATION'S OFFICES AND PROPERTIES COUNTRY WIDE FOR A (3) YEAR PERIOD	**Code 100**-Security Services, **Sub code 02**-Security Systems Monitoring

2. Procurement Method: **Open Domestic Bidding**
3. Preference margins will be applied to qualifying bidders in line with Presidential Directive CAB 34 (B) 2014 on Economic Diversification Drive (EDD)
4. Tender documents will be sent to Bidders electronically after a non-refundable deposit of **P367.00 (P183.50 for youth owned companies only)** is paid by cash or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from the **11 December 2025** during working hours between 0800hrs and 1500hrs.
5. Banking details are as follows:

Beneficiary: Botswana Housing Corporation
Bank Name: First National Bank
Account Name: Head Office Collection
Account No.: 62372575765
Brach Name: Main

6. For physical collection of tender documents, contact: **Procurement Office, Plot 10236/7 Lejara Road, Broadhurst Industrial, Gaborone**, during working hours.
7. To receive electronic softcopy of the tender document, send **proof of payment** to **procurement_tenders@bhc.bw** and **use Company Name** and **Tender Number as reference.**
8. Detailed sealed bids must be submitted physically to the adress stated at (6) during working hours not later than **0900hrs on 9 January 2026.**
9. Telegraphic, telephone, facsmile, email or any form of electronic tenders will not be considered.

The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

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Letshego Uses Poetry For Financial Literacy

Letshego Botswana concluded a national poetry competition aimed at making financial education more accessible through creative expression in Setswana and English



Letshego Botswana has concluded its Kitso Konokono Financial Literacy and Poetry Competition, a national initiative that uses creative expression to make financial education more accessible and engaging for Batswana.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Letshego Botswana has concluded its Kitso Konokono Financial Literacy and Poetry Competition, a national initiative that uses creative expression to make financial education more accessible and engaging for Batswana. The campaign is built around the belief that "financial literacy is power" and blends education with storytelling through poetry.

THEME AND FOCUS

The competition invited participants to submit original poems in Setswana or English based on financial principles such as saving, discipline, responsible borrowing and wealth creation. The theme, "Grow With Every Pula" (Gola ka Pula Nngwe le Nngwe), challenged poets to reflect on how every pula earned, saved or borrowed can shape financial outcomes when used wisely.

LEADERSHIP VIEWS

Letshego Botswana Chief Executive Officer Kgotso Bannalotlhe said Kitso Konokono represents "a unique platform where creativity meets empowerment, and where poetry becomes a voice for financial knowledge". He said the competition reflects Letshego's brand promise of "improving lives" and goes beyond entertainment to deliver education through art.

"Every pula that we earn, save or borrow carries potential. When we understand money, we make decisions that bring stability to our families. When we do not, we face serious challenges," he said. He added that knowledge only becomes powerful when it translates into changed behaviour, discipline and responsible decision-making, and that regardless of income level, the key message is how individuals use the money they earn.

PARTICIPATION AND IMPACT

Bannalotlhe said poetry transforms financial concepts into powerful stories that resonate with communities and help demystify money management. Letshego said submissions in both Setswana and English promoted inclusivity and cultural relevance, strengthening the role of financial education in building a resilient and financially empowered society.

WINNERS AND PRIZES

According to Letshego Botswana Head of Brand Marketing and Customer Experience Kealeboga Sebolai, the initiative began last year due to a growing need to raise national awareness around money management and financial responsibility. She said the campaign recorded improved participation and quality compared to the previous year, with poets showing strong understanding of financial literacy and digital creativity.

Winners included Precious Haushiko (English category) and Kopanang Tito (Setswana category), each receiving P25,000. Angel of Poetry placed second in English (P10,000), followed by Thatayaone AuthorBlack Lekoba (P5,000). In Setswana, Kario Medikhel BW placed second (P10,000) and Tsholofetso Mphetang Motsadi placed third (P5,000). Kario Medikhel BW also won the People's Choice and Best Educator Advocate awards, each valued at P5,000. A total of P90,000 was shared among winners.



AfDB Cuts Botswana Forecast

AfDB warns of contraction risks while noting potential recovery if reforms and diamond demand improve

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's economic growth outlook has slipped into negative territory, according to the African Development Bank (AfDB) Macroeconomic Performance and Outlook (MEO) update, which cites domestic vulnerabilities and global shocks as key pressures on the mineral-dependent economy.

REVISED FORECASTS

The AfDB revised Botswana's 2025 growth projection from a previously expected 0.8 percent expansion to a 0.8 percent contraction. The downgrade places the country among the worst-affected economies in Southern Africa, alongside Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique and Angola.

REGIONAL OUTLOOK

Across Southern Africa, the 2026 growth forecast was trimmed from 2.5 percent to 2.4 percent. The AfDB attributes this to persistent structural challenges, including limited reform momentum and ongoing diversification gaps in mineral-reliant economies such as Botswana and Angola.

CONTRASTING TRENDS

South Africa was the only major economy in the region to receive an improved forecast, with its 2025 projection upgraded from 0.8 percent to 1.2 percent, supported by improved mining, manufacturing and electricity generation, and eased load-shedding pressures.

Diamonds and Exposure

Botswana recorded a 3.0 percent GDP contraction in 2024, the steepest in the region, largely due to weakening global diamond demand. The AfDB states this highlights the country's vulnerability to commodity dependence, but projects a potential recovery to 2.5 percent growth in 2026, contingent on reforms and improved diamond demand.

FISCAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The report urges African governments, including Botswana, to rationalise public spending, improve state-owned enterprise efficiency, better target subsidies, expand social protection and strengthen revenue collection through digital tax systems.

Malvern Farming (Pty) Ltd t/a

Farm & Trac

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Massey Ferguson are re-opening an official dealership in Botswana which has presented new opportunities for immediate employment.



GENERAL MANAGER

We are looking for a GM with agricultural expertise to oversee all aspects of the tractor sales business, including sales, marketing, service, and parts. This role will involve developing and implementing sales strategies, managing sales, building customer relationships, and ensuring profitability. Ideal candidates have:

- Bachelor's degree, Diploma, or C&G with recognised apprenticeship in Engineering, Agric, Business or equivalent
- 10+ years' experience in tractors and agriculture implements retail environment
- Additional experience as a parts or service manager or in a sales role
- Familiarity with Massey Ferguson products and implements
- Finance and marketing experience, a solid understanding of sales, parts and service operations
- Experience with DMS and Proficiency in the Microsoft suite of products.



SERVICE/WORKSHOP MANAGER

We are looking for a highly organized and experienced Workshop Manager to oversee the daily operations of our technical workshop. As a hands-on candidate you will be responsible for managing field and workshop technicians, ensuring the timely completion of service tasks, maintaining safety standards, and optimizing workflow efficiency. You will plan and coordinate workshop activities, schedule maintenance and repair work, order parts and supplies, and ensure that all equipment is functioning properly. Strong interpersonal skills are also imperative in this role, in order to manage and deliver excellent customer experiences. Ideal candidates have:

- Minimum 10-years' experience as a Workshop Manager or similar role
- Strong technical background in mechanical or automotive fields
- City & Guilds or similar qualification with recognised apprenticeship training
- Good understanding of health and safety regulations
- Proficiency in workshop management software



SALES PERSONNEL

We are looking for experienced Salespersons to be responsible for marketing and selling our range of tractors to farmers, agricultural businesses, and other related clients. This role also entails cross-selling implements and equipment, in addition to tractors, as this is key in the overall sales strategy. You will develop a thorough understanding of Massey Ferguson tractors and equipment, and you will identify potential customers through research, networking and field visits, conduct product demonstrations and presentations, assess customer requirements and provide appropriate solutions. You will also provide accurate quotations, financing planning and options, negotiate and closes sales. Ideal candidates have:

- Bachelor's degree or Diploma in Engineering, Agriculture, Business or equivalent
- 5+ years' experience as salesperson for tractors and agriculture implements
- Familiarity with Massey Ferguson or equivalent tractor brands and agriculture implements
- Experience with DMS and Proficiency in the Microsoft suite of products.



ACCOUNTANT / GENERAL ADMINISTRATOR

We are looking for an Accountant with the diligence to double as a General Administrator. You will oversee both financial and operational activities, including managing accounts payable and receivable, preparing financial reports, ensuring compliance with financial regulations, and handling day-to-day administrative tasks to support company goals and to ensure the showroom and workshop are well managed and maintained. The role requires a strong understanding of accounting principles, financial software, and excellent administrative and organizational skills. Ideal candidates have:

- 5+ years' experience with office administration, accounting, auditing and personnel management.
- Proficiency in the Microsoft suite of products, and PASTEL or similar accounting packages.
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent with major course work in public or business administration or a related field, with an emphasis in accounting.



MECHANICS / SERVICE TECHNICIANS (2)

We are looking for skilled and passionate Agricultural Service Technicians/Mechanics**.** You will carry out diagnostics, repairs, and routine maintenance on a range of Massey Ferguson tractors and other agricultural machinery, both in the workshop and out in the field. You will also support the aftermarket sales through professional service delivery and customer interaction. Ideal candidates have:

- Artisan/Technician qualification with recognised apprenticeship training
- 5 years' experience in diagnostics and maintenance of mechanical, electrical & hydraulic systems.
- Confidence and competency with laptops and modern workshop tools and diagnostic systems



PARTS SALESCLERKS (2)

We are looking for knowledgeable and enthusiastic Parts Salesclerks**.** You will help customers find and purchase Massey Ferguson and other mechanical and hardware parts. You will also assist with inventory management, verify that all parts are correctly stocked, and support aftermarket sales. Ideal candidates will:

- Have strong customer service, product knowledge, and sales skills
- Be semi-skilled artisans/technicians or accounts clerks with certificate/diploma and be proficient with Microsoft Office
- Have at least three years' experience in retail and sales role or automotive parts and products

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APPLICATIONS

We are re-introducing the red bloodline into Botswana. If you are passionate about technical excellence and you think you have the potential (even if you do not meet the *exact* experience requirements), come and join us. Start by sending your application with detailed CV's and traceable references before 31st December 2025 to **admin@farmandtrac.co.bw**

BSE Lists First Active ETF

The Botswana Stock Exchange and Vunani Fund Managers listed the country's first actively managed ETF, with proponents citing innovation and market depth, while regulators stressed oversight and cautioned on structure and marketing



The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) and Vunani Fund Managers hosted an Opening Bell Ceremony to mark the listing of the Vunani Global Equity Prescient Feeder Actively Managed Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF), described as Botswana's first actively managed ETF and the second of its kind in Africa.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) and Vunani Fund Managers hosted an Opening Bell Ceremony to mark the listing of the Vunani Global Equity Prescient Feeder Actively Managed Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF), described as Botswana's first actively managed ETF and the second of its kind in Africa. The ETF offers investors global equity exposure through a locally listed instrument and is positioned as a key milestone in the BSE's 15-year ETF programme.

A NEW ERA OF MARKET INNOVATION

BSE Head of Product Development Kopano Bolokwe said the listing was historic, describing ETFs as among the most disruptive innovations in asset management over the past 25 years. He said that since the launch of Africa's first ETF in 2010, the BSE had recorded over P2 billion in inflows into ETF counters, calling the achievement "rare among peer African exchanges."

He said the new ETF aligns with the BSE's 10X by 2030 strategy, which prioritises product innovation. "This listing adds meaningful depth to our ecosystem and breathes life into our strategic pillar of product innovation. It gives investors efficient and regulated access to global markets while diversifying portfolios beyond Botswana's borders," Bolokwe said.

REGULATOR APPLAUDS MARKET SOLUTION TO LIQUIDITY CONSTRAINTS

NBFIRA Director of Capital Markets Julia White said the ETF addressed long-standing market challenges linked to limited product offerings and low liquidity. "For years, our market has struggled with limited product offerings, which has led to low trading volumes and over-concentration. This ETF helps break that vicious cycle by broadening choices for asset managers, pension funds and insurance companies," she said.

White cautioned, however, that innovation required strict supervision. "A dynamic, innovative market is a resilient one. Introducing new instruments strengthens financial stability and supports long-term economic growth," she said, while stressing the need for transparency, structure and fair marketing.

CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Vunani Group Executive Butana Khoza said the ETF was a cross-border initiative involving cooperation between the JSE, BSE and regional regulators. He said the fund is domiciled in Botswana but feeds into a similar South African-listed fund, enabling global exposure while maintaining local asset status. "This listing shows what regional collaboration can achieve," he said, adding that other SADC markets were observing the development.

Businesses Struggle as Spending Continues to Fall

Small retailers and informal traders feel the weight of shrinking consumer confidence and rising survival costs



> "Despite employing five people, including himself, Motswagole believes strict financial discipline is the only reason his business still exists."

GAZETTE REPORTER

Black Friday, once a reliable lifeline for small retailers, has become a painful reminder of how dramatically consumer behavior has shifted. Koketso Motswagole, owner of KM Sales, a clothing and sneaker store at KB Mall, says the latest sales season was the worst he has experienced since starting his business. Compared to the previous year, he did not generate even a quarter of last year's Black Friday revenue.

"People are no longer spending the way they used to," he said. "They are saving first before they think of buying things like clothes and sneakers."

Despite employing five people, including himself, Motswagole believes strict financial discipline is the only reason his business still exists. "I think the only reason I'm still standing is because I saved when things were good and invested in other businesses early," he said.

FALLING FOOT TRAFFIC

In the village of Molapowabojang, the picture is even more stark. Gaogakololwe, who runs a small tuck shop, describes a steady and painful decline that has now reached dangerous levels. On her worst days, she says, she can count her customers on one hand.

"Sometimes I only get three customers in a whole day," she said. "This is the same business that raised my children, and I am still raising the younger ones with it."

Her story reflects a broader crisis among informal traders who rely on daily cash flow to survive. Many now find themselves juggling credit, late payments and shrinking margins.

SURVIVAL THROUGH DIVERSIFYING

Both traders turned to side ventures to soften the blow. Motswagole expanded into other investments while times were good. Gaogakololwe began importing shoes and clothes from Zambia, hoping to stabilize her income.

"I wonder what would have happened if I didn't start that other business," she said. "But even that one is struggling because people take goods and delay paying."

Across the country, small and informal businesses continue to operate in survival mode, clinging to discipline, resilience and ingenuity as economic pressures tighten.

'House Edge Shapes Gambling Outcomes'- Kemorwale

Botswana's gambling regulator says operators are mathematically built to profit, while concerns persist that winner-focused promotions mislead the public about real gambling outcomes



GAZETTE REPORTER

Gambling Authority Acting CEO Moruntshi Kemorwale said the phrase "the house always wins" reflects the commercial reality of the industry.

He made the remarks when speaking with the media on the sidelines of the Swaneng Hill Hiking Challenge, held in partnership with the Gambling Authority in Serowe this past Saturday . He said gambling is designed to generate profits for operators, not players. "Gambling is a business, and in every business it is the owners, not the customers, who make the profit," he said. "To suggest otherwise is to chew the gut of irresponsibility."

BUILT-IN ADVANTAGE

Kemorwale said gambling is structured around the "house edge", a mathematical advantage that ensures operators retain a share of every pula, rand or dollar wagered. He said while some individuals win in the short term, gamblers as a group are guaranteed to lose more than they win. "If players were truly beating the house, gambling companies would collapse under the weight of their losses," he said. "Yet they continue to expand, to post profits, to list on stock exchanges, and to pay taxes and dividends."

WINNER MESSAGING

He warned that promoting a few high-profile winners as proof that gambling is profitable is misleading. He said such cases are often used as marketing tools rather than accurate reflections of normal outcomes. "Picking a few winners and ignoring the millions who lose is irresponsible," he said. "It feeds false hope, especially among vulnerable groups. Gambling is not a path to wealth; it is an entertainment activity with a hidden price, one that the player pays through the odds."

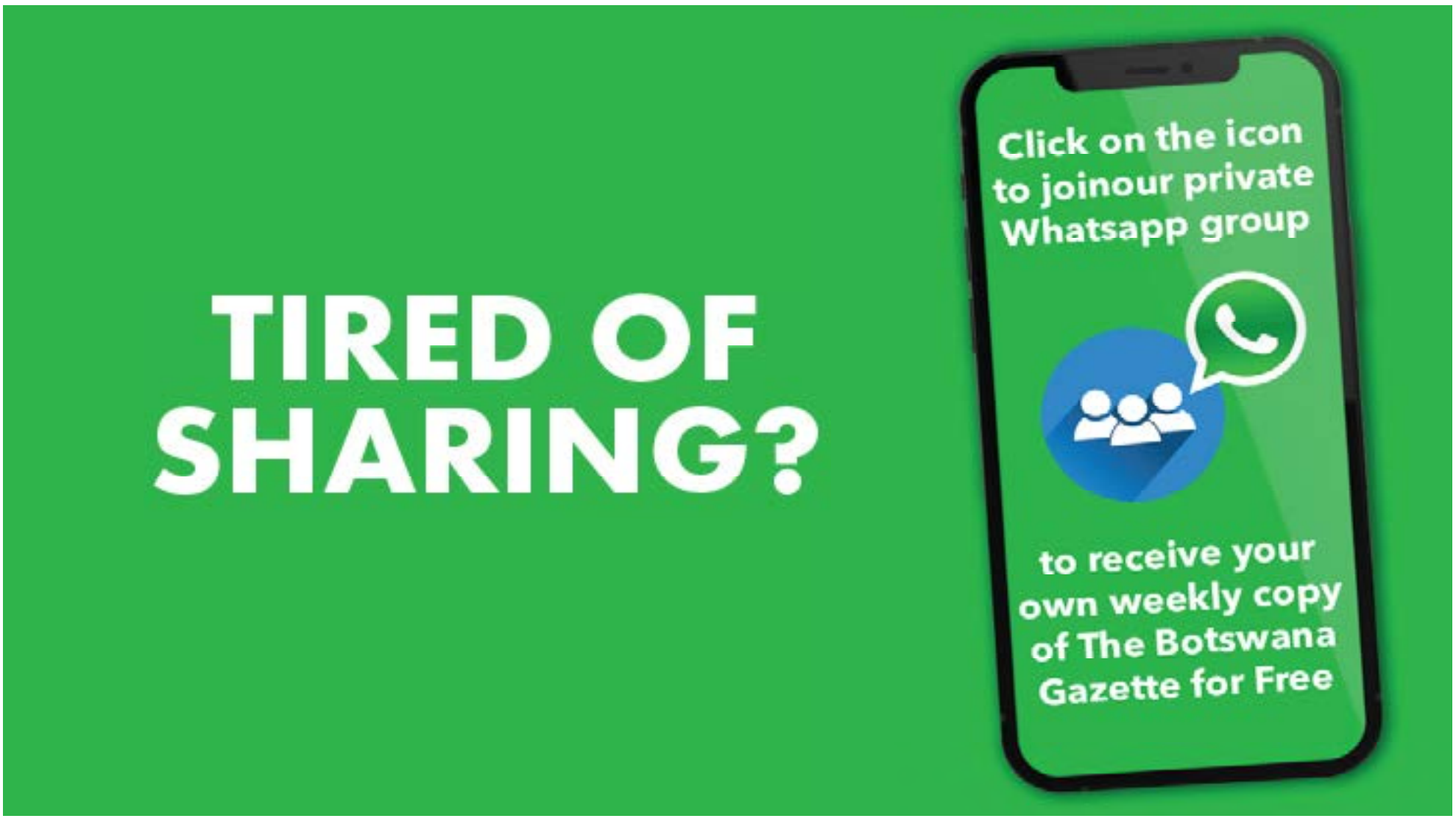
> "Gambling is a business, and in every business it is the owners, not the customers, who make the profit."

RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING

Kemorwale said even major winners often recycle their winnings back into play, increasing long-term losses. He said research shows big wins can reinforce risky behaviour. "This is why gambling harm prevention frameworks emphasise affordability checks, time limits, and self-exclusion tools: because the structural design of gambling ensures that most people lose more than they win," he said.

PUBLIC DUTY

He said regulators must be honest with the public about how gambling works. "Our duty is to tell the truth. The house always wins in the long run. That is how the industry stays afloat, how operators pay salaries and taxes, and how governments regulate revenue," he said. "To pretend otherwise is to expose our people to unnecessary financial harm."



Stanbic Named Bank of the Year

A global banking award places Stanbic Bank Botswana under the spotlight as customers seek reliability, digital efficiency, and stronger financial support

Stanbic Bank Botswana has been named Bank of the Year – Botswana 2025 at The Banker Magazine's annual Bank of the Year Awards. The Financial Times publication recognised the bank for its financial performance, digital innovation, operational resilience, and contribution to national development.

GLOBAL BENCHMARK FOR BANKING

The Banker Awards evaluate entries from more than 120 countries. The process assesses financial strength, customer value, governance, and the institution's role in economic advancement. This marks the third time Stanbic Bank Botswana has received the award. The bank was noted for its digital services, including Instant Money, and its ability to support clients navigating a rapidly evolving financial environment.

The Bank of the Year win adds to several recent achievements, including the Visa Payments Excellence Award, Visa Brand Awareness Award, the Standard Bank Group Ubora Award, and Best Investment Bank 2025.

A TREMENDOUS HONOUR

Speaking on the achievement, Chose Modise, Chief Executive of Stanbic Bank Botswana, said: "Being named Bank of the Year 2025 is a tremendous honour for our entire organisation. It reflects the hard work, discipline, innovation, and humanity of our people. Our purpose has always been clear: Botswana is our home; we drive her growth. This award affirms the strength of our collective effort and inspires us to continue building a bank that grows with Botswana, supports her people, and creates meaningful value for our economy and communities."



Speaking on the achievement, Chose Modise, Chief Executive of Stanbic Bank Botswana, said: "Being named Bank of the Year 2025 is a tremendous honour for our entire organisation.

> "Botswana is our home; we drive her growth"

CONTINENT-WIDE SUCCESS FOR THE GROUP

Other Standard Bank Group subsidiaries—Angola, Tanzania, Lesotho, and Malawi—also earned country awards, signalling group-wide performance across African markets.

Artists Reimagine Home in Exhibition

A one-day exhibition brings together six artists whose collaborative and solo works examine memory, identity, and the evolving idea of home



Home is a fine art exhibition presenting twelve original artworks by six local artists: Naomi Loabile, Karabo Maine, Kelebogile Marope, Moratiwa Molema, Totang Motoloki, and Diablo Santana. Through both paired collaborations and individual practice, the artists explore the meaning of home, reflecting on memory, identity, and the evolving sense of belonging.

EVENT DETAILS AND PURPOSE

The one-day exhibition will be held at Linnaeus at Sanitas Nurseries and Garden Centre on Saturday, 13 December 2025, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. The event marks the conclusion of filming for a forthcoming local documentary produced by Marang Film and Television and financed through the CIPA Levy on Technical Devices Fund.



A CREATIVE JOURNEY DOCUMENTED

The documentary, tentatively titled "Serala sa Dithakga", follows the six artists as they embark on an intensive creative journey, producing twelve distinct works. Six pieces are the result of surprising artistic pairings collaborations that required trust, risk, and creative openness.





The remaining six are new solo works shaped by insights gained through the collaborative process and the artists' deeper engagement with the theme of home. Together, these artworks form a compelling visual narrative of connection, experimentation, and artistic evolution.



EXPLORING HOME THROUGH DIVERSE LENSES

Home invites visitors to interact with the artists, experience the works firsthand, and reconsider what home can mean when interpreted through diverse cultural, personal, and artistic lenses. All artworks will be available for viewing and purchase.



> "The documentary, tentatively titled "Serala sa Dithakga", follows the six artists as they embark on an intensive creative journey, producing twelve distinct works"

Orange Botswana Backs Zebras

Ahead of the AFCON 2025, a new sponsorship aims to strengthen team preparation while reinforcing community-focused sports support



Orange Botswana has committed P150,000 to the senior men's national football team, the Zebras, as part of their preparations for the Total Energies CAF AFCON Morocco 2025. The team faces a demanding Group D schedule, beginning with Senegal on 23 December, followed by Benin on 27 December, and DR Congo on 30 December.

SPONSORSHIP TO SUPPORT TEAM PREPARATION

According to Orange Botswana, the contribution is intended to assist the team during a period when national expectations are high and financial support remains critical for technical readiness. The company's Communications and PR Manager, Tebogo Nadisah, said the sponsorship aligns with ongoing efforts to strengthen local sporting structures.

"At Orange Botswana, we believe in the power of sport to unite, inspire, and drive national pride. Our continued support for football and the Zebras is a reflection of our belief in Botswana's potential to shine on the continental stage. Through this sponsorship, we are saying we stand firmly behind the team and we believe they have what it takes to go all the way," said Nadisah.

PART OF WIDER COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Orange Botswana is the title sponsor of the Total Energies CAF AFCON Morocco 2025, one of Botswana's most celebrated football tournaments that provides opportunities for teams across divisions. In 2024, Orange also supported Team Botswana during their Olympic campaign.

Nadisah further emphasized that Orange Botswana's involvement in sports extends beyond financial contribution it is rooted in a deep belief in community empowerment and national unity.

"When our athletes do well, the whole nation celebrates. As a brand committed to progress and inclusion, we will continue to support initiatives that elevate Botswana's name and empower our youth through sport. We wish the Zebras all the best as they head into AFCON may they make the nation proud and bring the trophy home," she added.

Teacher Wins Car in Shell Promo

A routine fuel stop turns into an unexpected windfall for a young teacher as Shell's Bozza Tsa Tsela promotion continues rewarding motorists across Botswana



Lesego Sekgwatlhe, a 26-year-old teacher from Foley Village, has won a brand-new Volkswagen Polo through Shell's ongoing Bozza Tsa Tsela promotion. Sekgwatlhe was selected from nine finalists who qualified for the national draw after participating in the customer rewards campaign.

CELEBRATION OF CUSTOMER LOYALTY

The initiative, run by Vivo Energy Botswana, aims to acknowledge motorists for consistently choosing Shell service stations. According to the company, the campaign has drawn strong engagement from customers across the country.

"I had borrowed a friend's car to run errands since I did not have a car and put some fuel in it not knowing that it will get me a brand-new car," said Sekgwatlhe who became an entrant after purchasing fuel worth P350 in Zowa. "This couldn't have come at a better time; it truly feels like a Christmas present."

P250 FUEL

In addition to the cars, the competition also features segments that reward participants with cash prizes and fuel vouchers. The promotion allows customers to enter by fueling with P250 or more or buying two 500ml Shell Helix lubricants nationwide.

Speaking at the prize giving ceremony, Vivo Energy Botswana Marketing Manager, Gaamangwe Ramokgothwane, said the promotion continues to exceed expectations in participation and impact.

CELEBRATING CUSTOMERS

"This promotion is our way of celebrating our customers and showing appreciation for their continued loyalty to the Shell brand," said Ramokgothwane. "The excitement we continue to witness across the country affirms that Bozza Tsa Tsela remains one of our most loved customer reward campaigns. Every pour truly counts."

With one Volkswagen Polo and one Toyota GD6 still remaining, the Bozza Tsa Tsela promotion continues to keep motorists hopeful and engaged.



Invest that 13th Check and Madi a Motshelo

Batswana are urged to rethink how they use festive bonuses turning short-term income into long-term financial stability



BY MACMILLAN TEKU, HEAD OF PRODUCTS & SEGMENTS – RETAIL, ACCESS BANK BOTSWANA

As we get into the festive season, many people look forward to a well-earned rest and the welcome boost of a bonus, 13th cheque, or madi a motshelo. For most households, it represents a chance to breathe a little easier after a long year. Yet, while these extra funds can bring short-term comfort, they also present an important opportunity: the chance to strengthen one's financial position for the year ahead.

SEE YOUR BONUS AS A SPRINGBOARD

Instead of viewing your bonus as disposable income, see it as a financial springboard. Allocating even a portion of it to a high-interest savings or investment account can yield significant returns over time. Some financial institutions are currently offering interest rates in excess of 10%, presenting a valuable opportunity for those seeking to grow their money safely and steadily. One such bank is Access Bank through their Morobi Investment account.

> "Your bonus has the potential to earn for you rather than disappear through seasonal expenses"

MAKE YOUR MONEY EARN FOR YOU

In practical terms, this means your bonus has the potential to earn for you rather than disappear through seasonal expenses. Whether your goals are to cover future school fees, contribute to a home project, or simply build a financial cushion, the decision to save especially at a competitive rate can make a lasting difference.

COMPARE OPTIONS BEFORE THE FESTIVE RUSH

It is therefore advisable to take the time to compare savings options before the festive rush begins. Look carefully at interest rates, terms, and flexibility. A few percentage points in interest can translate into meaningful growth, particularly over a one- or two-year period.

CELEBRATION WITH FINANCIAL WISDOM

This festive season, financial prudence does not mean forgoing celebration. It means striking a balance enjoying the moment while securing your future. The joy of the season should not come at the expense of financial peace in the months that follow.

GIFT YOURSELF LONG-TERM SECURITY

By choosing to invest your bonus wisely, you give yourself the gift of stability, growth, and confidence in the year ahead. Before you spend, take a moment to reflect: how can this money serve you best today, or tomorrow?

A strong financial future begins with small, deliberate choices made today. Let this festive season be the one where you make your money work for you.

LEA Unveils Phikwe Trading Stalls

The new facility was introduced to support informal sector traders



The Kutlwano Informal Sector Market Stalls have been officially opened in Selebi Phikwe, providing new infrastructure intended to strengthen operations within the informal economy.

GOVERNMENT OUTLINES SECTOR PRIORITIES

Speaking at the launch, the Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Tiroeaone Ntsima, referred to President Duma Boko's recent engagements with informal sector associations. He said the President emphasised the sector's contribution to livelihoods and identified improved infrastructure, financial inclusion and supportive regulation as national priorities.

Ntsima noted that the Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) has made the informal sector a key focus area, with intensified efforts to help traders transition into the mainstream economy. He said the new market facility forms part of this strategy, addressing challenges linked to weather exposure, storage limitations and access to basic amenities.

PROJECT COST AND LOCAL INVESTMENT

LEA Caretaker CEO Thato Jensen said the project experienced delays at its early stages but has been completed at a total cost of P3.2 million. He acknowledged the Selebi Phikwe Town Council's contribution of P1 million toward site paving and initial groundwork.

The facility consists of 42 trading units, supported by an ablutions block to meet hygiene and safety requirements. Jensen said demand for organised trading spaces increased after the BCL mine closed nine years ago, prompting more residents to rely on informal trading.

MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC EXPECTATIONS

Jensen said the development was carried out in partnership with SPTC, SPEDU and other local organisations. Under the arrangement, SPTC will manage stall registration and site maintenance. He said the facility is expected to consolidate traders who were previously scattered around the town, reduce conflict with municipal by-laws, and improve customer accessibility.



RIVERWALK MALL & UCCSA BROADHURST CHOIR SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER IN A NIGHT OF SONG, PRAISE AND GIVING

RIVER WALK
The Shopping Capital of Gaborone



















Riverwalk Mall, in partnership with the UCCSA Broadhurst Choir, proudly hosted their Annual Christmas Carols on Wednesday, 3rd December 2025—a heart-warming evening dedicated to community, compassion and festive celebration.

The event was honoured by the presence of Gaborone City Mayor, His Worship Oarabile Motlaleng, alongside UCCSA leadership including Moruti Hambira, and Home Corp Manager, Mr. Gao Pabalelo.

In his remarks, the Mayor emphasised the importance of giving back to the less privileged, highlighting that true Christmas spirit is found in sharing with those around us. He encouraged all attendants who have been blessed with resources to extend a helping hand to others.

As the festive season begins and many prepare to travel, His Worship also reminded the public to prioritise safety on the roads—urging travellers to ensure their vehicles are roadworthy and to avoid drinking and driving.

In the spirit of goodwill, Riverwalk Mall and UCCSA Broadhurst donated trolleys filled with groceries, toiletries and clothing to four deserving families. The heartfelt donations were presented by the Mayor together with Mr. Gao Pabalelo on behalf of all stakeholders.

The evening was brought to life with soul-stirring performances from some of Botswana's most beloved gospel artists, including Johnsoon Pheto, Uncle Tshwanie & Good Cheer Choir, Franklyn, and of course, the UCCSA Broadhurst Choir. Their uplifting music created an atmosphere of joy, unity and celebration.



KILLING US SOFTLY

How investing in enablers without production is bad economic policy

Botswana keeps building, but not producing. Decades of investment in enablers without industries have quietly deepened diamond dependence and locked the economy into structural stagnation.

DR DOUGLAS RASBASH
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

For decades, Botswana has comforted itself with the belief that investing in enablers is the same thing as investing in growth. Roads, buildings, offices, conference centres, IT platforms, utilities — the list is long and familiar. Every National Development Plan has been paved with enablers. Every budget speech celebrates them. Every ribbon-cutting ceremony promises transformation. Yet the numbers refuse to cooperate. Enablers do not diversify the economy. Enablers do not create export revenues. Enablers do not build global value chains. Enablers do not protect Botswana from a 40% GDP diamond shock. Enablers enable — they do not produce.

CAPITAL FORMATION VS OUTCOMES:
Rising GFCF vs Falling GDP Growth and Rising Unemployment

THE ENABLER ILLUSION

In the harsh logic of economic structure, enablers are cost centres unless paired with productive sectors. Roads without industries simply move people to unemployment more efficiently. Office parks without tradable services are monuments to wishful thinking. Digital platforms without digital exports are expensive toys.

The Gazette has repeatedly observed a troubling pattern: as Botswana’s gross fixed capital formation has increased, unemployment has risen and GDP growth has fallen — precisely the opposite of what development theory predicts. This should, by now, have triggered a fundamental rethink in economic policy.

CONCRETE WITHOUT COMPETITIVENESS

This is the hidden arithmetic behind Botswana’s stagnation. The country has invested heavily in concrete, but lightly in competitiveness. It has built capacity to deliver services, but not capacity to sell anything to the world. The state has been strengthened, while the private economy — the only sustainable carrier of long-term growth — has been left structurally weak.

The result is a paradox that grows more dangerous with time: the more Botswana invests in enablers without investing in production, the more dependent it becomes on diamonds.

INVESTMENT ALLOCATION:
Enablers vs Productive Sectors
(1–2% VS 6–10% OF GDP)

THE MECHANICS OF “SOFT KILLING”

This is how the soft killing happens — quietly, incrementally, invisibly. Every pula spent on an enabler without a linked productive sector defers diversification. Every year prioritising enablers over exports deepens structural imbalance. Every plan that promises transformation through enablers alone mathematically guarantees stagnation.

This is not ideology. It is economic composition. Enablers accelerate growth only when industries exist to use them. In Botswana, that condition is largely absent. Without industries, enablers become liabilities: they generate operating costs rather than revenues.

DIAMOND DEPENDENCE:
Single commodity still carrying
40% OF GDP

THE INVESTMENT MISMATCH

Our analysis shows that Botswana needs to invest 6–10% of GDP per year into productive sectors — those that generate export earnings, foreign exchange, jobs, technology transfer and multiplier effects independent of diamonds. Yet NDP12 and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme direct only 1–2% of GDP toward such drivers.

The rest is absorbed by enablers, administration, welfare and maintenance of the state. Energy systems without industries to power. Roads and railways with little to trade. Water infrastructure without modern agricultural production systems. The economy remains structurally flat. Productivity stagnates. Unemployment becomes entrenched. Non-diamond per capita income remains anaemic.

COST CENTRES VS REVENUE GENERATORS:
Enablers vs Export-Producing Sectors

A PLANNING PHILOSOPHY FAILURE

This contradiction sits at the heart of government strategy. A country that already invests too little in production continues to prioritise unproductive enablers while contemplating deeper exposure to diamonds through corporate acquisitions that increase, rather than reduce, national risk.

Botswana is not collapsing loudly. It is being weakened quietly. Line ministries are rewarded for kilometres built, megawatts installed and cubic metres delivered irrespective of economic output. The planning system measures activity, not value creation.

THE SIMPLE RULE

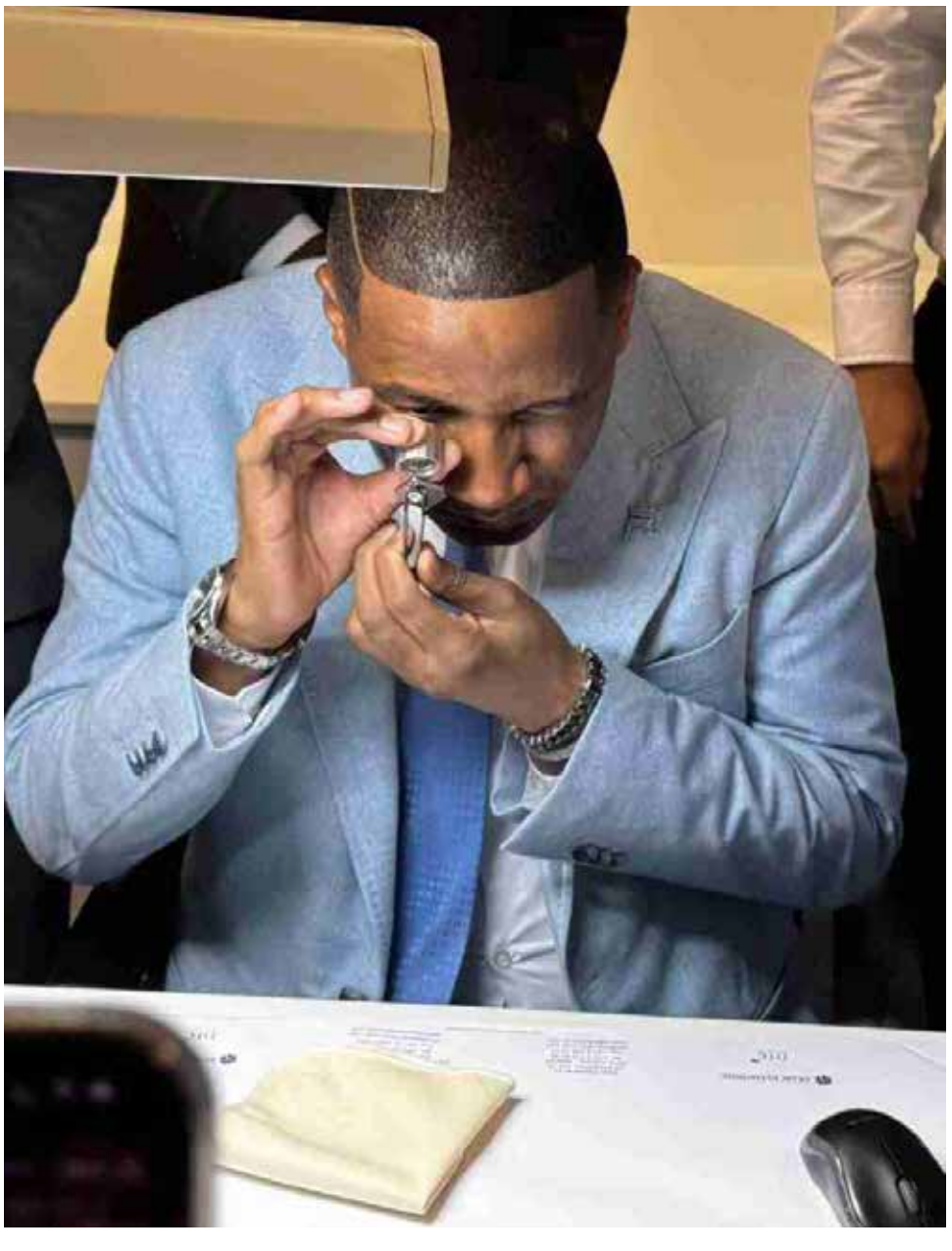
The simplest rule in economics has been forgotten: if you want a different economy, you must invest in different things. Enablers do not diversify. Only productive sectors do.

Until Botswana’s investment profile reflects this truth, the arithmetic of destiny will not change.

THE ARITHMETIC OF DESTINY: BOTSWANA AFTER DIAMONDS



Dr Douglas Rasbash
Special Correspondent



Economics is unforgiving. It does not care about national narratives, history, pride or political messaging. It cares about numbers. And when those numbers are applied honestly to Botswana's dependence on diamonds, the verdict is mathematically unavoidable: the country is underinvesting in diversification at precisely the moment it should be accelerating it, while simultaneously deepening its exposure to the very commodity whose decline could remove nearly half of national income.

A NEAT ANSWER AND A WRONG ONE

The starting point for this discussion appears deceptively simple. What is Botswana's non-diamond per capita income? Diamonds contribute roughly 25–30% of GDP. With per capita income estimated at around US$7,000, a straightforward subtraction suggests that non-diamond per capita income stands at about US$4,900. Neat, clean—and wrong.

Diamonds do not merely occupy a slice of GDP. They propagate throughout the economic system via wages, procurement, taxation, consumption and services. Remove diamonds and the economy does not lose 30% of output; it loses the direct contribution plus the indirect and induced activity that depends on it.

THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT

Across mineral-based economies, output multipliers typically range between 1.3 and 1.6. Botswana is no exception. Applying these multipliers produces sobering results. A low-case scenario implies a GDP loss of roughly 33%. A central estimate approaches 42%. A high-case scenario reaches almost 50%. A realistic median assessment is that losing diamonds tomorrow would remove approximately 40% of Botswana's GDP.

That would collapse per capita income from around US$7,000 to roughly US$4,000. This is not a marginal adjustment. It is a national reset.

“The starting point for this discussion appears deceptively simple. What is Botswana's non-diamond per capita income? Diamonds contribute roughly 25–30% of GDP.”

EXTERNAL SHOCK

The shock would not stop at domestic output. Diamonds account for between 80% and 90% of export earnings. Their removal would push the trade deficit from roughly 15% of GDP toward 35%. Foreign reserves, currently estimated at around P50 billion, would be drawn down rapidly. Within two years, a third could be depleted. To defend the pula, interest rates would rise. As reserves thinned, depreciation of 20–30% would follow, driving inflation into the 12–18% range.

FISCAL ARITHMETIC

Diamonds contribute roughly 30% of government revenue. Remove this revenue stream and the budget deficit would surge toward 55% of GDP. Maintaining essential services would require borrowing between P15 billion and P20 billion annually. Debt could rise toward 40–50% of GDP within a few years.

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES

Unemployment could rise toward 40%. Education sponsorships would be cut. Health budgets would be reduced. Social protection would shrink. Skilled emigration would accelerate.

DESTINY IN A SPREADSHEET

Every pula invested in diamond dependence is a pula not invested in economic survival. Economics does not negotiate. Arithmetic does not lie.



The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2025



Stars Align for Mophato's Dazzling Night

A powerful collaboration between Mophato Dance Theatre, Hi-Notes and the University of Botswana turned three December nights into a celebration of artistic unity, heritage and Botswana's creative future

GAZETTE REPORTER

Mophato Dance Theatre returned home with renewed energy and artistic fire, transforming the Old Student Centre at the University of Botswana into a breathtaking realm of movement, sound and storytelling. Staged from 4–6 December 2025, Night Under the Stars was more than a performance—it was a cultural statement.

COLLABORATION

Fresh from representing Botswana at the South Korea World Dance Festival, Mophato stepped into this production with global confidence. Backed by the FNB Botswana Foundation, National Arts Council Botswana, De Beers Group and Mascom, the company partnered with UB and musical giants Hydro, Uncle X and Tshepo Lesole – Hi-Notes to create a multidisciplinary spectacle honouring UB's artistic legacy.

HERITAGE IN MOTION

The production explored Botswana's people, spaces and evolving identity through a rich fusion of dance, poetry and live music. It showcased the nation's rising creative economy while highlighting the power of partnerships that bridge artistry and academia.

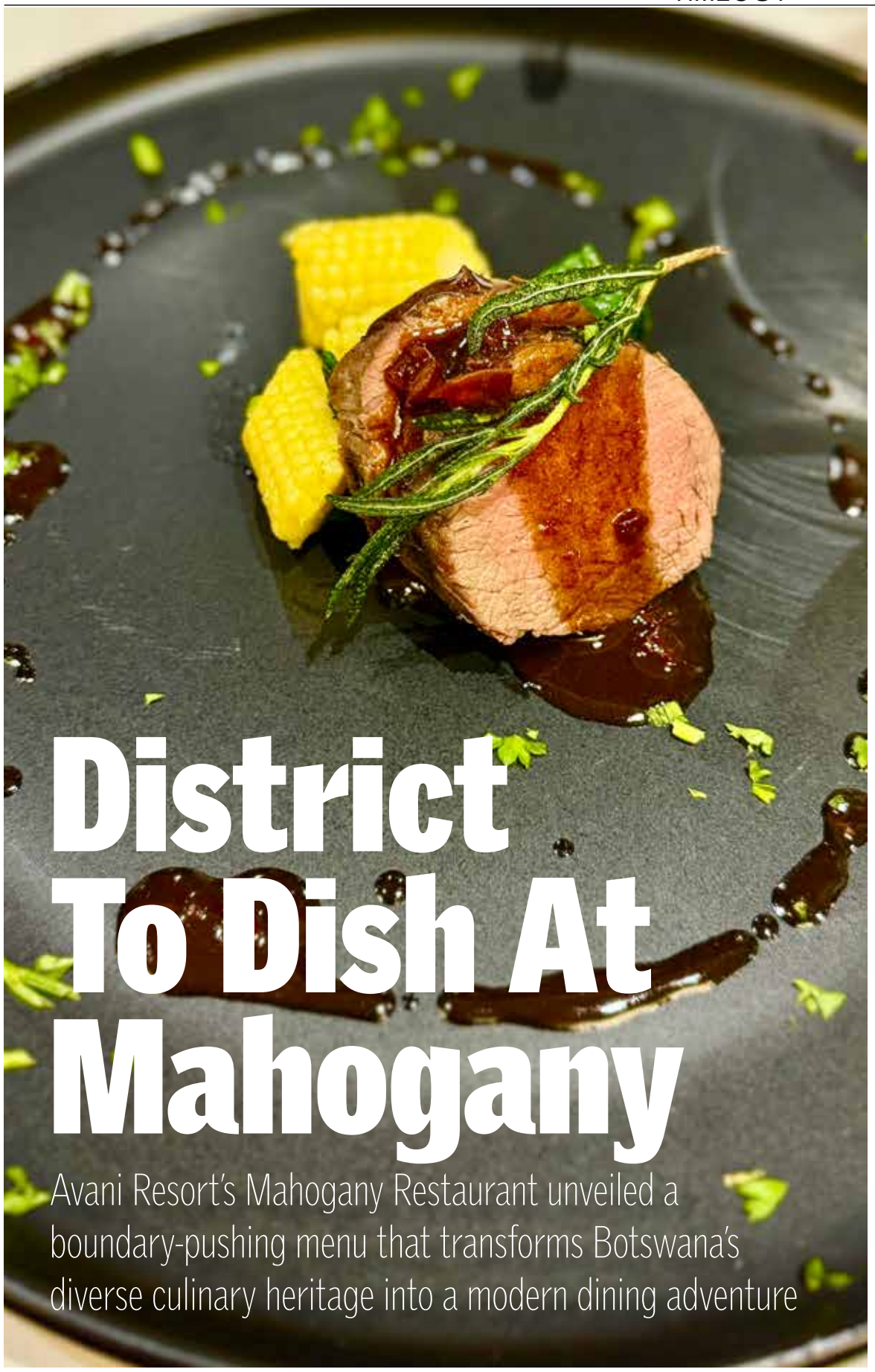
A SIGNATURE MOMENT

In a historic move, Mophato, Hi-Notes and UB officially signed an MOU during the showcase, committing to artistic exchange, structured training opportunities and long-term industry development.

> "A masterpiece crafted by some of Botswana's most exceptional talent"

Audiences were left in awe of a production that radiated excellence and imagination—a masterpiece crafted by some of Botswana's most exceptional talent.





District To Dish At Mahogany

Avani Resort's Mahogany Restaurant unveiled a boundary-pushing menu that transforms Botswana's diverse culinary heritage into a modern dining adventure

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Avani Resort's Mahogany Restaurant hosted an intimate culinary evening that invited diners to explore Botswana through flavour, artistry and reinvention. The night marked the reopening of Avani's kitchen after extensive renovations and the debut of a boldly conceptual menu that reimagines local dishes using international techniques.

Avani Resort GM Willem Van Heerden described the experience as "a journey through the various districts in Botswana," explaining that each dish was built around ingredients or memories tied to specific regions. "You'll find the Setswana chicken—but with a twist," he said, noting the chefs' commitment to honouring tradition while pushing boundaries.

REINVENTING THE FAMILIAR

Chef Bernard walked diners through a lineup of courses that blended comfort and creativity. The opening venison carpaccio—silky, citrus-bright and garnished with micro herbs—set a refined tone, followed by shredded beef biltong and warm goat cheese bruschetta drizzled with honey. The Clemen Gold mint sorbet offered a refreshing palate cleanse before the heartier mains.

The standout of the night was the beef fillet, perfectly sautéed and finished in a fragrant mustard, mushroom and herb cream. Tender, rich and beautifully plated with corn and morogo, it was the dish that most successfully married nostalgia with modern finesse.

Other mains included the adventurous wildebeest seswaa crusted in avocado and coriander, a flavour-forward Tswana chicken roulade, and the kapenta fish cake, which, though delicately baked and paired with pickles and cucumber salad, lacked the depth and excitement of the stronger dishes.

> "We curated a menu that is a journey through the various districts in Botswana"

PAIRING WITH PURPOSE

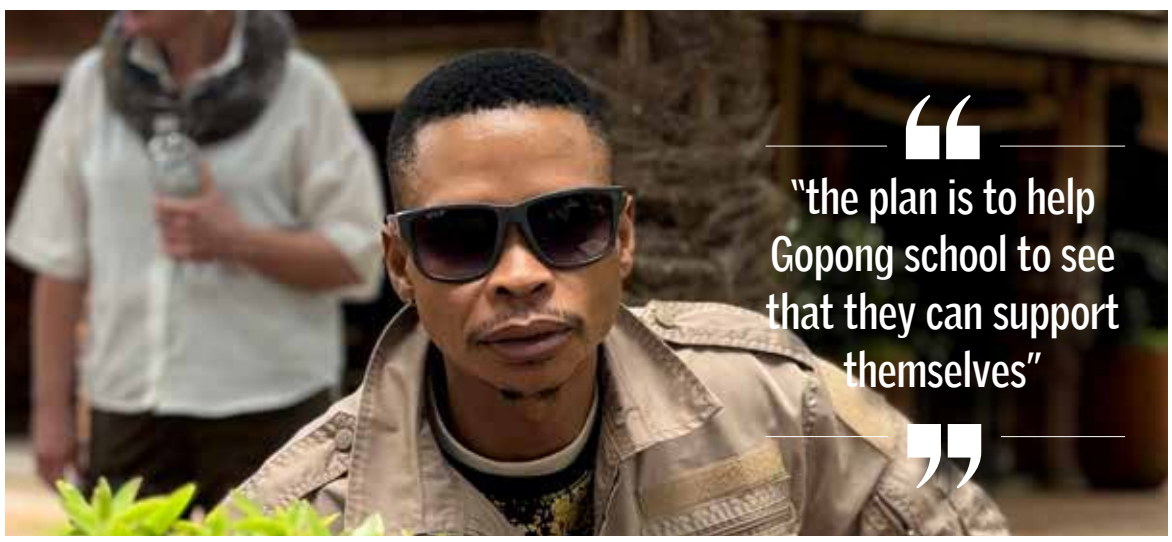
Fine Brands' Gilbert Mpofu guided diners through a thoughtful wine pairing, highlighting lesser-known labels to spark discovery. Pinotage complemented the heavier mains while Sauvignon Blanc matched the roulade. Dessert, the airy morula yoghurt mousse was paired with a playful red muscadel.

REVIEW

The menu delivers a memorable exploration of Botswana's culinary identity. The beef fillet emerges as the showstopper, showcasing technique, balance and refinement. Close behind is the venison carpaccio for its elegance and the wildebeest seswaa for bold creativity.

Destination Manong Spreads Festive Cheer

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



Manong Game Lodge blends festive generosity, wildlife wonder and bold ambition as it reaches out to Gopong Primary School while redefining itself as a destination of choice

Just outside Lobatse, Manong Game Lodge turned last week into a celebration of kindness when it shared Christmas cheer with the children of Gopong Primary School. The lodge arrived not only with meals, but with South African actor Zenzo Ngqobe — famed for his role in the Oscar-winning Tsotsi — who joined the learners for a heartfelt day of inspiration. As Manong's ambassador, Ngqobe is championing the lodge's vision to attract the South African market and elevate destination Manong.

A LODGE ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

For Manong, giving back is not a seasonal gesture but a core philosophy. "We've got another school in Phitshane that we support… The plan is to help Gopong school to see that they can support themselves," said Annalize Punt-Scanlen of Manong Game Lodge in an interview. Her hope is to equip the school with fundraising skills and sustainable planting projects.

A SCHOOL SEEKING SUPPORT

Gopong Primary School is doing its best to stay afloat, but challenges remain. Principal Nonofo Mathumo appealed for help, noting the strain of building classroom blocks without adequate resources. "Our results are very low. So please, we are appealing for assistance," she said.

A LITTLE DELTA DREAM

As the festive travel season approaches, Punt-Scanlen envisions Manong as "a little delta in the Lobatse area." With 40 units, lush gardens, bush experiences, a sparkling pool and family-friendly adventures including Segway rides, paintball, cycling and game drives, the lodge blends modern comfort with raw wilderness.

THE VULTURE STORY OF MANONG

A standout and latest attraction is the new Vulture Dam, home to White-Backed and Lappet-Faced vultures — monogamous, endangered and vital to the ecosystem. Their 57-day incubation cycle, 40km feeding radius and role as nature's cleaners offer visitors a rare conservation experience.

Manong may not boast the Big Five, but with eland, kudu, impala, red hartebeest and its iconic vultures, it offers something just as rare: a destination with heart.

INIMBA GETS THE NOD FOR SEASON 2

Mzansi Magic's breakout telenovela Inimba secures a second season after a blockbuster debut that kept viewers hooked and timelines buzzing throughout 2025



GAZETTE REPORTER

Mzansi Magic has officially renewed its hit telenovela Inimba for a second season, cementing its place as one of the most gripping and culturally resonant shows of 2025. Since its April premiere, the series has consistently trended on social media, with viewers dissecting every twist moments after each episode airs.

AWARD-WINNING PERFORMANCES

The show's momentum was further boosted when Zenande Mfenyana, who plays Thumeka, won Best Actress in a Television Drama at the 2025 National Film and Television Awards. Alongside Lunathi Mampofu (Zoleka Bikitsha), Sisanda Hewana (Hlathi Mabandla), and the wider ensemble, the cast has kept audiences emotionally invested week after week.

A STORY THAT STRIKES A CHORD

Director of Local Entertainment Channels at M-Net, Shirley Adonisi, says the show's resonance is rooted in its themes of family, ambition and tradition. "Inimba has really taken the 21:00 weekly slot by storm as a story that resonates deeply with our viewers," she said.

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT

From Zoleka's explosive return after two decades, to the fan-favourite LaZo love story and a wedding special that stopped viewers in their tracks, Season 1 delivered unforgettable drama. With writer and Executive Producer Siphosethu Tshapu at the helm, Season 2 promises higher stakes, new faces and twists that will define 2026 television.

> "Inimba has really taken the 21:00 weekly slot by storm as a story that resonates deeply with our viewers"

Patriarchy on Trial

A fearless national debate at the University of Botswana challenged patriarchy, exposed uncomfortable truths and demanded collective accountability for ending GBV

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The University of Botswana became the epicentre of a national reckoning this past weekend as The Great Debate, themed From Blame to Accountability: The Patriarchy & GBV Edition 2025, brought men, women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community into one charged arena. It was not just a debate, it was an unmasking.

A NATION TOLD TO STOP RUNNING

Host and interlocutor Njiramanda Mbewe-Boatey set the tone with a piercing call to courage. She reminded the room that Botswana is "heavy with grief, heavy with anger, heavy with exhaustion," insisting that the nation can no longer hide behind culture, silence or convenience. The debate, she said, was not born from anger but from urgency — an insistence that "we are tired of patriarchy disguised as culture, as religion, as the way things are."



PATRIARCHY LAID BARE

Judge Lot Moroka did not hesitate: patriarchy, he said, has shaped legal systems across continents. From marital power to the distrust of women's testimony, he argued that "patriarchy is part of the law," even as statutory reforms attempt to undo its grip. "Patriarchy has been part of the law, particularly the common law. However, a patriarchal order can be dismantled through legislation," he said.

> "We are tired of patriarchy disguised as culture, as religion, as the way things are"

Paramount Chief of Balete, Mosadi Seboko echoed the sentiment, highlighting how culture continues to police women's leadership. "A lot of education is needed, challenging long-held beliefs about who gets to lead. We need to do away with the notion that 'ganke di etelelwa ke manamagadi ko pele' because women can lead," she insisted.

WHEN THE SYSTEM SPEAKS

From the police service to the church, panellists admitted institutional complicity. Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police, Goitseone Ngono pointed to recruitment biases in law enforcement, while Rev. Father Thabo Mampane called on churches to confront doctrines that sideline women and LGBTQIA+ people. Human rights advocate Peach Kereemang noted that patriarchy "exists against and within the LGBTQIA+ community," revealing the depth of inequality.

A CALL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

What emerged was a single truth: patriarchy is not an abstract idea — it is a lived system shaping homes, laws, institutions and identities. And dismantling it will require confronting harm, not hiding it. This debate did not promise comfort. It promised change.

BK PROCTOR LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE TOUR

A 12-day mobile fashion tour aims to improve access, affordability, and community connection for customers across Botswana

GAZETTE REPORTER

Collections by BK Proctor has launched a 12-day nationwide tour aimed at bringing its clothing directly to customers across Botswana. The "Express Yourself Year-End Tour," which begins on 12 December in Jwaneng, will run until 1 January in Maun. The initiative includes a 50% discount on selected items as the brand moves through major towns and lifestyle destinations.

TAKING FASHION CLOSER TO CUSTOMERS

Stops on the tour include Ghanzi, Maun, Letlhakane, Serowe, Selebi-Phikwe, Palapye, and Kasane. According to the brand, the goal is to make its collections accessible to supporters who may not have the opportunity to visit its stores. The move comes at a time when many consumers are seeking affordability and convenience during the festive season.

BRAND SAYS TOUR IS A 'THANK YOU'

Founding Director BK Proctor said the tour is meant to show appreciation to customers who have supported the label over the years. He noted that travel constraints often make it difficult for some clients to shop in-store, prompting the decision to meet them in their own communities.

"This tour is our way of saying thank you to the people of Botswana who have believed in us from day one," he said.

> "This tour is our way of saying thank you to the people of Botswana who have believed in us from day one"

DISCOUNTS AIMED AT EASING FESTIVE COSTS

The tour also offers up to 50% off selected items, a gesture the brand says is designed to reward loyal customers and attract new ones. Collections by BK Proctor is known for its Afro-modern aesthetic and craftsmanship.



GBV Survivor's Voice Shakes The Great Debate

At the Great Debate on patriarchy and GBV, activist and survivor Kemmy Mpinang delivered a searing testimony that challenged Botswana to confront the systems that fail victims and the courage it takes to rise again



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The room fell still at the Great Debate themed From Blame to Accountability: The Patriarchy & GBV Edition 2025 recently as GBV activist, author and survivor Kemmy Mpinang, founder of the Re A Bua Foundation, stepped into the light to recount a life marked by violence and rebuilt through purpose.

A CHILDHOOD SCARRED BY LOSS AND CRUELTY

Mpinang's story began long before marriage. "I first experienced abuse when I was 14 years when my mother died… the community rejected us and avoided us like the plague," she told the audience. Orphaned, bullied and forced into child labour, she grew up believing she "would never amount to anything."

A MARRIAGE THAT BECAME A PRISON

Her vulnerability carried her into the arms of a man she hoped would protect her. Instead, he became her greatest danger. She detailed the years of physical, emotional, financial and sexual abuse that hollowed her life: the beatings, the isolation, the forced dependency, the rape. Even police intervention failed her. "I went to report at the police and they let me down telling me to go back home and talk about the issue," she recalled, a sentence that hung like a verdict in the room.

A SYSTEM THAT FAILS, A WOMAN WHO DIDN'T BREAK

Eventually fleeing the country for safety, Mpinang still carries the trauma, the jumpiness and the unresolved 2018 case that never moved. Yet from that pain, she built Re A Bua Foundation, a grassroots beacon for survivors, especially orphaned children, providing healing, advocacy and psychosocial support in partnership with the UNESCO Chair at the University of Botswana.

> "I went to report at the police and they let me down telling me to go back home and talk about the issue"

BECOMING THE PERSON SHE NEEDED

"I have dedicated myself to become the person I needed when I was young," she said, turning her wounds into a lifeline for others still trapped in silence.



Rachel Hore



Thobo Pone

CONSIDER A SATISFACTION SURVEY FOR YOUR BUSINESS

As an independent firm specializing in market research, we analyze the impact of satisfaction surveys on businesses. In a crowded market, the difference between a surviving business and a successful one often comes down to one simple thing: what your customers and staff think. Satisfaction surveys, when done well, become strategic processes that reveal where you are losing customers, where you can cut costs and where small improvements have significant impact. In this article, we discuss the effect of satisfaction surveys on businesses, their return on investment, why survey design matters and the opportunity cost of ignorance.

IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY (A CASE STUDY)

Locally, the value of measuring satisfaction is already recognized. In August 2018, Mellben research conducted a survey on behalf of Statistics Botswana (SB) with the objective of understanding the tone of what customer satisfaction is to its current and potential customers. SB conducted customer satisfaction surveys in 2015 and 2018 to assess the quality of official statistics.

The 2015 findings highlighted customer dissatisfaction with timeliness of releases, a poorly maintained SB website and the need for digital library modernization. These findings directly fueled improvements from SB: by 2018, their website overhaul led to improved navigation, enhanced content quality, increased interactivity and better design, alongside increased online dissemination platforms. The ease of navigation was rated a positive 4 out of 5 by 41% of respondents, showing significant positive change and demonstrating the impact of the 2015 customer satisfaction survey.

WHY DESIGN MATTERS

Not all surveys are the same. Sure, a simple "rate us" form may collect data, but it rarely produces the contextual nuances needed to make business decisions. Effective satisfaction surveys rely on thoroughly applied statistical principles and analysis techniques such as representative sampling to ensure results reflect the true customer base, validated question scales such as Net Promoter Score (NPS) and satisfaction indexes.

In addition to that, organizations need to implement segmentation by product line, geography, or demographic to uncover hidden patterns. Businesses need to consult with research and analytics firms to collect data and connect responses to behavioral and financial outcomes. When these elements are in place, surveys become strategic tools for guiding resource allocation, implementing high-impact changes and building stakeholder satisfaction for better business outcomes.

THE COST OF NOT LISTENING

Ignoring satisfaction data is costly. Dissatisfied customers are more likely to defect, less likely to recommend and more sensitive to competitor offers. Acquiring new customers is far more expensive than retaining existing ones. Hence, without surveys, companies risk missing early warning signs of churn and misallocating resources based on guesswork. According to publicly available information, a US based movie-broadcasting company, Blockbuster, demonstrates this fact. Blockbuster's downfall, although accelerated by technological advancement, was primarily a strategic failure rooted in ignoring clear shifts in customer satisfaction.

The company's leadership remained stubbornly committed to their deeply unpopular brick-and-mortar model, which was heavily reliant on late fees and required inconvenient physical trips to their outlets. Competitors like Netflix and Redbox capitalized on this dissatisfaction by offering convenience; mail-order or self-service kiosks and eliminating late fees. Despite early opportunities to pivot, Blockbuster's internal decisions kept it tied to its legacy structure. This inertia resulted in steep revenue declines, massive market share loss and a crushing debt load, leading to its Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing in September 2010, as reported by Forbes.

CALL TO ACTION

For Botswana businesses and organizations, the message is clear: satisfaction surveys are not optional extras. They provide clear, actionable insights about customer behavior and expectations, letting you prioritize investments with quantifiable ROI rather than spreading resources thin across guesswork. Moreover, they offer a reliable benchmark of performance overtime, allowing you to track the impact of changes and build long-term stakeholder loyalty.

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DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS
Making Data Make Sense

Employment and Labour Relations Bill: Termination on safety grounds can be deemed unfair



Thuo Ditsele (HR Consultant)



Tumisang Bagidi (Lead HR Consultant)

The Employment and Labour Relations Bill, marks a significant shift in the protection of workers' rights in Botswana, particularly when it comes to workplace health and safety. One of the strongest messages communicated through the Bill is that no worker should lose their job for refusing to work in unsafe or unhealthy conditions. When we look back into the Employment Act, it was silent on this aspect, however certain laws such as the Factories Act, provided a bit of clarity on safety at the workplace. So now let see what the new Bill has to say about workplace health and safety and determine if a worker can be terminated, should they refuse to work in such environment.

THE BILL

Section 164(f) of the Bill stipulates that it will be considered unlawful dismissal if an employer terminates an employment contract of a worker who refused to work in an unhealthy and unsafe working environment. This section explicitly gives workers the right to decline unsafe work without fear of disciplinary action or termination.

The reality in many workplaces is that workers often feel pressured to continue working despite hazardous conditions, faulty machinery, chemical exposure, insufficient protective equipment, structural risks, or unsafe work processes. In the past, raising these concerns sometimes resulted in victimisation or, in the worst cases, termination. The Bill seeks to reverse this culture by ensuring that safety is not negotiable, and that workers should never be punished for protecting their own wellbeing.

Unfair dismissal occurs when a worker is terminated for reasons that violate the law, lack justification, or disregard procedural fairness. Under the Bill, terminating a worker because they refused unsafe work automatically falls into this category. Once a worker identifies a danger and refuses to proceed, the employer is obligated to investigate, correct the hazard, and make the environment safe before expecting the worker to resume duties.

Importantly, the Bill recognises that the refusal to work must be based on reasonable belief, not fabricated concerns. However, "reasonable" does not mean expert-level knowledge. If a worker genuinely perceives that continuing work poses a risk to their safety or health, the law supports their decision to stop. A worker who refuses unsafe work is acting responsibly, not defiantly. The law now acknowledges this by framing such actions as part of maintaining a safe working environment, which is fundamentally the employer's responsibility.

EMPLOYERS

For employers, the message is equally important. The Bill creates a legal obligation to develop and maintain effective health and safety systems. Regular risk assessments, adequate training, functioning protective equipment, and open communication channels are no longer optional, they are essential elements of compliance.

Now the question can be, what about those in the safaris, where the work is naturally risky? Or any other sector, well there is a stronger responsibility for them to actively identify, manage, and mitigate risks before assigning duties. Failing to provide adequate safety equipment, training, supervision, or emergency procedures could result not only in accidents but also in unfair dismissal claims if a worker refuses unsafe tasks. Lodges and camps must now improve documentation of safety protocols, ensure daily briefings, maintain equipment, and respond promptly to safety reports.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, The Bill strengthens worker protection by making it clear that termination on safety grounds is unlawful and constitutes unfair dismissal. Workers are now empowered to prioritise their health and safety without fear of losing their jobs. A safe workplace benefits everyone, and the new Bill ensures that safety can never be a reason for dismissal.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of **Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 471/2021** registered on the 2nd day of **June 2021** in favour of **MOTHIBI BONIFACE RAKANYE in** respect of the following property:

CERTAIN : piece of land being Lot 2243, Tsamaya
SITUATE : at Tsamaya (cadastre 543) in the Tati Tribal Area
MEASURING : 1040m2 (One Thousand and Forty Square Metres);

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within twenty-one (21) days of the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 9TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

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Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN
Telephone No. 2441616

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE OF PROPERTY REGIME

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT, Mr Kealeboga Patso Kudumane and **Mrs Warona Koketso Kudumane,** currently married in Community of Property wish to apply to the High Court to be granted leave to change their property regime to that of Out of Community of Property.

Creditors likely to be affected by the said intended application are required to notify the under mentioned Attorneys of such likelihood within 30 days of publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS THE 9TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025

MARIMA ATTORNEYS
Attorneys | Notaries | Conveyancers

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ZEBRAS RALLY FOR CONTINENTAL FOOTBALL RESPECT

A wave of emotion and national pride defined Botswana's football team send-off, as leaders called on the Zebras to honour past heroes, inspire a nation, and assert themselves on Africa's biggest stage

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana's national senior men's football team, the Zebras, departed for Morocco amid stirring calls for pride, unity and legacy during a high-energy send-off led by head coach Morena Ramoreboli and Minister of Sport and Arts Jacob Kelebeng.

> "Remember that the jersey is not about perfection. It is about the heart. It is about teamwork."

Addressing players and officials, Ramoreboli urged the squad to carry not only national hopes but the sacrifices of earlier generations. "The class of 2012 made it possible for us to be here today," he told the team, reminding them that former players were denied the recognition and financial rewards now available. He challenged the squad to remember those "that sweat blood for you to be where you are," framing the upcoming campaign as a responsibility to history and to those who laid the foundation.

LEGACY AND SACRIFICE

The coach's message moved beyond football. He called on the players to honour family members and supporters who are no longer alive. "Go and represent their spirits. They are with us in spirit," he said, urging them to draw strength from prayers and memory as they travel to Morocco.

Ramoreboli reminded the squad that continental recognition is not given but earned. He encouraged them to "go out there and fight" for those who wanted to be part of the journey, describing the moment as both a privilege and a duty.

NATIONAL PRIDE MESSAGE

Minister of Sport and Arts Jacob Kelebeng echoed the tone of unity and ambition. "Football today is more than 90 and it's culture and hope among other things," he said, describing the Zebras as a symbol of Botswana's identity. He declared: "Botswana is there, team Zebras is there and we are going to give our opponents the toughest time."

He praised the technical team for instilling discipline and structure, adding that excellence is built through "preparation and discipline," not by chance.

UNITY THROUGH SPORT

Kelebeng said government's role is to open doors for athletes, stressing that the team's qualification shows "what is possible when the nation invests in talent, structures, and leadership." He closed with a reminder that sport unites all backgrounds. "Sport speaks one language," he said. "That's the language of pride."

Babitseng Rallies Fans Behind All Kasi

BFA launches replica drive to fund Zebras' AFCON campaign and player incentives through nationwide fan participation.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Football Association (BFA) President Tariq Babitseng has urged Batswana to rally behind the national team by purchasing the official replica kit branded All Kasi, with proceeds earmarked for player incentives ahead of AFCON 2025.

Addressing players, officials and supporters at the team's send-off this past Sunday, Babitseng appealed directly to the public. "The public, please purchase the new ones, because we are trying to raise money for the team so that we can compete," he said.

INCENTIVES FUNDING PROMISE

Babitseng stressed that funds raised from the All Kasi replica drive will go straight to the players, not administrative expenses. "Every pledge goes directly to player incentives. Winning bonuses, draw bonus, and all of it," he said.



He revealed that partners have already pledged more than P600,000, with additional commitments expected in the coming days. "The aim is simple. Secure as much as possible before the start of the tournament and ensure every pula goes straight to the players," he added.

CONFIDENCE INSIDE CAMP

Drawn into a tough group that includes Senegal, DR Congo and Guinea, Botswana remains upbeat. Babitseng dismissed fears about their opponents. "We feel with my team that they are just another team. They don't scare us in any way," he said. "Personally, me and my team know that we are going to go to our next World Cup."

Botswana will open their tournament against Senegal national football team on December 23.

GOVERNMENT BACKING HIGHLIGHTED

The BFA president said government support has ensured world-class preparations in Tunisia and Morocco, including five-star accommodation and access to elite training facilities. "We continue to play with confidence because the government of Botswana is behind us every step of the way," he said.

MESSAGE TO PLAYERS

Babitseng closed his speech by reaffirming total belief in the team's ability and character as they head to AFCON 2025.

"There is no pressure, all that we know is that you are going to bring results," he said.



NTESANG TAKES CHARGE OF BOTSWANA CRICKET

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

In a telephone interview that felt less like a formal media engagement and more like a window into a restless, reform-minded leadership, Tebogo Gerda Ntesang spoke with the urgency of someone stepping into both history and uncertainty. As the first Motswana and first woman to lead the Botswana Cricket Association (BCA), she arrives not as a ceremonial pioneer, but as an administrator conscious of time, legacy and the long, unfinished work of building cricket back into the nation's sporting bloodstream.

A DREAM LIVED

"I'm really excited, overwhelmed actually by excitement," Ntesang admitted, capturing the emotional disorientation that often accompanies a long-desired breakthrough. Two weeks into the office, she is still finding her balance between ambition and responsibility. "It's been very, very overwhelming with information because I want to grab as much as possible," she said, describing an instinct to absorb, rather than dictate.

Her early days are defined less by grand speeches and more by intense listening. Cricket in Botswana, she noted, is not being built from scratch, but from fragments of history that demand respect. She is clear-eyed about continuity. "It's not like it's a vacuum," she said, acknowledging the foundations laid by two CEOs before her.

STRATEGY FIRST STEPS

At the heart of her first phase in office sits a sober, forensic task: the review of the 2022–2026 strategic plan. Rather than chasing novelty, Ntesang is committed to reckoning with reality. "Check on the successes, the targets that were set up in 2022. See how much we have achieved. See how much we left behind," she explained.

This is not an insular exercise. Alignment, she insists, is non-negotiable. The BCA's vision must speak to the Botswana National Olympic Committee and the International Cricket Council frameworks, while also dovetailing with national sporting priorities under the Minister of Sport and Arts. For Ntesang, strategy is not paperwork; it is relevance — to government, to global cricket, and to national development.

BEYOND THE FIELD

Her ambition stretches further than boundary ropes. She speaks in the language of sustainability and national relevance, placing cricket within conversations about the SDGs and even economic contribution. "The relevance of cricket … to the GDP," she said, is not a theoretical idea, but a box that must be diligently ticked if the sport is to earn long-term political and institutional trust.

Her academic grounding — a Bachelor's degree in Sports Management from the University of Canberra and current studies in Olympic studies — quietly informs her worldview. It is a modern, systems-oriented outlook, rooted in over 20 years of experience in sport management and public sector leadership.

> "It's the player first. If there are no players, we will not be here."

PLAYERS AT CENTRE

Yet, beneath all the frameworks and strategies lies a simple, almost disarming philosophy. "It's the player first," she said. Her belief is blunt: structures, jobs, and institutions only exist because players do. "If there are no players, we will not be here."

In that statement lies the quiet revolution of her leadership — not power over cricket, but service to those who play it.

PASSOBO Championships Marked Triumphant Return

PASSOBO's long-awaited national championships returned after a decade, showcasing elite para-sport talent and setting the stage for regional expansion

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

After a 10-year hiatus, the Paralympic Association of Botswana (PASSOBO) successfully hosted the Paralympics National Championships from 3 to 5 December 2025. The three-day event brought together clubs from across the country to compete in goalball, deaf netball, deaf football, blind soccer and wheelchair basketball, with both men's and women's teams contesting for national honours.

PASSOBO president Tshepho Mafereka expressed deep gratitude for the successful staging of the tournament.

"We are very happy, we are grateful that we were able to host this competition successfully," he said in a telephone interview.

PARTNERSHIPS DRIVE SUCCESS

The championships were supported by the Ministry of Sport and Arts and the Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC). Debswana provided sports facilities, accommodation and meals.

Mafereka said the championships were designed to be the foundation for sustained growth.

"The aim is to host them annually and the aim is to expand sporting codes as well participants."

AMBITIOUS EXPANSION PLANS

Looking ahead, PASSOBO plans to grow the championships into a regional competition by inviting neighbouring countries in coming years to raise standards and visibility.

In competition highlights, Pudulogong were crowned blind soccer national champions, Vision Warriors claimed both the men's and women's goalball titles, Buffalo NC won deaf netball, Peace United triumphed in deaf football, and Diamond Wheelers secured the wheelchair basketball crown.



Mafereka also encouraged people with disabilities to embrace sport without fear.

"This is your opportunity to showcase your talent so you can be able to represent the country at international games."

Tebogo's House Handover Celebrates Olympic Glory

Botswana honours sprint sensation Letsile Tebogo with a new home, celebrating his historic Olympic achievement and reaffirming national commitment to athlete recognition

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana on Tuesday celebrated Olympic hero Letsile Tebogo with the handover of a newly built three-bedroom house with a free-standing garage, in recognition of his remarkable performance at the Paris Olympic Games. The gesture reflects the country's continued commitment to honouring athletes who raise the national flag on the international stage.

Tebogo made history by becoming the first African to win a medal in the men's 200m at the Olympics, placing Botswana firmly on the global athletics map.

"A big thank you to the government and everyone who has been part of this project… I'm happy that it has been delivered," said Tebogo. "I have been sent by my colleagues that you guys should prepare more houses for LA 2028."



GOVERNMENT KEEPS PROMISE

Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) President Tshepo Sitale hailed the move as a powerful statement of support to athletes.

"We are happy that the government kept its promise of building this house," said Sitale. "On behalf of the Olympic movement we are really graceful of this."

He added that the Olympic movement remains committed to ensuring athletes continue to be celebrated for their achievements, describing Tebogo's recognition as both symbolic and inspiring.

INSPIRING FUTURE CHAMPIONS

Minister of Sport and Arts Jacob Kelebeng said the gesture was part of a long-standing government tradition of rewarding sporting excellence.

"When we took over we found the existing government giving houses to those who did well at Olympics and we did not stop that, we kept on with that," said Kelebeng. "It must be noted that he worked hard and fought for this country – put the country out there on the map. It encourages the kids to, up coming to utilize their talents."

> "A big thank you to the government and everyone who has been part of this project… I'm happy that it has been delivered."

The minister added that the house was built in close consultation with Tebogo to meet his preferences, reflecting a collaborative effort between the government and the athlete.



TIRED OF SHARING?



BACKPAGE
WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2025
SINCE 1984

The Botswana Gazette
SPORT

BABITSENG RALLIES FANS BEHIND ALL KASI

BFA launches replica drive to fund Zebras' AFCON campaign and player incentives through nationwide fan participation. **STORY ON PAGE 32**

