The Botswana
GAZETTE



6.
BDP Cautions UDC Over Cadre Deployment

WEDNESDAY 14
JANUARY 2026
SINCE 1984

TEMPORARY RELIEF FOR MZWINILA

Former Cabinet Minister Kefentse Mzwinila yesterday received temporary reprieve after the High Court stopped the State from evicting tenants and workers from 2. his properties



MARINA HOSPITAL WOES PERSIST 2.



SPORT

KAZUNGULA MARATHON MARKS FIFTH YEAR 34.



Temporary Relief for Mzwinila

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GAZETTE REPORTER

The High Court on Tuesday interdicted the State, acting through the Office of the Receiver, from evicting employees and tenants occupying properties owned by former minister Kefentse Mzwinila and his wife, Bridget, pending the determination of an ongoing legal challenge.

Delivering the interim order, High Court Judge Justice Oteng Mothala restrained the Receiver from removing staff and tenants from the Mzwinila's properties after the couple approached the court on an urgent basis, seeking protection against what they described as unlawful evictions. The matter will be argued on its merits at a later date.

TENANTS, WORKERS REMOVAL

The application arose after it emerged during Tuesday's proceedings that the Office of the Receiver had already begun taking steps to remove tenants and workers from properties placed under restraint as part of corruption-related investigations. Justice Mothala ruled that the status quo must be maintained until the court has fully ventilated the issues raised by the parties.

Mzwinila, a former cabinet minister, his wife and their associated companies are facing multiple charges, including corruption, money laundering and possession of unexplained wealth. The case forms part of a broader probe by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) into alleged abuse of public office and illicit accumulation of assets.

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CORRUPTION

According to court papers filed under the Proceeds and Instruments of Crime Act (PICA), the DCEC alleges that the couple exploited government contracts and complex business structures to acquire high-value properties and channel funds through agricultural ventures. Investigators further allege that some assets were moved and that the couple later relocated to South Africa.

In an affidavit, Chief Anti-Corruption Officer Emalerona Makgasi Mogwera, who is leading the investigation, alleges that while serving as a minister, Mzwinila purchased farms worth millions of pula from Mpho Balopi and others, with payments allegedly made in hard cash.

LIVING BEYOND MEANS

The DCEC also points to expenditures said to demonstrate living beyond known means, including the establishment of a dairy farm, extensive property developments on farms, and housing projects in the Mzwinila's home village of Mmadinare, allegedly funded in cash.

FREEZING ORDERS

That affidavit formed the basis of an application by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), which successfully secured freezing orders over the Mzwinilas' properties, bank accounts and company interests nationwide.

Tuesday's ruling does not overturn those restraint orders but temporarily shields employees and tenants from eviction while the court determines whether the Receiver acted within the law. The matter remains before the court.



Marina Hospital Woes Persist

Despite repeated inspections and promises of corrective measures at Princess Marina Referral Hospital, recurring reports of poor conditions suggest ongoing government neglect

BONGANI MALUNGA

President Duma Boko's impromptu visit to Princess Marina Hospital on Monday laid bare the deplorable conditions under which the public medical facility is operating, confirming long-standing concerns raised by patients and health workers.

The visit exposed severe overcrowding, staff shortages and a lack of essential medicines, reinforcing public claims that the health system is under strain.

The revelations have also contradicted earlier government assurances that the situation was under control, effectively validating what officials had previously dismissed as exaggerated or conspiratorial claims about a collapsing health system.

REALITY

Following his visit on Monday, Boko took to social media to state that; "I chose to come without prior notice because I wanted to see the reality as it truly is, unfiltered, unprepared, and honest. What I found deeply saddened and disturbed me. I witnessed first-hand the difficult environment in which patients are treated, the severe shortage of critical resources, and the strain placed on our dedicated health workers."

AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

"These conditions inevitably affect performance and undermine public confidence in a facility that should be a place of healing, dignity, and hope. No Motswana should receive care in such circumstances. No doctor or nurse should be forced to save lives without the basic tools required to do so.

As President, I could not walk away. Immediate action has already been initiated for the acquisition of emergency equipment and the most urgently needed life-support systems. These are not promises for tomorrow, they are steps being taken now," Boko assured.

UNION RESPONSE

In an interview with this publication, Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) president Oreeditse Kelebakgosi said, "We acknowledge the President's stated intention to improve the hospital and commend the attention his visit brings to urgent patient safety concerns."

NOT A FIRST VISIT

"While BONU values this intervention, we emphasize that this is not the first time the Office of the Presidency has inspected Princess Marina Hospital. Repeated visits without rapid, visible improvements have left health workers and the public frustrated," Kelebakgosi noted.

PROLONGED DELAY

"Equally troubling is the prolonged delay in commissioning the long-promised Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital to a public hospital, a facility that was presented to Batswana as the key relief valve for Princess Marina Hospital and a means to expand tertiary care capacity," he asserted.

UNDERSTAFFING

"Chronic understaffing across wards and emergency units is compromising patient monitoring, timely interventions, and staff wellbeing. Deteriorating infrastructure and the absence of functioning life-support and emergency equipment further threaten patient safety and erode public confidence," the union leader added.

"BONU urgently requests that the procurement and distribution of essential consumables, emergency drugs, and life-support equipment be fast-tracked to Princess Marina Hospital without delay. BONU also expect a clear, time-bound remediation plan with milestones and named responsible agencies so that the public and health workers can track progress," BONU suggested.

FNB Botswana
Local & Foreign Currency and Deposit and Lending Rates
January 2026

The following standard Savings, Lending and Investment rates will apply

Local Currency Deposit Interest Rates

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

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

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

Local Currency Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rate Per Annum (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate
MoPR	3.50%	3.50%
Prime Lending Rate	7.01%	7.01%
Mortgage Facility	Prime +12% to 17%	Prime +14% to 20.08%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	Prime +8.% to 10.%	Prime +9.33% to 11.64%
Credit Card	22% - 28%	24.36% - 31.89%
Lease Loans (VAF)	Prime +15.5% to 23%	Prime +18.22% to 27.74%
Unsecured Personal Loans (Excluding Overdraft, Mortgage and Credit Card)	Prime +17% to 22%	Prime +20.08% to 26.44%
Other Term Loans		

*Scheme related lending is as per the scheme contract

Foreign Currency Deposit Rates

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

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

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

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

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

***Note:

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

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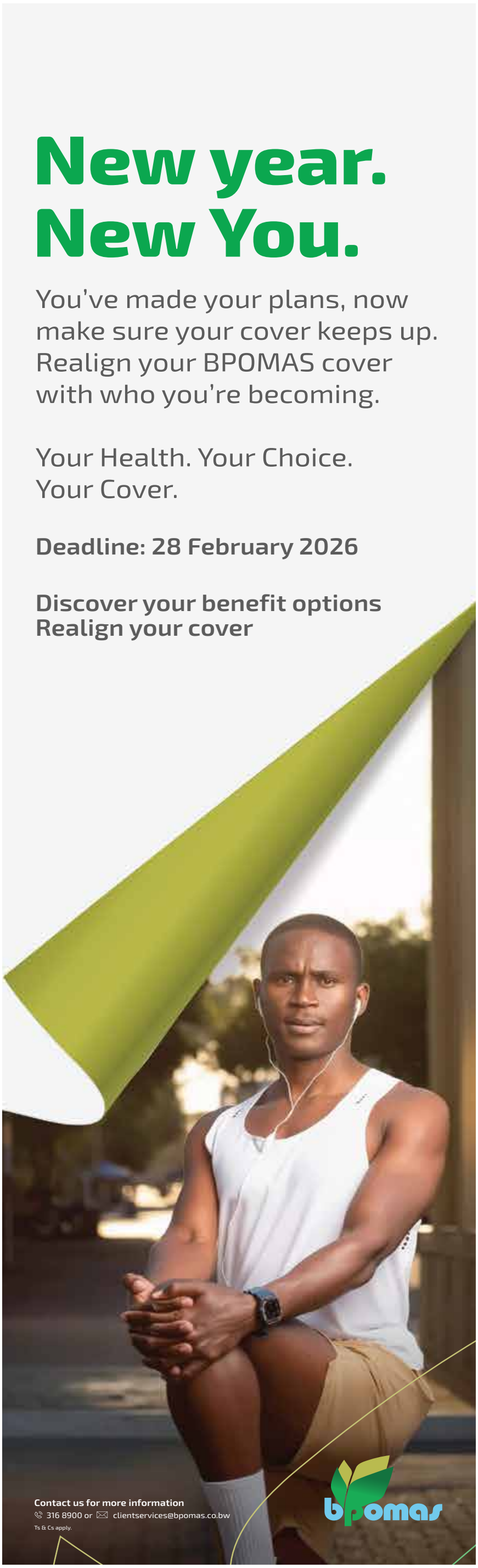



Photo Credit: farmersreviewafrica

South African FMD Outbreak Nears Botswana

The Foot-and-Mouth Disease outbreak devastating South Africa's cattle industry is reportedly approaching Botswana's borders

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak that severely affected South Africa's cattle industry is now reportedly edging closer to Botswana's borders, raising alarm among veterinary and agricultural officials. The outbreak in South Africa led to the culling of thousands of infected and at-risk animals, causing significant disruptions in meat supply and driving up beef prices across local markets.

Exports of beef and related products were also heavily restricted, leading to substantial financial losses for farmers and the broader agricultural sector. With the disease creeping toward Botswana, authorities are urging heightened surveillance, strict quarantine measures and increased biosecurity at border posts to prevent a similar economic and agricultural crisis.

THREAT TO LOCAL MARKET

According to the Botswana National Beef Producers Union (BNBPU), the Department of Veterinary Services has warned that the development poses a threat to the local livestock sector. Local farmers have been urged to notify relevant authorities about sick animals, illegal livestock movement and warned against using unauthorized points of entry or exit when travelling in and out of Botswana.

RAPID MOVEMENT

"What began as an inland outbreak in South Africa has now reached alarming proximity to our borders with confirmed cases reported just 40 kilometres from Botswana. This progression of the disease clearly demonstrates the disease's rapid movement toward our territory," BNBPU said in a statement last Friday.

STRICT EU MARKET

The European Union (EU), Botswana's trading partner, has strict regulations on importing beef from countries with FMD outbreaks. Even a single confirmed case can trigger an immediate ban on beef exports from affected zones or the entire country. Botswana's status as an FMD-free country with or without vaccination is a key requirement for EU trade, an outbreak would jeopardize this status and regaining it can take months to years.

> "What began as an inland outbreak in South Africa has now reached alarming proximity to our borders with confirmed cases reported just 40 kilometres from Botswana."

CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES

"An outbreak within our borders would have catastrophic consequences. Botswana beef would immediately lose its international market access and premium value. Local cattle prices would plummet, devastating our economy and the livelihoods of countless Batswana who depend on the livestock sector," BNBPU explained.

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Pasta Grande Macaroni 3 kg, or
Pasta King Macaroni 3 kg
or **Farm Foods** Macaroni 3 kg

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SPAR Country Value White Mushrooms 220 g
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8PM Whiskey 1 litre
174.95 each



Harrier Finest Matured Whiskey 750 ml
214.95 each

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100.95 per pack



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103.95 per pack



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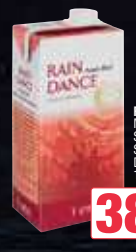
104.95 per pack



Savanna Dry Cider Non-Returnable Bottles Assorted 6 x 330 ml
116.95 per pack



Kwv 3 Year Old Brandy 750 ml
224.95 each



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38.95 each



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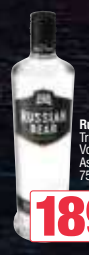
100.95 each



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BDP Cautions UDC Over Cadre Deployment

The BDP has commended the UDC for prioritizing merit over party loyalty in appointments

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) has praised the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government for breaking with the party-loyalist approach it once practiced, opting instead for merit-based appointments, even as the decision appears to be unsettling some staunch UDC supporters.

BDP Secretary General Kentse Rammidi, speaking to the Botswana Gazette, urged the UDC not to apologize for appointing qualified individuals from across the political divide. "Competence and credibility, not political alignment, should guide appointments," Rammidi said, drawing on the BDP's years of governing experience.



BDP Secretary General Kentse Rammidi, speaking to the Botswana Gazette, urged the UDC not to apologize for appointing qualified individuals from across the political divide.

He cautioned the UDC against yielding to internal pressures from party members demanding preferential treatment, warning that decisions based solely on loyalty could be divisive.

LESSONS FROM BDP'S PAST

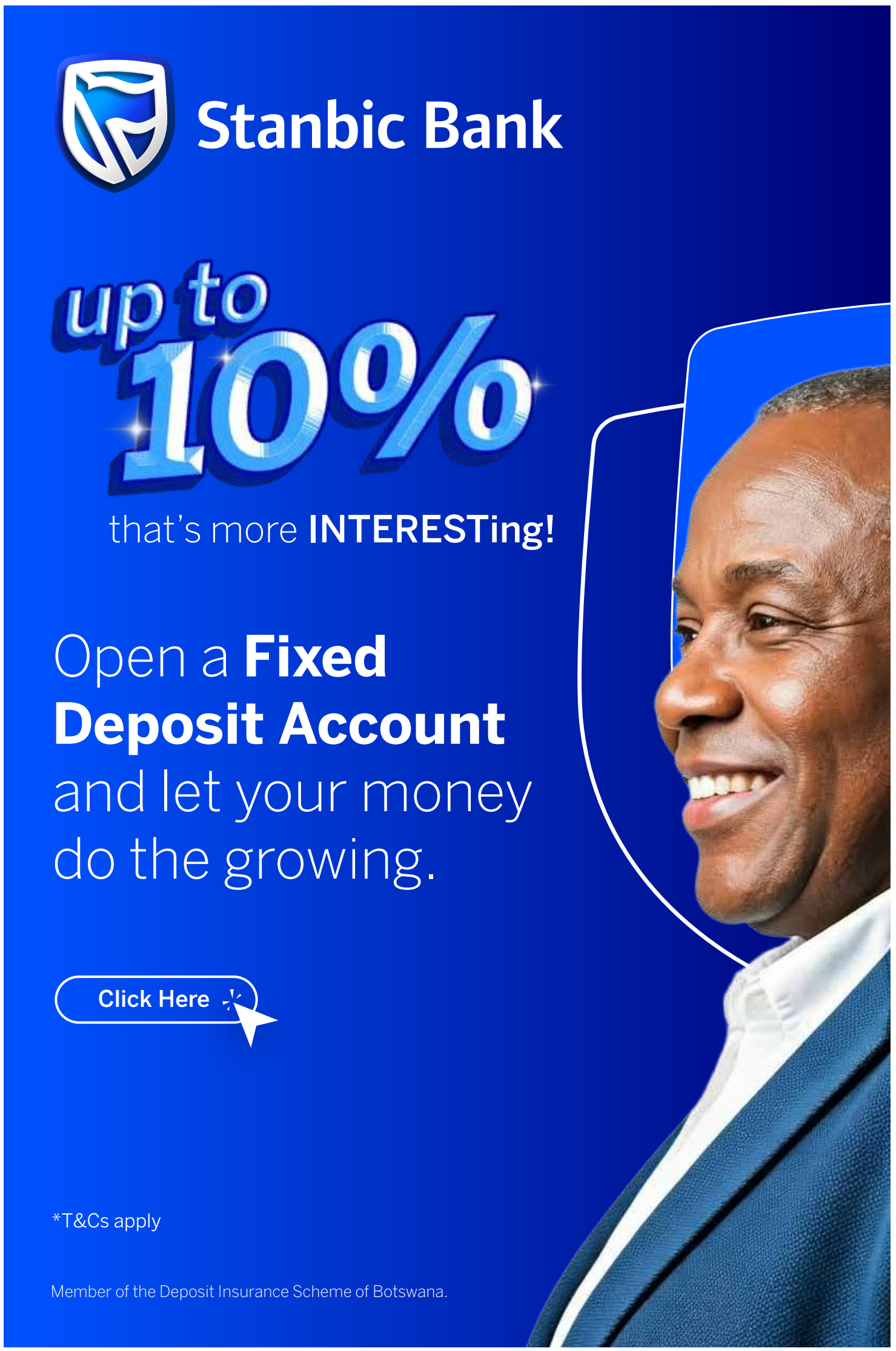
Rammidi recalled that the BDP faced similar challenges under former President Festus Mogae, when party members accused him of sidelining loyalists in government appointments. Mogae responded by emphasizing that all qualified Batswana, regardless of party affiliation, could serve in government. "Government is not only about members of the party in power," Rammidi noted, urging the UDC to adopt a similar approach.

> "Government is not only about members of the party in power"

CONTROVERSIAL APPOINTMENTS SPARK DEBATE

The debate intensified after the UDC appointed Botswana Congress Party (BCP) activist Sedirwa Kgoroba to an ambassadorial post, a move some critics view as an effort to neutralize government critics. Other appointments, such as former Selibe Phikwe mayor Lucas Modimana—who left the BDP after the 2024 elections and later joined the UDC—have also sparked debate within the party. Long-serving UDC members argue they were overlooked in favor of these politically diverse appointees.

Since taking office following the October 2024 elections, President Duma Boko has reiterated his commitment to serving all citizens regardless of political affiliation. UDC spokesperson Dr. Patrick Molutsi was unavailable for comment.





Serowe motorist begins 2026 with VW Polo win at Shell

- A new year. A new journey. Real rewards for loyal Shell customers.

The start of the new year has delivered an unforgettable milestone for Thabang Goletilwe, a 31-year-old construction specialist from Serowe, who has driven into 2026 in style after winning a brand-new Volkswagen Polo through Shell's popular Bozza Tsa Tsela Promotion and on his birthday.

As many Batswana set goals and embrace fresh beginnings, Goletilwe's new year has started with a life-changing reward sparked by a simple, everyday habit. Having consistently poured P300 worth of fuel into his Hilux at Shell service stations, he never imagined that his routine would result in the ultimate birthday and new year surprise.

"This is the best way to start the year," said Goletilwe. "I have always fuelled at Shell without expecting anything in return. Winning a car on my birthday, right at the beginning of the year, feels like a sign of great things ahead."

The exciting draw brought together finalists from across the country, reinforcing Shell's commitment to turning everyday journeys into meaningful rewards. Through Bozza Tsa Tsela, Vivo Energy Botswana, the Shell Licensee in Botswana, continues to celebrate customer loyalty while helping motorists begin the year with renewed optimism.

Goletilwe encouraged motorists nationwide to make Shell part of their 2026 journeys.

"As the year starts, I encourage drivers to fuel at Shell service stations and also buy at least two Shell Helix lubricants," he said. "There is still a Toyota GD6 coming up as the grand finale, and anyone could be next."

Beyond the vehicle prizes, the promotion continues to reward customers with cash prizes and fuel vouchers, giving motorists even more reason to start the year strong.

To stand a chance to win, customers simply need to:

Fuel with P250 or more, or purchase any two (2) 500 ml Shell Helix lubricants at any Shell service station nationwide.

Speaking at the prize-giving ceremony, Vivo Energy Botswana Marketing Manager, Gaamangwe Ramokgothwane, said the promotion reflects Shell's commitment to rewarding loyalty while helping customers begin the year on a positive note.

"There is no better way to start the year than by recognising our customers," he said. "Bozza Tsa Tsela continues to show that every visit to Shell brings customers closer to meaningful rewards and new opportunities."

With the Toyota GD6 still up for grabs as the grand finale, the Shell Bozza Tsa Tsela Promotion continues to build momentum into the new year reminding motorists that sometimes, the journey to a great year begins with a simple stop at Shell.

Ts and Cs apply. GA 165398

Vivo energy Botswana

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Boko Faces No-Confidence Motion from BCP

BCP MP Dr Gobotswang accuses Boko of healthcare failures and constitutional breaches

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

President Duma Boko is under growing pressure as the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) prepares to table a motion of no confidence against him, citing what the party describes as escalating governance and leadership failures.

Tswapong South MP, Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang told The Botswana Gazette that the proposed motion will first be presented to the BCP caucus for discussion before any parliamentary procedure is initiated. He pointed to alleged failures in healthcare delivery, breaches of constitutional duties, and what he described as an emerging leadership crisis as the primary reasons for the motion.

"I intend to present the motion to the BCP caucus very soon. Once the caucus has taken a position, we will then decide who leads the motion and when it will be tabled in Parliament," Dr Gobotswang said. He emphasized that the issues are too serious to ignore and warned that the country is suffering from indecision and weak leadership at the highest level.



(Pic:Botswana Congress Party)

HEALTHCARE CRISIS

Dr Gobotswang criticized President Boko's declaration of a State of Public Health Emergency in August last year, calling it more of a public relations exercise than a policy-driven response.

"He failed to conduct a proper fact-finding mission before declaring the emergency and only attempted to do so almost a year later. That sequence makes no sense. You investigate first, then declare a crisis—not the other way around," he said.

CLAIMS OF CONSTITUTIONAL BREACH

The MP also accused President Boko of undermining constitutional obligations, particularly regarding capital punishment. According to the Botswana Prison Service (BPS), 17 prisoners on death row await presidential warrants before executions can be carried out. Dr Gobotswang claimed that the President's delay amounts to selective enforcement of the law, weakening constitutional governance.

> Dr Gobotswang criticized President Boko's declaration of a State of Public Health Emergency in August last year, calling it more of a public relations exercise than a policy-driven response

NOT AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE

Addressing critics who may view the motion as radical, Dr Gobotswang reminded that President Boko himself previously employed the same parliamentary mechanism against former President Mokgweetsi Masisi just six months into his term

"This is not new or shocking. Boko has done it before. It is a legitimate parliamentary tool," he said.

PARLIAMENTARY REALITY

The outcome of the motion remains uncertain. Parliamentary voting often follows strict party lines, and with the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) holding a numerical advantage, the motion is widely expected to face defeat if tabled.



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Stanbic Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate (SBBPLR) - 7.01%

BWP Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance
Current	NIL	NIL	P50
Youth Account	2.00%	2.02%	P50
Call	0.05% - 1.00%	0.05% - 1.00%	P10,000
Premium Call	0.80% - 1.30%	0.80% - 1.31%	P50,000
32 Day Notice	0.25% - 1.00%	0.25% - 1.00%	P1,000
Savings (Pure Save)	0.25% - 0.75%	0.25%-0.75%	P50
Koketso Savings	2.40%	2.43%	P100
Matshelo Savings	0.50% - 1.50%	0.50% - 1.51%	P500
Maitlamo Savings (12 - 36 months)	2.30% - 2.80%	2.32% - 2.84%	P100
91 day fixed deposit *[a]	1.90%	1.92%	P1,000
6 month fixed deposit [a]	2.10% - 2.30%	2.12% - 2.32%	P1,000
12 month fixed deposit [a]	2.20% - 2.35%	2.22%-2.38%	P1,000
24 month fixed deposit [a]	2.55% - 2.80%	2.58% - 2.84%	P1,000
Over 24 month fixed deposit [a]	2.80% - 3.30%	2.84% - 3.35%	P1,000
Stanbic Bank Prime Lending Rate	7.01%		

* Reference rate
[a] Rate applies to Flexi - Access Account

All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)
MoPR	3.5%	
SBBPLR Lending Rate	7.01%	
Mortgage Facility	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 15%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 16.08%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit lines)	SBBPLR +5% - SBBPLR +18%	SBBPLR + 5.12% - SBBPLR + 19.56%
Credit Card	28% - 32%	31.89% - 37.14%
Lease Loans	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 15%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 16.08%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	SBBPLR +8% - SBBPLR +22%	SBBPLR + 8.30% - SBBPLR + 24.36%
Other Long-Term Loans	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 18%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 19.56%
*Scheme related lending is per the scheme contract and is negotiable.		

All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Foreign Currency Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
SA RAND	SA RAND	SA RAND	SA RAND
Current	0.0%	0.0%	100.00
Call	0.00%-1.75%	0%-1.76%	500.00
1 Month	1.50%-2.50%	1.51%-2.53%	1,000.00
2 Months	1.60%-2.60%	1.61%-2.63%	1,000.00
3 Months	1.70%-2.70%	1.71%-2.73%	1,000.00
6 Months	1.80%-2.80%	1.81%-2.84%	1,000.00
12 Months	2.20%-3.20%	2.22%-3.25%	1,000.00
Over 24 Months	2.40%-3.50%	2.43%-3.56%	1,000.00

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
U.S. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.05%-1.00%	0.05%-1.00%	100.00
1 Month	0.25%-0.35%	0.25%-0.35%	100.00
2 Months	0.35%-0.42%	0.35%-0.42%	100.00
3 Months	0.37%-0.45%	0.37%-0.45%	100.00
6 Months	0.40%-0.60%	0.40%-0.60%	100.00
12 Months	0.45%-0.75%	0.45%-0.75%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.75%-1.25%	0.75%-1.26%	100.00

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
BRITISH POUND	BRITISH POUND	BRITISH POUND	BRITISH POUND
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.05%	0.05%	100.00
1 Month	0.05%-0.07%	0.05%-0.07%	100.00
2 Months	0.07%-0.09%	0.07%-0.09%	100.00
3 Months	0.09%-0.10%	0.09%-0.10%	100.00
6 Months	0.10%-0.15%	0.10%-0.15%	100.00
12 Months	0.20%-0.30%	0.20%-0.30%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.25%-0.40%	0.25%-0.40%	100.00

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
EURO	EURO	EURO	EURO
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
1 Month	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
2 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
3 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
6 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
12 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00

- All interest rates quoted are on annual basis
- Interest is calculated based on the daily closing balance and is credited to the account monthly. Interest begins to accrue from the day a deposit is made, if the minimum balance requirement is met. This applies to all interest-bearing products, except fixed deposits.
- Fixed Deposit interest is calculated based on the principal amount, agreed term and applicable interest rate. The accrued interest is paid at maturity or termination.

Member of Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

US Aid Cuts Halt Botswana's Male Circumcision Drive-REPORT

Botswana's male circumcision programme faces collapse after US President Donald Trump cut foreign aid, dealing a major blow to the country's HIV fight efforts



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) programme has effectively collapsed following a decision by United States President Donald Trump to slash foreign aid, dealing a major blow to one of the country's key HIV prevention interventions.

According to a recent UNAIDS report titled Overcoming Disruption: Transforming the AIDS Response, access to voluntary medical male circumcision—an intervention shown to reduce the risk of female-to-male HIV transmission by about 60%—has sharply declined due to funding cuts.

STEEPER DECLINE OF 88%

The report indicates that the number of voluntary medical male circumcisions fell by 65% in Uganda between December 2024 and June 2025. Botswana recorded an even steeper decline of 88% during the first five months of 2025.

Online publication Devex reports that Botswana is not attempting to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of US funding, resulting in the near-total disappearance of outreach services for male circumcision. VMMC is widely recognised as a proven HIV prevention strategy and has also been shown to offer comparable protection for men who have sex with men.

PROGRAMME WITHOUT FINANCIAL LIFELINE

According to Devex, Botswana's programme had been sustained by a local organisation that supported men undergoing and recovering from circumcision. That support was fully funded by the United States, leaving the programme without a financial lifeline once the aid was withdrawn.

UNAIDS warns that access to proven HIV combination prevention tools is declining at a time when demand should be increasing, particularly as new prevention options—such as long-acting injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)—enter the market. The agency says the funding cuts have come at a critical juncture for the global HIV response.

"As recently as October 2025, Botswana was reportedly experiencing widespread shortages of HIV test kits, condoms and treatments for sexually transmitted infections," the report states, noting that similar challenges are emerging across sub-Saharan Africa.

UNAIDS WORRIED

Commenting on the findings, UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima said the global AIDS response remains fragile.

"AIDS is not over," Byanyima said. "This year's disruption to the global response has exposed how vulnerable the progress we have fought for truly is."

She said accelerated cuts to international HIV financing, combined with a rollback of human rights protections, have had devastating consequences for countries heavily reliant on donor-funded programmes.





Voter Registration Not Linked to Referendum – IEC

Commission emphasizes that voter registration exercise is routine and aimed at eligible voters

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of Botswana has dismissed reports suggesting that the recently announced supplementary voter registration could be prepare for a referendum on the controversial Constitutional Court Bill.

ROUTINE ELECTORAL PROCESS

IEC Secretary Jefferson Siamisang clarified in an interview with The Botswana Gazette that, contrary to media reports, the commission is not preparing for any referendum as per the ongoing allegation, "This is a normal electoral process designed to give eligible voters a chance to register, particularly for upcoming elections such as by-elections. All eligible Batswana who did not register for the 2014 general elections are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Registering to vote is both a constitutional right and a civic responsibility," he said.


(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

TARGETING ELIGIBLE BUT UNREGISTERED VOTERS

Siamisang explained that the exercise primarily focuses on those who did not register during the general voter registration period due to various reasons, including being underage at the time, lack of identity documents, or other personal circumstances that prevented registration.

NO KNOWLEDGE OF UPCOMING REFERENDUM

"As a commission, we are not aware of any forthcoming referendum," he added. "We can only know about a referendum if the President issues a writ. Other than that, we have no knowledge of such an event."

The Constitutional Court Bill, currently under parliamentary discussion, proposes the establishment of a dedicated court to handle constitutional matters in Botswana. The bill has sparked public debate, with supporters arguing it will streamline constitutional adjudication, while critics claim it could centralize judicial power and affect the independence of existing courts. Some critics had speculated that the supplementary voter registration might be preparatory for a public vote on this bill a claim the IEC has firmly denied.

> "The exercise primarily focuses on those who did not register during the general voter registration period due to various reasons"

The Secretary's remarks follow the commission's announcement of the supplementary voter registration period, which commenced on 12th January and will run until February this year.

Botswana Ignores Russia's EU Blacklisting for Diamonds

A deepening trading relationship with a blacklisted Russia could raise regulatory friction, risk stricter scrutiny of Botswana's own diamond exports into European markets

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana government has elected to overlook the European Union's (EU) decision to place Russia on its high-risk blacklist of jurisdictions for money laundering and counter-terrorist financing, opting instead to advance a strategic collaboration on minerals while simultaneously deepening diplomatic ties.

The move signals a calculated shift in Botswana's foreign and economic policy priorities, even as it risks raising concerns among key Western partners.

A SLUMP

Facing a slump in diamond revenues, the Botswana government has sought Russian capital and expertise to diversify its mineral sector and economic partnerships beyond traditional Western markets. The EU's decision to add Russia in December last year to its high-risk *barred list* of jurisdictions for money-laundering and enhanced due diligence has sharpened global trade frictions and widened economic penalties, tightened financial scrutiny and curtailed broader economic ties with Russian partners.

> "Companies such as Nornikel (running a successful mining business) have previously worked here. We believe that Botswana is the best market for investment, given the political and economic stability.."


(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

EMBASSY IN MOSCOW

According to Russian state news agency TASS, Botswana's Minister of International Relations, Phenyo Butale held formal talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov as the two held preliminary discussions. According to the Russian state news agency, Botswana is poised to establish an embassy in Moscow.

BEST MARKET FOR INVESTMENT

"Companies such as Nornikel (running a successful mining business) have previously worked here. We believe that Botswana is the best market for investment, given the political and economic stability. This is why we do encourage Russian investors to come to Botswana," Butale was quoted as saying.

Botswana Railways Charting The Path Forward



(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

BY CHRIS HUGHES- BOTSWANA RAILWAYS BOARD CHAIRPERSON

As we raise the curtain on 2026, Botswana Railways (BR) takes this opportunity to provide a clear, comprehensive and honest update on the state of the organization, its challenges, what has been stabilised, and how BR is positioning itself for the future. The past year was defined by uncertainty, decisive interventions and a renewed commitment to building a resilient, modern rail system capable of supporting Botswana's long-term economic ambitions.

YEARS OF UNDERINVESTMENT

Botswana Railways remains operational, but the organisation is undeniably under significant strain. Years of underinvestment have resulted in ageing rolling stock, rising maintenance backlogs, declining revenue, and governance and compliance gaps that continue to weigh heavily on performance, stability and long-term sustainability.

The current wagon fleet comprises 1,155 units, of which only 135 are operational. Of the 31 locomotives in the fleet, only eight (8) are currently in service. As at the reporting period, freight tonnage stood at 521,000 tonnes, against a period target of 935 000 tonnes with the goal of 1.4 million tonnes by March 2026. At the same time, operating costs continue to exceed income generation, resulting in persistent monthly deficits and an increasingly aged creditor book.

STRUCTURED TURNAROUND PROGRAMME INITIATED

These challenges cannot be ignored. In response, the Board has initiated a structured turnaround programme aimed at stabilising core operations, strengthening governance systems and setting in motion a multi-year transformation agenda. This intervention is proactive and deliberate, designed to safeguard the future of the organisation.

Botswana Railways acknowledges the seriousness of the issues it faces and remains committed to addressing them transparently and decisively. Central to the turnaround is the alignment of leadership structures with the Botswana Railways Act, organisational policy and sound governance principles.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURES STABILISED

Following a period of transition at Board and executive level during 2025, leadership structures have now been stabilised, positioning the organisation to benefit from renewed and cohesive leadership in 2026.

Internal reviews undertaken during the year highlighted specific areas requiring strengthening, particularly in procurement processes, financial reporting, policy alignment and decision-making structures. These gaps are being addressed through tighter controls, enhanced internal audit oversight and stricter enforcement of organisational procedures.

ONGOING MONTHLY INCOME DEFICITS

From a financial perspective, Botswana Railways continues to operate under considerable strain due to ongoing monthly income deficits. Stabilisation efforts are underway through cost-control measures, revenue growth initiatives, operational restructuring and targeted engagement with potential investment partners. The ambition to achieve profitability by December 2025 is fully acknowledged and respected.

However, the organisation's progress towards this objective has been shaped by the need to restore organisational stability and strengthen sound governance practices, to lay a credible foundation for sustainable and responsible growth. Financial obligations are being managed daily and, where necessary, renegotiated to ensure responsible stewardship while maintaining operational continuity.

CONFRONTING THE REALITIES

Operationally, the organisation continues to confront the realities of an ageing fleet and significant maintenance backlogs. These challenges are being addressed through comprehensive rolling stock assessments, prioritisation of refurbishment requirements and the development of investment and partnership models to support fleet modernisation. Ensuring operational continuity remains a key priority throughout the turnaround process, supported by strengthened oversight mechanisms.

Passenger services remain suspended, not as an abandonment of public service obligations, but as a necessary measure while urgent operational and financial priorities are addressed. The restoration of passenger services remains part of the medium-term vision once stability has been fully re-established.

TRANSFORMATION AT BR

Transformation at Botswana Railways goes beyond short-term corrective measures. It represents a fundamental redesign of the organisation's business model, operational approach, infrastructure strategy, capital management framework and enabling legislation. This multi-year strategy includes strengthening governance and compliance systems, enabling private-sector participation in infrastructure development, and developing a long-term rail strategy aligned with national logistics, industrialisation and economic diversification objectives.

> From a financial perspective, Botswana Railways continues to operate under considerable strain due to ongoing monthly income deficits

The organisation is currently engaged in discussions, and in more advanced stages in some cases, with potential investors and partners across rolling stock provision, infrastructure development, maintenance operations and signalling and communication systems. Some opportunities remain constrained by provisions of the Botswana Railways Act, which is currently under review to enable more effective private-sector participation.

NB: *This article has been edited for length*

BAMB
BOTSWANA AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB) is mandated to provide a market for locally grown scheduled crops, such as cereals, pulses/beans and oilseeds and to ensure that adequate supplies exist for sale to customers at affordable prices.

BAMB is inviting individuals who are results-driven changemakers to join its executive leadership team in two critical roles of **Head of Human Resources & Administration and Head of Business Development & Retail Operations.**

These positions offer an opportunity to shape strategy, drive organisational turn-around and to strengthen BAMB's mandate as the leading bulk supplier and distributor of grains and related products in Botswana.

1. HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION

Job Purpose:
Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the successful candidate will be responsible for planning, organising, directing the development and implementation of human resources and administrative strategies, policies, systems and practices that support the achievement of the Board's strategic objectives.

The Job:
The incumbent will be responsible for, among others, the following:

- Participating in the development of BAMB's overall corporate strategy.
- Leading the development and implementation of HR strategy, aligned to the corporate strategy.
- Implementing talent management strategies that are aimed at attracting and retaining critical staff, as well as, building succession pipelines.
- Ensuring existence and implementation of competitive and sustainable reward and retention policies.
- Driving performance management systems aimed at improving productivity and customer satisfaction.
- Promoting ethical business conduct and fostering a culture of integrity and accountability, while ensuring HR policies comply with laws and regulations.
- Fostering positive employee relations and reducing conflict through improved communication and engagement.
- Establishing learning and development programmes that are enhancing staff skills and performance.
- Ensuring cost-effective and efficient delivery of Administration functions that support strategic objectives, these include, records, insurance, fleet management, security and general office support.
- Developing and overseeing implementation of employee welfare programmes.
- Managing HR and administration internal controls and governance to minimise risks and ensuring timely closure of any audit queries.
- Leading culture and transformation initiatives within the organisation.
- Advising management and the Board on HR issues and providing timely reports.

The Person:
The ideal candidate will possess the following:

- A Degree in Human Resources Management, Public Administration, Industrial Psychology, or equivalent, with a Master's Degree presenting a distinct advantage.
- A minimum of ten (10) years post-graduate experience, with at least five (5) years at senior management level.
- Proven experience in developing and implementing HR policies, systems and internal controls in a medium to large organisation.

2. HEAD OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETAIL OPERATIONS

Job Purpose:
Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the position will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations in Business Development, Marketing, Retail, Agronomy and Veterinary Services. They will also direct marketing and retail activities in alignment with BAMB's business objectives, while ensuring statutory obligations are being achieved and BAMB is being positioned as the leading bulk supplier and distributor of grains and related products.

The Job:
The incumbent will be responsible for, among others, the following:

- Participating in the development of BAMB's overall corporate strategy.
- Leading the design and execution of departmental strategies aligned with Board objectives.
- Developing and implementing marketing strategies that are increasing market share and revenue.
- Commissioning market research that is identifying opportunities, monitoring industry trends, and anticipating customer needs.
- Enhancing BAMB's corporate image through packaging, branding, and promotional campaigns.
- Ensuring stock availability and efficient management across all branches.
- Monitoring stock turnover and quality, while minimising disposals.
- Setting and achieving annual sales targets across all business units.
- Building strong relationships with farmers, suppliers, customers, and government departments.
- Managing departmental budgets and authorising expenditure within delegated authority.
- Driving corporate social investment initiatives that are supporting community development.
- Ensuring compliance with risk management, audit requirements, and quality management systems (QMS).
- Leading recruitment, performance management, and staff development in the department.

The Person:
The ideal candidate will possess the following:

- Degree in Business Administration, Marketing or related area., plus membership to the Chartered Institute of Marketing.
- At least ten (10) years post graduate experience, of which four (4) should have been spent at Managerial level preferably in the wholesale/retail industry.
- Detailed knowledge of cereal and related products and arable agricultural production.

Both positions require the following Competencies and Skills

- Business orientation
- Strategic orientation
- Leadership and motivation
- Stakeholder management
- Decisiveness and assertiveness
- External Environment orientation
- Budgeting and resource management
- Communication, influence and impact
- Negotiation, and conflict resolution skills.

To apply in confidence, please visit **www.peopleconnections.co.bw.** Applicants should submit a Cover Letter, Detailed Curriculum Vitae, and Academic Certificates. **Application documents should be in .pdf format and merged.**

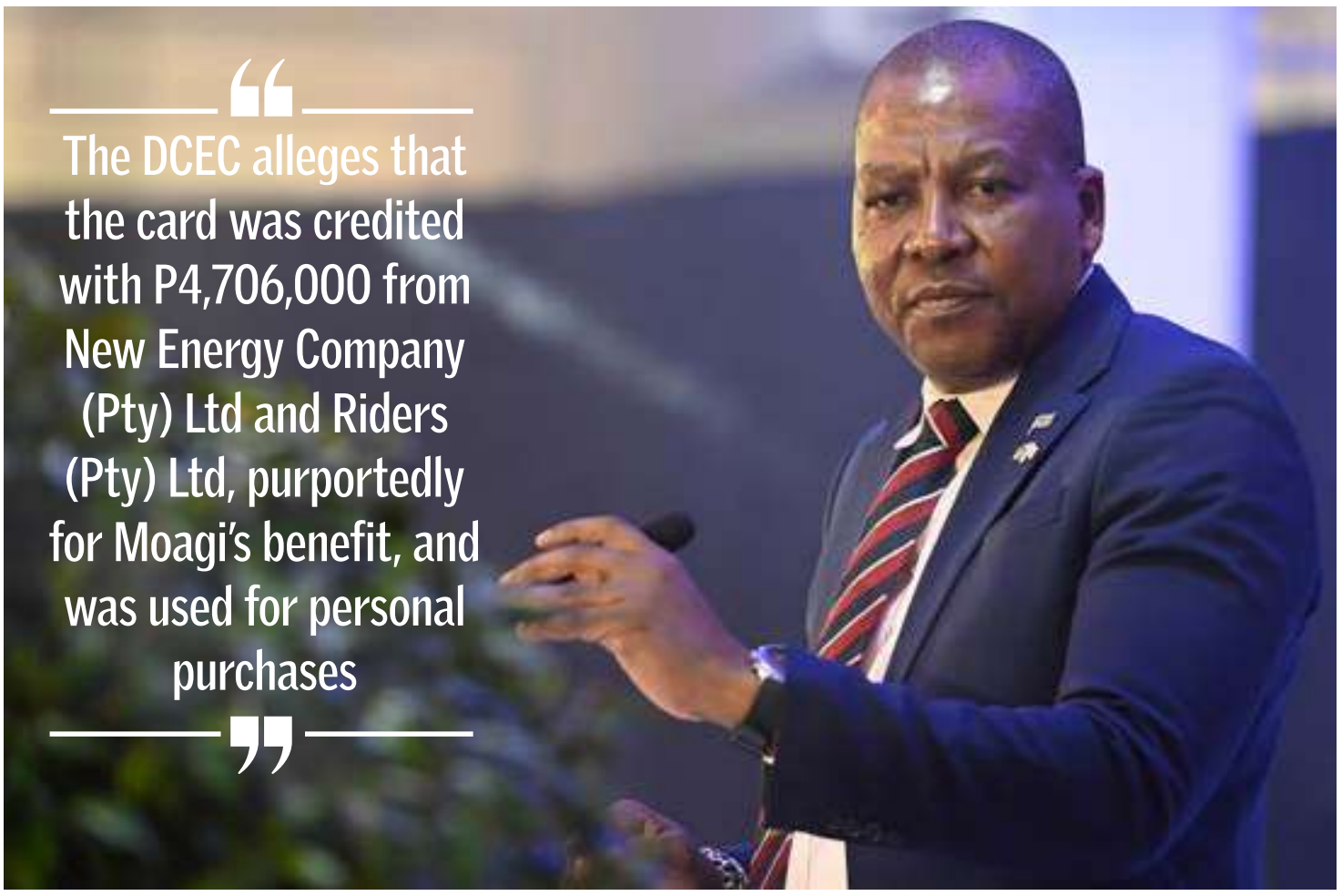
Closing Date: 22 January 2026

For enquiries: Contact 3975917 / 3915503

PEOPLE CONNECTIONS
connecting people and business

DCEC Seizes Moagi's P4.7M Chinese-Linked Bank Card

The DCEC seized a debit card holding over P4.7 million from former Minerals and Energy Minister Lefoko Maxwell Moagi's residence, allegedly linked to Chinese nationals who created it for his benefit



> The DCEC alleges that the card was credited with P4,706,000 from New Energy Company (Pty) Ltd and Riders (Pty) Ltd, purportedly for Moagi's benefit, and was used for personal purchases

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) has revealed that on 11 July 2025 its investigation team conducted a search at the residence of former Minerals and Energy Minister Lefoko Maxwell Moagi, seizing a debit bank card holding more than P4.7 million. The card was allegedly created for his benefit by Chinese nationals.

Court papers filed by the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) show that the card, number 4621390015393131, belongs to Wisecreatives Investments (Pty) Ltd and was issued after Zheng Li opened bank account 8001381399 with Bank Gaborone. The DCEC alleges that the card was credited with P4,706,000 from New Energy Company (Pty) Ltd and Riders (Pty) Ltd, purportedly for Moagi's benefit, and was used for personal purchases.



EXTENSIVE PERSONAL SPENDING

According to the DCEC, Moagi used the card for multiple transactions over the past year:

Techno Feeds – P4,666 on 30 November 2024; P5,815.14 and P451.92 on 22 January 2025; P6,039.95 on 11 April 2025; P11,280.31 on 8 July 2025.

Batlatsi Truck Hire – P4,500.00, Haskins – multiple payments ranging from P635.71 to P3,981.24 between October 2024 and May 2025, Brave Heart – P10,000 on 8 July 2025, Premier Clothing – P5,035 on 10 March 2025, Silk Air – P2,310 on 21 March 2025, Thornhill School – P25,199.50 on 21 January 2025 and P25,200 on 13 May 2025, Builders World – P4,515.65 on 26 March 2025, P4,006.65 on 12 May 2025, and P18,730.85 on 22 April 2025.

Investigators also allege Moagi paid ZAR1,053,630 in tuition and accommodation fees for his son at Crawford International North Coast College in Durban, South Africa, using funds from the Wisecreatives Investments account. The account balance as of 31 July 2025 was P2,824,311.85.

LINKS TO CHINESE-LINKED COMPANIES

The DCEC alleges a close relationship between Moagi and the companies involved. While serving as Minister, Moagi approved and signed eight prospecting licences for base metals in Ghanzi, Tsabong and Tutume districts for New Energy Company (Pty) Ltd in July and August 2024.

New Energy Company, registered in Botswana, lists Gang Li, Zheng Li, Xu Li and Xiaoyong Li as directors. Wisecreatives Investments opened its account on 17 April 2024, with Zheng Li as sole signatory.

ALLEGED MONEY LAUNDERING AND CORRUPTION

Investigators say P4,706,000 was transferred from New Energy Company and Riders (Pty) Ltd into Wisecreatives Investments' account, after which the debit card was handed to Moagi. The DCEC describes this arrangement as a classic case of money laundering and alleges that Moagi's receipt of funds while approving licences constitutes corruption.

INVITATION TO TENDER



Scan to download Tender

Provision of Insurance Underwriting Services
Tender Reference Number: BPOMAS/09-2025/Insurance Underwriting Services
The tender shall be submitted electronically on or before **10:00am, on the 26th January 2026**

Provision of Pathology & Radiology Health Risk Management
Tender Reference Number: BPOMAS/10-2025/Pathology & Radiology Health Risk Management
The tender shall be submitted electronically on or before **12:00am, on the 26th January 2026**

For more information visit: **tenders@bpomas.co.bw**
Contact Details: **+267 370 2951/2900**

bpomas

BO ASH
STAFF PENSION FUND
Mosireletsi wa bokamoso jwa gago

The Botswana Ash Staff Pension Fund calls upon members, former members, beneficiaries and/or dependents of the persons listed below to contact the Fund or its Administrators, Mmila Fund Administrators, regarding outstanding pension benefits. This is a last and final call by the Trustees. **Closing Date:** 31 March 2026.

Surname	Initials	Co Ref No	Date of Birth	Date Employed
MOGOCHA	MA	1179	2/12/56	1/14/98
KAYAWE	O		7/20/73	11/1/01
MASALA	FN	443	8/24/65	6/3/91
MGADLA	T	197	8/15/59	10/1/90
THEMBA	C	1551	6/20/67	1/4/05
KEBINAKGABO	AT	617	8/30/52	2/2/92
SEKGWAMA	RP	344	10/16/57	4/1/91
KEDULE	J	965	1/2/58	6/21/94
NKAELANG	SG	301	4/10/61	2/1/91
NTHEETSANG	GO	821	1/3/66	5/3/93
RAMOLEMANE	G	446	2/26/60	6/10/91
TSEBEKGALE	IO	383	11/5/53	4/1/91
ZANERO	AM	510	4/12/59	8/1/91
MOLOSIWA	J	899	9/24/60	1/4/94
GAADINGWE	G	1627	9/9/80	10/23/07
JAMES	T	1599	9/13/65	1/10/07
LEKOKO	K		4/25/74	11/1/01
CUNGUDIKA	S	1612	5/28/60	6/1/07
KEBUANG	N	1613	11/15/75	6/11/07
BOTSWAKAE	S	1018	6/6/66	2/20/95
MACHIPISA	P	858	12/1/56	8/9/93
GAOGAKWE	B	889	7/4/68	12/12/93
OABILE	M	257	5/5/62	10/11/99
TSWITSWINYANE	Z	1287	5/20/68	5/7/99
DITSHANE	I	933	3/25/64	4/6/94
POSTER	MO	1629	5/5/79	11/1/07
MOGADIME	PS		6/15/76	7/28/98
OITSILE	K		10/11/79	3/1/08
NCHENJE	T		6/22/72	11/1/01
MATSAPA	I	1286	6/26/70	5/7/99
MOTSUMI	O	1445	1/1/64	1/7/02
BAGWISANYI	TB	1186	10/8/65	4/1/98
KABONA	S	922	4/1/68	3/1/94
KEBANTSHITSE	G	813	6/1/62	5/3/93
MFHALADI	WB		12/12/70	2/1/02
SEELO	O	1654	7/12/85	5/7/08
OLEBILE	KC	1513	7/31/81	7/4/03
MZANYWA	W	1508	11/2/75	6/17/03
ODISITSE	BB	1700	11/20/79	2/11/09
MOSHOKGO	B	1494	1/1/64	3/3/03
MASEMOLA	L	1504	11/29/68	6/17/03
SELABE	L	1506	10/23/68	6/17/03
BOJOSI	BT		1/8/71	11/1/01
TSAPO	T		9/30/66	11/1/01
DUBE	S		7/2/71	11/1/01
MOLOSIWA	T	1550	5/3/76	1/4/05
MOKGORO	GS	1736	7/24/72	12/8/09
MOTSAMAI	LM		9/30/68	11/1/01
KGWARAE	OK	1077	1/4/76	2/1/11
SHABANI	G		5/22/66	12/1/01
HULELA	CN		8/1/60	11/1/01
KENOSI	M		4/4/66	11/1/01
LIVINGSTONE	L	717	4/24/70	8/3/92
GABOSEBIWE	GH	878	6/2/70	10/4/93
KGENGWENYANE	G		9/26/74	4/1/06
MOTSUMI	GC	620	5/4/71	3/1/08
BANDA	UW	720	8/21/70	2/5/93
LETSHELEA	KB	737	4/20/73	9/4/92
NGURARAMADI	J	693	4/7/70	7/1/92
MAPHANYANE	BP	1622	1/1/71	8/21/07
MASALA	B	1437	5/13/75	10/3/01
TEFO	T		10/30/74	12/1/01
MATLHAPE	GS	1637	2/28/74	2/22/08
RAPOTSANYANE	LA		10/10/71	11/1/01
KENOSI	N	1434	1/1/73	7/9/01
RAKESIILWE	TV	1512	6/9/75	7/2/03
OGOTSENG	T	822	10/15/66	5/3/93
RADIBETSO	M	1106	12/3/71	12/1/96
KETSANO	M		9/26/73	3/1/08
MAHLAKA	G	1754	3/7/79	5/10/10
MOKGOSI	ABM	1698	8/2/70	1/7/09
PHILLIP	P		7/7/77	11/1/01
MATLOTSE	O	1727	9/22/73	9/11/09
CHILUME	KA		8/1/77	12/1/01
MABUA	B		7/6/70	11/1/01
PHILLIP	I		8/8/80	12/1/01
MODISE	J		2/29/72	11/1/01
MALEO	T		1/8/76	12/1/04
MACHA	S	749	12/23/74	7/13/10

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Batswana Overstays Trigger US Visa Bond Demands

High rates of visa overstays by Batswana have prompted the US to impose refundable bond requirements for certain travelers

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's placement on the United States of America's (USA) visa bond list is due to rising concerns over Batswana overstaying their visas, the Minister of International Relations, Phenyo Butale has revealed. The development will force some travelers to post refundable financial bonds to enter the US.

Butale's ministry made the revelation after a meeting between the former and the US Ambassador to Botswana, Howard Van Vranken last Tuesday. "The two leaders touched on the recently imposed visa bond requirements for Botswana which Ambassador Van Vranken explained were caused, among other things, by a high rate of overstays by Botswana citizens. The Ambassador affirmed that the visa bond applied only to B1/B2 tourist visa applications and did not apply to existing US visas, students studying in the US or beneficiaries of exchange programmes between the two countries," the ministry announced.

> The measure will add both financial and administrative hurdles for certain Batswana traveling to the US for tourism, business or family visits

HIGH RATES OF VISA VIOLATIONS

Announcing the move in December last year, the US Department of State said the move targets countries with high rates of visa violations, aiming to curb abuse while still allowing legitimate travel. Officials stress the policy is a preventive step to ensure visitors return home on time.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE HURDLES

The measure will add both financial and administrative hurdles for certain Batswana traveling to the US for tourism, business or family visits. Authorities in Gaborone may now face pressure to tighten oversight and educate citizens on compliance, as the decision highlights the diplomatic and economic fallout when visa overstays become a persistent issue. Analysts warn that even a small group of violators can trigger broader consequences for an entire country's travelers.

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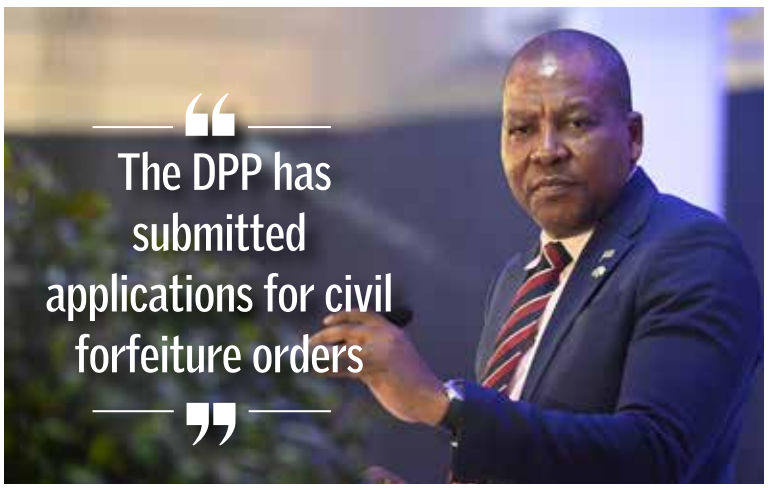

How Mzwinila, Moagi Received Kickbacks from Chinese

State investigators say a web of kickbacks and suspected money laundering links former ministers to Chinese-owned companies

GAZETTE REPORTER

According to the state, their investigations against former ministers Kefentse Mzwinila and Lefoko Moagi reveal a pattern of abuse of office, misappropriation of government contracts and suspected money laundering linked among others to Chinese nationals.

MZWINILA: HEAVY MACHINERY AND DAIRY PLANT UNDER SCRUTINY

DCEC investigators reported the seizure of an extensive list of agricultural equipment from properties belonging to the Mzwinilas. Items include an unregistered Bhero yellow tractor, JCB back-loader, Bhero trailed hydraulic disc harrow, Bhero boom sprayer, Hinder disc mowers, Hinder cow harvester and square bailer, tricycles, and forklifts. These assets were allegedly acquired between 2018 and 2024 under questionable circumstances.

The Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, then led by Mzwinila, awarded contracts to companies including Zhentai, China Harbour, China State, China Civil, and Okavango Joint Venture. Some of these companies reportedly subcontracted to Chinese-owned entities, such as Riders (Pty) Ltd and New Energy Company (Pty) Ltd, which later supplied equipment purchased for Mrs. Mzwinila.

FLAGGED

Investigators flagged the purchase of a dairy plant for Delicious 62 Dairy, wholly owned by Mrs. Mzwinila, by New Energy Company for USD 270,750. Documents suggest the plant was undervalued at customs, raising suspicions of corruption and money laundering. Efforts by Mrs. Mzwinila to obscure the provenance of these assets were cited as further evidence of illicit activity.

The DCEC states that its investigations "revealed that the dairy plant was bought for Delicious 62 Dairy which is solely owned by Mrs Mzwinila, from China by a company named New Energy Company." "This company is connected as a sub- contractor to other companies which were contracted to do projects for Mr Mzwinila's Ministry. The same costs about two hundred and seventy thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars (US$270, 750.00). This leads to reasonable suspicion of the criminal offence of Corruption," the DCEC says.

MOAGI: CATTLE PAYMENTS AND PROSPECTING LICENSES

In a separate investigation, DCEC implicated former Minister Lefoko Maxwell Moagi in a scheme involving Sieyuan Botswana (Pty) Ltd. Evidence shows that in 2024, Moagi allegedly requested Sieyuan executives to finance 100 cattle for him. Due to company policy restrictions, the payment was facilitated through a third party, Mr. Lin Han, while the balance was settled by a company executive posing under a false identity. The transaction was later converted into a "soft loan" in 2025, a move DCEC investigators described as a clear attempt to conceal corruption and potential money laundering.

Further findings revealed that Moagi, while overseeing the Ministry of Minerals Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security, approved eight prospecting licenses for base metals in Ghanzi, Tsabong, and Tutume Districts in 2024 for New Energy Company (Pty) Ltd, a company linked to Chinese nationals. Payments totaling P4,706,000.00 from New Energy Company and Riders (Pty) Ltd were channeled into a separate entity, Wisecreatives Investments (Pty) Ltd, whose debit card was used personally by Moagi. DCEC described this as a "classical case of money laundering" and noted that Moagi's involvement in the licence approvals while receiving funds placed his actions squarely within the ambit of corruption under Botswana law.

The DPP has submitted applications for civil forfeiture orders.

The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

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Botswana's Index of Mining Production "stood at 98.3 during the third quarter of 2025, compared to 71.5 registered in the same quarter of the previous year," reflecting a year-on-year increase of 37.5 percent, according to Statistics Botswana.

Diamond Surge Lifts Mining Production

Botswana's mining production rebounded sharply in the third quarter of 2025, with diamonds driving growth while most other minerals continued to contract, official data shows

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's Index of Mining Production "stood at 98.3 during the third quarter of 2025, compared to 71.5 registered in the same quarter of the previous year," reflecting a year-on-year increase of 37.5 percent, according to Statistics Botswana.

The rebound was "mainly driven by Diamonds, which contributed 40.5 percentage points to the increase in mining production growth," the agency said in its Index of the Physical Volume of Mining Production, Third Quarter 2025 Stats Brief.

"All other minerals contributed negatively to the overall growth of mining production, with Copper in Concentrates recording the highest decline at 2.0 percentage points," the report noted.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the index "increased significantly by 89.2 percent, from an index of 52.0 registered in the second quarter of 2025 to 98.3 observed during the period under review."

DIAMOND OUTPUT

Diamond production "recorded an increase of 49.5 percent (2,029 thousand carats), from 4,098 thousand carats during the third quarter of 2024 to 6,127 thousand carats in the third quarter of 2025," the report said.

Statistics Botswana described the increase as "a positive turnaround after six consecutive quarters of decline since the first quarter of 2024." The improvement, it added, "mainly reflects better plant performance, as operations ran at full capacity during the third quarter of 2025."

A quarter-on-quarter comparison shows that diamond output "increased by 123.9 percent (3,391 thousand carats), from 2,736 thousand carats produced during the second quarter of 2025."

COPPER DECLINES

Copper in concentrates production "declined by 14.5 percent (1,882 tonnes), from 13,001 tonnes during the third quarter of 2024 to 11,119 tonnes during the period under review," the report stated.

On a quarterly basis, production "declined by 15.8 percent (2,079 tonnes) in the third quarter of 2025, from 13,198 tonnes recorded in the second quarter of 2025."

SODA ASH

Soda ash production "declined by 27.8 percent (23,769 tonnes), from 85,471 tonnes during the third quarter of 2024 to 61,702 tonnes produced during the period under review," Statistics Botswana said.

Quarter-on-quarter figures show that output "declined by 9.0 percent (6,077 tonnes), from 67,779 tonnes recorded during the second quarter of 2025."

"This decrease was primarily attributed to the alterations in the scheduling of the annual maintenance shutdown," the report added.

SALT OUTPUT

"Salt production decreased by 7.1 percent (7,203 tonnes), from 101,136 tonnes in the third quarter of 2024 to 93,933 tonnes during the quarter under review," the report said.

A quarter-on-quarter comparison shows that production "decreased by 19.4 percent (22,578 tonnes), from 116,512 tonnes recorded in the second quarter of 2025."

SILVER PRODUCTION

Silver output "decreased by 27.7 percent (2,675 kilograms), from 9,643 kilograms in the third quarter of 2024 to 6,968 kilograms during the period under review," according to Statistics Botswana.

Quarter-on-quarter, production "declined by 31.0 percent (3,131 kilograms), from 10,099 kilograms recorded in the second quarter of 2025."

COAL PERFORMANCE

Coal production "declined by 12.6 percent (87,795 tonnes), from 697,054 tonnes during the third quarter of 2024 to 609,259 tonnes during the current quarter," the report said.

Despite the decline, Statistics Botswana noted that "there was no shortfall in coal supply due to adequate stockpiling." On a quarterly basis, coal output "increased by 11.9 percent (65,017 tonnes), from 544,242 tonnes recorded in the second quarter of 2025."

Copper-Nickel-Cobalt Matte and Gold "recorded zero production during the period under review," with Statistics Botswana stating that "the affected mines are still undergoing provisional liquidation."

IMF Urges Tighter Policy

Falling reserves, capital outflows and exchange-rate pressures put Botswana's monetary framework under renewed scrutiny



GAZETTE REPORTER

The decline in Botswana's international reserves driven by a contraction in the diamond market, an accommodative fiscal stance and capital outflows has strengthened the case for tighter monetary policy, according to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 2025 Article IV Consultation Staff Report.

"Although inflation and growth remain subdued, ongoing capital outflows might hint that investors are reacting to heightened risk perceptions and concerns about the sustainability of current policies," the report says.

RATE SIGNAL

The IMF argues that raising the policy rate toward its interest rate parity level of about 7.5 percent would send a strong signal of support for Botswana's crawling peg exchange-rate regime. It notes that the parity condition "likely includes a non-zero premium reflecting Botswana's country risk," implying that the policy rate "may need to exceed 7.5 percent."

Such a move, the report says, "should increase confidence in the Pula and encourage investment in domestic assets, easing exchange rate pressures."

Given the current misalignment between the policy rate and deposit and lending rates, the IMF expects a limited short-term impact on credit conditions and economic growth. Over time, however, higher rates should help strengthen monetary transmission by reducing net capital outflows and supporting liquidity.

POLICY LIMITS

The IMF is clear that monetary policy alone cannot resolve Botswana's macroeconomic challenges. These, it says, "stem primarily from the decline in diamond revenue and accommodative fiscal stance." Without fiscal adjustment, reserve accumulation and exchange-rate stability would remain under pressure.

EXCHANGE CONCERNS

The report finds that Botswana's real effective exchange rate (REER) targeting regime has delivered relatively stable inflation but at a cost to competitiveness. While the Bank of Botswana's REER estimate has been broadly stable, a trade-based measure using non-diamond exports and unit labor costs shows "a 22-percent appreciating of the price of tradables in Botswana since 2013."

An external stability assessment indicates that Botswana's external position in 2024 was weaker than fundamentals imply, with an estimated 10.5 percent exchange-rate overvaluation. The IMF suggests technical adjustments to the REER framework, including revised basket weights and alternative price indices, alongside improved central bank communication.

FINANCIAL STRAIN

The financial sector is also facing mounting pressures. Delays in third-party payments are spilling over into missed mortgage and loan repayments. The report warns that the growing share of privately employed borrowers heightens banks' credit risk during downturns, while lower diamond prices have weakened repayment capacity in the mining sector.

Increased interconnectedness between banks and non-bank financial institutions—particularly through pension fund financing of government deficits—"warrants close monitoring," the IMF says, especially if conditions deteriorate further.

FNBB Tops BSE Trading

Equities and ETFs advanced in 2025, underscoring strong local participation despite a sharp bond market slowdown

GAZETTE REPORTER

Trading on the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) in 2025 was dominated by a handful of stocks, with FNBB, Sefalana and Sechaba accounting for more than a third of total equity turnover, according to the BSE Market Performance Review covering the period from 1 January to 30 November 2025.

LEADING STOCKS

"The top three traded companies in the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) during the period 1 January to 30 November 2025 were FNBB (P917.9 million), Sefalana (P608.7 million) and Sechaba (P449.9 million)," the report states. Together, the three counters contributed 36.1 percent of total equity turnover, with FNBB alone accounting for 16.8 percent.

The BSE noted that this was slightly lower than the same period in 2024, when the top three counters made up 38.5 percent of equity turnover. At that time, "the leading counter Sechaba accounted for 16.5 percent (P244.6 million) of total equity turnover." The exchange added that "32 of 33 of stocks listed on the BSE have been actively traded in the period under review."



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PRICE MOVEMENTS

Out of 33 listed companies — including BBS on the Serala OTC Board and GAIA Renewables on the Investment Entities Board — "19 appreciated in share price, 10 experienced no share price movements while four depreciated," the BSE said. Choppies emerged as the strongest performer, posting "a 48.1 percent growth," while "G4S experienced the biggest decline in share price of 62.9 percent."

INVESTOR ACTIVITY

Market turnover remained heavily concentrated among domestic players. "Total equity turnover amounted to P5.47 Billion," the report reads, adding that trading was "overwhelmingly driven by local companies, which contributed P5.05 Billion, representing 92.4 percent of total market turnover." Local individuals accounted for 6.8 percent, while "foreign investors, comprising both companies and individuals, collectively accounted for less than 1 percent of total turnover." Broker trading, the BSE said, "was minimal, with a negligible share of overall market turnover."

ETF MOMENTUM

The exchange reported continued growth in exchange traded funds. "The ETFs market performance has maintained an upward trajectory," with turnover rising to P500.6 million, up 22.6 percent from 2024. NewGold remained dominant, while NewPlat posted strong price gains. In contrast, "NewPall ETF saw minimal trading" and recorded a sharp price decline.

BOND DECLINE

Meanwhile, fixed-income trading weakened. "The total bond market turnover declined by 52 percent" compared with the same period in 2024, the BSE said.

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Quarterly Financial Disclosures

Public Disclosure on Actual Deposit Interest Rates October 2025 – December 2025

Type of Deposit Account	October Interest Rates (%)	November Interest Rates (%)	December Interest Rates (%)	Range* Interest Rates (%)
Current	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	0.00% - 0.60%	0.00% - 0.60%	0.00% - 0.60%	0.00% - 0.60%
Savings	0.00% - 4.10%	0.00% - 4.10%	0.00% - 4.10%	0.00% - 4.10%
3 months	1.40% - 14.75%	2.25% - 14.75%	2.25% - 13.50%	1.40% - 14.75%
6 months	0.00% - 12.00%	2.00% - 12.75%	3.00% - 14.50%	0.00% - 14.50%
12 months	0.00% - 12.50%	0.00% - 13.00%	0.00% - 12.00%	0.00% - 13.00%
24 months	3.50% - 3.50%	7.00% - 12.25%	5.50% - 13.00%	3.50% - 13.00%
Over 24 months	NA	NA	5.00% - 5.00%	5.00% - 5.00%

Public Disclosure on Actual Lending Interest Rates October 2025 – December 2025

Type of Lending Product	October Interest Rates (%)	November Interest Rates (%)	December Interest Rates (%)	Range* Interest Rates (%)
Monetary Policy Rate	1.90%	1.90%	3.50%	1.90 - 3.50%
Prime Lending Rate	7.16%	7.16%	7.16%	7.16%
Mortgage Facility	4.66% - 13.16%	4.66% - 12.11%	4.66% - 12.16%	4.66% - 13.16%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Credit Card	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lease Loans	4.66% - 7.16%	4.66% - 4.66%	NA	4.66% - 7.16%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	4.66% - 17.41%	4.66% - 25.00%	4.66% - 25.00%	4.66% - 25.00%
Other Long-Term Loans	NA	NA	NA	NA

***Range:** Minimum and Maximum Value Limits

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BDC Signals Strategic Reset

Annual report points to tighter capital deployment, a stronger balance sheet and ambitions to scale up Botswana's development finance role

GAZETTE REPORTER



The 2025 financial year marked what the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) describes as a decisive shift in strategy, shaped by economic headwinds that "demanded prudence and discipline," according to its latest annual report.

The 2025 financial year marked what the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) describes as a decisive shift in strategy, shaped by economic headwinds that "demanded prudence and discipline," according to its latest annual report.

BDC, the country's main investment agency for commercial and industrial development, says the year required restraint rather than expansion. Yet the report frames that restraint as groundwork for a larger role ahead. "It also revealed the scale of opportunity before us and underscored the urgency of repositioning BDC to play a much bigger role in Botswana's future," the corporation states.

MEASURED INVESTMENTS

The report characterises 2025 as "a year for measured deployments into carefully selected projects" aimed at strengthening supply chains, expanding production capacity and supporting commercially viable ventures of national importance. Total disbursements for the year amounted to P44.3 million, a relatively modest figure by historical standards.

BDC says this selectiveness sharpened execution and improved its financial posture, while allowing progress on foundational reforms. These reforms, the report notes, are intended to "transition BDC into a mega investment company capable of driving national economic sovereignty."

BALANCE SHEET

Financially, the corporation ended the year on firmer ground. Shareholder net worth rose to P2.2 billion, supported by a P200 million capital injection from the Government of Botswana. BDC says the injection "signals confidence in BDC's repositioning agenda" and provides capacity for the next phase of investment activity.

Group total assets closed the year at P5.8 billion, a level BDC attributes to a cautiously managed credit environment and targeted value creation within its investee companies.

PIPELINE VISIBILITY

Looking ahead, the report highlights a growing pipeline. By year-end, prospective investments stood at P1.2 billion, which BDC says offers "clear visibility of growth momentum for the ensuing financial year."

The corporation outlines priorities that include accelerating the conversion of maturing projects, mobilising more diverse sources of capital, expanding its regional footprint and delivering investments that generate quality jobs and long-term value.

STRATEGIC AMBITION

While the language of ambition is prominent, BDC emphasises structure over aspiration. "The transformation into a mega company is not aspirational; it is a structured, deliberate journey anchored in impact, competitiveness and execution excellence," the report states.

Deposit & Lending Interest Rates

For the month of January 2026



Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%) (Lowest-Highest)	Effective Interest Rates (%) (Lowest-Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (Pula)
Current	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	0.10% - 0.60%	0.10% - 0.60%	1000
Savings	0.15% - 5.50%	0.15% - 5.50%	100
91Day	1.00% - 3.50%	1.00% - 3.50%	1000
6 Months	1.76% - 4.01%	1.75% - 4.00%	1000
12 Months	2.05% - 6.25%	2.05% - 6.25%	1000
24 Months	2.25% - 6.25%	2.25% - 6.25%	1000
Over 24 Months	2.55% - 6.25%	2.55% - 6.25%	1000

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)
MoPR	3.5%	3.5%
Access Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate	7.16%	7.16%
Mortgage Facility	From ABB Prime +0.5% to ABB Prime +10%	From ABB Prime +0.50% to ABB Prime +10%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	From ABB Prime +1.0% to ABB Prime +20%	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +34.9%
Credit Card	Up to 32%	Up to 37.1%
Lease Loans	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +10%	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +10%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +25%	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +28.1%
Other Long-Term Loans	Not Available	

*Minimum Pricing Available

Effective from 1st April 2023, all commercial banks are authorized to set their own Prime Lending Rate (PLR). The Prime Lending Rate will now be referred to as the "Access Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate". The Access Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate is **7.16%** effective 14th May 2025.

Deposit Interest Rates shown are indicative only. For firm rates please contact any of our Branches and Sales and Service Centres:

Type of Deposit Account	Foreign Currency	Nominal Interest Rates (Lowest-Highest)	Effective Interest Rates (Lowest-Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (Pula)
Current	USD	Nil	Nil	Nil
	ZAR	Nil	Nil	Nil
	EUR	Nil	Nil	Nil
	GBP	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	USD	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	100
	ZAR	1.95% - 2.50%	1.97% - 2.53%	100
	EUR	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	100
	GBP	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	100
91 Day	USD	0.00% - 1.40%	0.00% - 1.41%	1000
	ZAR	2.50% - 3.15%	2.52% - 3.19%	1000
	EUR	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1000
	GBP	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1000
6 Months	USD	2.35% - 2.85%	2.36% - 2.87%	1000
	ZAR	3.70% - 4.70%	3.73% - 4.76%	1000
	EUR	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1000
	GBP	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1000
12 Months	USD	2.85% - 4.50%	2.85% - 4.50%	1000
	ZAR	4.71% - 5.50%	4.71% - 5.50%	1000
	EUR	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1000
	GBP	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1000
24 Months	USD	Negotiable		
	ZAR			
	EUR			
	GBP			
Over 24 Months	USD	Negotiable		
	ZAR			
	EUR			
	GBP			

Game City Branch	- 370 4700	Francistown Branch	- 245 0000
Fairgrounds Branch	- 367 4600	Selebi Phikwe Branch	- 263 1000
Airport Junction Branch	- 371 9700	Palapye Branch	- 494 1000
The Square Branch	- 398 5700	Maun Branch	- 682 0000
Ghanzi Sales and Service Centre	- 659 8800	Mahalapye Sales and Service Centre	- 474 9399
Molepolole Sales and Service Centre	- 592 3050	Lobatse Sales and Service Centre	- 533 0341
Letlhakane Sales and Service Centre	- 298 5011	Kasane Sales and Service Centre	- 625 0017
Kanye Sales and Service Centre	- 544 6300	Mochudi Sales and Service Centre	- 577 7162
Shakawe Sales and Service Centre	- 687 5244	Mogoditshane Sales and Service Centre	- 316 4584

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Lucara Deepens Karowe Bet

Updated feasibility study projects more than $1.3 billion in net income as underground expansion extends mine life to 2038

GAZETTE REPORTER

Lucara Diamond Corp., an independent producer best known for recovering some of the world's largest diamonds, says its Karowe Underground Project in Botswana is expected to generate more than $1.3 billion in net income over its life, according to an updated feasibility study released this week.

The study, prepared under National Instrument 43-101 standards, assesses the underground expansion of the company's 100 percent–owned Karowe Diamond Mine, located in north-central Botswana, one of the world's most prolific diamond-producing regions.

MINE EXTENSION

Karowe is a rare producer of large, high-value Type IIa diamonds and the only diamond mine globally to have recovered nine stones weighing more than 1,000 carats. The updated feasibility study confirms earlier findings that the underground project will extend the mine's life, with production expected to continue through 2038.

The underground mine life is projected at 19 years, with the South Lobe kimberlite pipe remaining open at depth. Over the life of the mine, Lucara expects total diamond recoveries of about 4.5 million carats.

PRODUCTION PROFILE

Operationally, the study outlines plans to mine approximately 28.5 million tonnes of ore and process about 37.3 million tonnes over the life of the underground project. The South Lobe's EM/PK(S) unit is identified as the dominant rock type to be mined, and historically it has been the source of many of Karowe's largest and most valuable diamonds.

These include the 2,488-carat Motswedi diamond, the 1,109-carat Lesedi La Rona, the 549-carat Sethunya, and, more recently, the 2,035-carat and 1,019-carat diamonds recovered in July and August 2025.

CAPITAL COSTS

Pre-production capital costs for the underground project, through the start of production in the first half of 2028, are estimated at $779 million over an eight-year construction and commissioning period. Lucara said more than $436 million has already been spent over the past five and a half years.

The study estimates an after-tax unlevered net present value, discounted at 8 percent, of $432.1 million, excluding the impact of interest deductibility on tax and costs incurred to date.

COMPANY VIEW

William Lamb, Lucara's president and chief executive, said the updated study supports the company's long-term strategy.

"Lucara is pleased to share the updated Feasibility Study for the Karowe Underground Project, which reinforces our strategic decision to extend mine life and continue to generate benefits for our stakeholders," Mr. Lamb said. "Karowe is a world-class mine, and we look forward to continuing to recover large, exceptional diamonds from the underground project."



Lucara Diamond Corp., an independent producer best known for recovering some of the world's largest diamonds, says its Karowe Underground Project in Botswana is expected to generate more than $1.3 billion in net income over its life, according to an updated feasibility study released this week.



The Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority was established under the BERA Act, 2016 (No 13 0f 2016) for the regulation of energy sector in Botswana. The Authority is responsible for providing an efficient regulatory framework for the regulated sector in accordance with the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority Act.

The Authority is currently recruiting for enthusiastic and agile professionals, on a 5 -year fixed term contract for the following roles:

1. HEAD, STRATEGY & RISK – VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 1 OF 2026
2. COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER - VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 2 OF 2026
3. COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER -VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 3 OF 2026 - PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE

Details of each post, including minimum requirements and key responsibilities, are available on the website: www.bera.co.bw

APPLICATIONS: Applicants should quote the Vacancy Circular Number and provide the following:

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Only applicants who meet the minimum requirements as stipulated above will be responded to. For further information, please contact: The Human Resource Office at **5317516/5317531**

BÊRA
BOTSWANA ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Regulating for Energy Security



Regulator Warns on Gambling Training

Online videos offering paid "training" on casino-style games have prompted a formal response from Botswana's Gambling Authority, clarifying what is permitted under the law and where risks to the public arise



GAZETTE REPORTER

Videos circulating on Facebook showing individuals charging fees to teach a casino games among them Aviator on a local betting platform have drawn regulatory scrutiny, raising questions about consumer protection, licensing and the boundaries of gambling education.

PUBLIC GUIDANCE

Responding to questions from this publication, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Gambling Authority, Moruntshi Kemorwale, said the Authority's role is anchored in public protection.

"As part of its statutory mandate to educate, protect, and safeguard the public, the Authority regularly issues public notices, and conducts awareness campaigns to inform the public about lawful gambling activities and practices," Kemorwale said.

He warned that the public should be cautious of schemes presented as education. "The Authority cautions members of the public against engaging in unlawful or unauthorised gambling-related activities," he said, adding that this includes "instances where individuals purport to offer training, instruction, or guaranteed outcomes in gambling games, which may expose participants to financial risk or exploitation."

Members of the public are encouraged to report suspicious activity through the Authority's Self-Help Portal via USSD code *228#, the toll-free number 19777, or email info@gamblingauthority.co.bw.

LICENSING RULES

On whether individuals may publicly teach or demonstrate how games on licensed platforms work, the Authority pointed to clear legal limits.

"In terms of Sections 97 and 102 of the Gambling Act, no person may engage in any occupation relating to gambling or provide any gambling-related service unless they are duly registered or licensed by the Gambling Authority," Kemorwale said.

He noted that licensed operators already have obligations toward patrons. "Under Regulation 77 of the Gambling Regulations, 2016, a licensee is required to ensure that the rules applicable to the games provided in its licensed premises are prominently displayed and readily accessible to patrons."

REGULATORY RESPONSE

While not all demonstrations automatically amount to illegal conduct, the Authority drew a line around paid instruction.

"Any activities involving training, education, or awareness raising within the gambling industry particularly where the outcome is the acquisition of skills or competencies by patrons must be conducted by a duly registered or licensed Service Provider or by the licensee," Kemorwale said.

He confirmed that the Authority is "monitoring and investigating suspected unlawful gambling 'training' or instructional activities conducted in public spaces or via social media" and will act "as provided for under the Act" where non-compliance is found.

Transport Operators Engage Consultant for Fare Review

Industry moves to quantify costs ahead of April 2026 fare decision

GAZETTE REPORTER

Public transport operators in Botswana say they will soon engage a consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of fare structures, as negotiations with government over possible increases enter a technical assessment phase.

Speaking in a telephone interview, the chairman of the Gaborone Taxi and Local Bus Service Association, Edison Tlhomelang, said the consultant will be tasked with analysing all cost variables affecting operators before a formal submission is made to the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure.

"The said individual will look at all variables that will lead to a fair review so that we can be able to submit to the Ministry," Tlhomelang said. "We ought to look at all variables but not fuel prices only in order to ask for a fair increment."

FARE REQUESTS

In December last year, the Botswana Public Transport Operators announced their intention to request fare increases from government, warning that a failure to reach agreement could lead to a strike. The proposals included raising taxi special fares to P36, normal taxi rides to P10, combi fares to P9, and long-distance transport charges to 38 thebe per kilometre from 35 thebe.

Following those announcements, the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure said it had met representatives of the operators to deliberate on the matter. In a statement issued at the time, the ministry said both sides had "amicably agreed to call off the planned strike and to undertake a comprehensive review of public transport fares."

The ministry added that the review would include consultations with the public and other key stakeholders, with revised fares scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2026.

LEGAL CHALLENGE

Separately , Tlhomelang said bus operators have been granted a rule nisi in a court case involving them, the Gaborone City Council and a private developer over the planned refurbishment of the Gaborone bus rank through a public-private partnership.

> "The said individual will look at all variables that will lead to a fair review so that we can be able to submit to the Ministry."

Operators approached the High Court under a certificate of urgency to stop construction works that were scheduled to begin at the start of the year. According to Tlhomelang, the concern is whether the project will disrupt daily transport operations.

"Our bone of contention is that we want assurance that our operations won't be affected by the works," he said. "If they will be affected, alternative arrangements have to be made to minimise disruptions."

The City Council and the developer opposed the application, arguing that the project should proceed as planned. Construction is currently on hold, and the matter is expected to return to the Lobatse High Court on March 6, 2026.

INTERIM MEASURES

Tlhomelang said operators are not opposed to the redevelopment itself, but to how it is being implemented. "It must be noted that we do not refuse for the developments to take place at the bus rank," he said. "We refuse the way the things are done."





Botswana's De Beers Stake Loses P17 Billion in Value

Falling valuations raise questions about proposed increase in equity exposure

DOUGLAS RASBASH

MARKET VALUATION DECLINES

As Botswana debates whether to increase its shareholding in De Beers, new valuation data suggests caution. According to economic analyst Keith Jefferis, Botswana's existing 15% stake in the diamond giant has lost approximately P17 billion in real value since 2011. When the Oppenheimer family sold its 40% stake to Anglo American for US$5.1 billion in 2011, De Beers carried an implied valuation of US$12.75 billion. Botswana's share was then worth an estimated US$1.9 billion. Based on Anglo American's current valuation of US$4.1 billion for its 85% holding, Botswana's stake is now valued at around US$700 million.



HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP, CHANGING RETURNS

The decline in equity value does not negate the historic success of the Botswana–De Beers partnership. Through Debswana, the relationship delivered significant national benefits, including profits, royalties, tax revenues, employment and skills development. However, from an investment perspective, De Beers equity has not delivered long-term capital appreciation. This raises important questions for policymakers considering increasing Botswana's exposure to the company.

Investment Risk Considerations

Financial analysts note that if De Beers were a publicly traded company, institutional investors such as pension funds would likely have reduced their holdings long ago. From a portfolio management perspective, the declining valuation suggests heightened risk rather than opportunity. Any proposal to acquire additional shares therefore carries a high burden of proof to demonstrate clear economic returns.

LIMITED DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

Critics argue that increasing equity in De Beers would not directly create jobs, diversify the economy or expand productive capacity. It is also unlikely to materially increase per capita income or advance key National Development Plan 12 objectives. From a development standpoint, the proposed acquisition does not appear to address structural economic challenges facing the country.

DIAMOND SECTOR UNDER PRESSURE

The broader diamond industry is currently experiencing significant strain. Global diamond prices have fallen sharply, with the overall market estimated to have lost around half its value since the post-pandemic peak. Recent sales by the Okavango Diamond Company have reportedly struggled to meet reserve prices, reflecting subdued demand.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL WARNINGS

Across Southern Africa, several diamond mines have been closed or placed on care and maintenance as companies respond to weak market conditions. International institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, have warned of fiscal risks associated with prolonged weakness in the diamond sector and continued dependence on a single commodity.

STRATEGIC POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Economic observers suggest that the current environment calls for diversification rather than deeper concentration in diamonds. While diamonds remain central to Botswana's economy, the long-term trend underscores the importance of expanding into other sectors to reduce vulnerability to commodity cycles.



Botswana Goes Viral

Influence, Authenticity, and the Quiet Power of Being Real

DOUGLAS RASBASH

AN UNSCRIPTED DIGITAL MOMENT

Botswana entered 2026 with an unexpected but welcome boost: a global digital spotlight shone not by a formal advertising campaign, a glossy tourism brochure, or a ministerial roadshow, but by one of the world's most influential online creators, IShowSpeed. Known for his high-energy livestreams and an audience counted in the tens of millions across platforms, Speed's visit to Botswana was refreshingly unscripted. No narration. No staging. No brand messaging. Just a young global influencer encountering Botswana's landscapes, wildlife and other realities with calm confidence in real time — and sharing that experience instantly with the world.

SEEING BOTSWANA THROUGH FRESH EYES

The result was something modern tourism marketing often struggles to manufacture genuine curiosity. Viewers did not simply see animals on safari. They saw Botswana through the eyes of someone encountering it for the first time the vastness, the humour, the unexpected stillness, and the sense of space that defines the country. In a digital era dominated by filters, exaggeration, and performance, Botswana's appeal came through precisely because it did not try to perform.

INFLUENCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

This moment matters because the way the world discovers countries have changed. Influence today is no longer driven primarily by official campaigns, embassies, or carefully curated narratives. It is driven by individuals. Influencers — whether governments like it or not have become the new intermediaries of perception. A single livestream can now reach more people in a day than a national tourism authority or diamond producer might reach in a year. More importantly, it reaches them emotionally, not administratively.

AUTHENTICITY OVER APPROVAL

The influencer phenomenon does not operate on the logic of policy papers or economic rationality. It operates on relatability, spontaneity, and trust. Younger audiences in particular place far more weight on what feels authentic than on what feels approved. They are not waiting to be "sold" a destination; they want to experience it vicariously. Speed's livestreams and clips reached hundreds of thousands directly and millions indirectly through reposts, reaction videos, commentary, and algorithmic amplification. In doing so, they placed Botswana firmly into the everyday digital consciousness of a generation that may not yet be thinking about safaris or diamonds but now knows exactly where Botswana is.

THE DIAMOND MOMENT

One brief moment from the visit went especially viral. In a clip that circulated widely, Speed expressed surprise that he could not simply buy a rough diamond in Botswana and take it with him. Some online reactions framed this as irony or contradiction: how could a diamond-producing country restrict access to its most famous resource?

> "Influence today is no longer driven primarily by official campaigns, embassies, or carefully curated narratives. It is driven by individuals. Influencers whether governments like it or not have become the new intermediaries of perception"

WHY ROUGH DIAMONDS ARE RESTRICTED

In reality, the explanation is straightforward and revealing. The sale of rough diamonds is strictly prohibited, not because of bureaucracy or secrecy, but because diamonds are strategic national resources. Their production, valuation, and movement are governed by tightly controlled systems involving the state and long-standing arrangements with De Beers, designed to prevent smuggling, protect national revenues, and ensure value is retained within the formal economy. Rough diamonds are not curiosities or souvenirs; they are industrial commodities.

HOW MESSAGES TRAVEL ONLINE

Yet the moment itself is instructive because it highlights how influence actually works. No one expects to walk into a country and casually buy a kilogram of copper concentrate, 100 grams of uranium, or a ton of iron ore. These materials are governed by permits, contracts, export controls, and international regimes. Diamonds are no different. But when an influencer expresses surprise at such a restriction, the message travels — stripped of context — and becomes part of the public imagination.

Reaching a New Audience

Most vitally Speed's following are probably not wealthy safari lovers or even those prepared to invest in forever diamonds, but they are young mostly African Americans that are touched deeply by the African connection. Our tourism and diamond marketing is focused almost exclusively on wealthy mostly white social segments. What Speed has done is to turn that on its head. Millions are more interested in the African connection. The wide-open unspoiled spaces of their ancestors and a mineral called diamond that simply embodies Africanness. It is not hard to imagine a marketing campaign – to wear a piece of African History that is as old as time itself.

THE POWER OF ALGORITHMS

That is the nature of modern influence. Messages are put out there, sometimes incomplete, sometimes naïve, sometimes accidental but they still land. Algorithms do not reward nuance or accuracy; they reward engagement. Surprise travels faster than explanation. And once a message is out there, it shapes perception whether or not it is fully understood.

RISK AND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTSWANA

For countries like Botswana, the rise of influencer-led promotion presents both risk and opportunity. The risk is obvious: complex national policies, particularly around resources, conservation, or regulation, can be misunderstood in seconds. A casual remark can outrun decades of careful stewardship. But the opportunity is far greater. Influence humanises countries. It bypasses officialdom. It reaches audiences that formal diplomacy, glamorous star-studded gatherings and conventional marketing simply cannot.

A NEW ERA OF PROMOTION

The broader lesson is that tourism promotion itself is changing and those for diamonds should take heed too. Carefully staged campaigns still have a role, but they no longer monopolise attention. Influence now comes from moments that feel real, unpolished, and human. In this context, Botswana's and indeed Africa's greatest advantage is precisely that it does not need to exaggerate. The environment, the people, and the experience carry the narrative naturally. As Botswana reflects on economic transition, digital exposure of this kind does not replace policy, infrastructure, or investment but it complements them. It places Botswana and Africa into the everyday global conversation, not as a spectacle, but as a place of calm competence and quiet depth to which the World owes so much.



When Might Became Right Again

DOUGLAS RASBASH

A TROUBLING START TO 2026

As 2026 began, hopes for a peaceful year were quickly disrupted by reports of a US-led operation in Venezuela, including the detention of the country's sitting president. For many observers, the incident symbolised a deeper shift in global politics. For decades, the international system has claimed to operate on the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention and rule-based order, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Yet recent events suggest that power continues to shape outcomes, even if it now does so through subtler means.

FROM EMPIRES TO INFLUENCE

Traditional imperialism may have faded, but its modern form has adapted. Power today is exercised through financial systems, sanctions, trade restrictions and diplomatic recognition. The language of conquest has been replaced by the vocabulary of markets, human rights and security. While these tools are often justified on moral grounds, their impact frequently reflects economic and strategic priorities rather than consistent principles.

> Venezuela shows how economic pressure can reshape societies without a single shot being fired.

VENEZUELA AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE

Venezuela illustrates how modern power is deployed. Under President Nicolás Maduro, democratic space narrowed and human rights abuses were documented. However, it was not governance failures alone that turned Venezuela into a global flashpoint. The country holds the world's largest proven oil reserves, making it strategically important. Instead of military invasion, pressure took the form of financial sanctions, oil export restrictions, asset freezes and diplomatic isolation. The economic impact was severe. Everyday life became unsustainable for millions, triggering a mass exodus of more than seven million people across Latin America. Public services deteriorated, incomes collapsed and families were separated. Yet political elites endured, and new trading partners emerged. What suffered most was society itself.

SHIFTING PRIORITIES

TODAY, AS ENERGY MARKETS TIGHTEN, SANCtions are being quietly eased and Venezuelan oil is re-entering global supply chains. This has prompted renewed questions about motivation. If the primary objective was human rights, critics ask why pressure has softened as strategic energy needs grow. The episode highlights how geopolitical priorities can evolve rapidly when economic interests are at stake.

UKRAINE AND STRATEGIC GEOGRAPHY

Ukraine presents another example of how value shapes international attention. The human suffering is undeniable, and the country's sovereignty is widely supported. However, analysts note that eastern Ukraine contains major industrial assets, fertile agricultural land and key transport routes. It raises an uncomfortable question: would global engagement be as intense if the territory held less economic value? This dynamic reflects a form of modern imperialism driven by access and influence rather than direct annexation.

> Modern power is exercised through sanctions, finance and diplomatic influence rather than military conquest.

THE LIMITS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The United Nations Charter was designed to restrain the powerful and prevent unilateral action. However, its effectiveness depends on voluntary compliance. In practice, enforcement remains uneven. Powerful states retain the ability to interpret rules to suit their interests, often justifying actions through legal or humanitarian narratives.

LESSONS FOR SMALLER STATES

While Botswana is far removed from global conflict zones, the implications are relevant. Stability, strong governance and predictability have made Botswana a respected international partner. However, these strengths do not guarantee immunity from global power dynamics. Economic diversification, strategic foresight and policy independence are increasingly important forms of national defence.

POWER AND PRINCIPLE

The challenge for smaller nations is not to reject global engagement, but to understand how power operates within it. The international system promised that law would restrain dominance. Instead, power has learned to operate through legal and economic frameworks. As 2026 unfolds, the lesson is clear: principles matter, but so does the reality of power. Sustainable security lies in preparedness, diversification and an honest understanding of global dynamics.

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THE BENEFITS

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Why Public Relations Is the Missing Link in Successful Change Management



BONTLE RAPITSENYANE

In today's fast-moving and uncertain business environment, change is no longer optional, it is fact, inevitable. Organisations must continuously adapt to remain relevant, competitive and sustainable. Yet despite the best intentions, many change initiatives fail, not because the strategy was flawed, but because people were not sufficiently engaged. This is where Public Relations (PR) becomes not just useful, but essential.

Organisational change generally falls into two categories: incremental and transformational. Incremental change builds on the current state of the organisation to improve existing ways of working. It typically involves limited adjustments, affects a small group of people and is therefore easier to implement successfully.

Transformational change, however, is far more complex. Designed from a future state, it introduces fundamentally new ways of working and often requires deep cultural shifts across the organisation. Research shows that transformational change has a success rate of only about 30% (Taking Stock survey by *The Change Management Toolbook*, February 2005). The reason is simple but profound: it is easier to change a process than it is to change a culture.

Culture consists of shared values, beliefs, assumptions and unwritten rules that shape behaviour, mindset and performance. It is co-created daily through conversations and behavioural norms. Within organisations, multiple subcultures often exist, adding further complexity. Any meaningful change effort that ignores culture is likely to face resistance, fatigue or quiet non-compliance.

This is why successful change requires both project management and change management. While project management focuses on tasks, timelines and deliverables, change management focuses on people; how they understand, accept and sustain change. These two disciplines are complementary, not interchangeable. When combined, they increase the likelihood that the intended benefits of a change initiative are fully realised.

At the heart of every change effort lies one common denominator: people.

According to Chip and Dan Heath, authors of *Switch*, human behaviour is governed by two systems: the rational and the emotional. They describe these as the *Rider* and the *Elephant*. The Rider represents logic and planning, while the Elephant represents emotion and motivation. For change to succeed, both must move in the same direction.

To change behaviour, three things must happen. First, leaders must direct the Rider by making the destination clear. What often looks like resistance is actually confusion. Second, they must motivate the Elephant by helping people feel the need for change. What looks like resistance is often exhaustion or lack of emotional buy-in. Third, they must shape the Path by making the required changes specific and practical. What appears to be resistance may simply be a lack of direction.

Achieving all of this requires far more than technical adjustments or operational improvements. It demands a paradigm shift driven by effective communication, engagement and trust and these are core competencies of Public Relations.

PR professionals play a critical role as organisational change agents. Their responsibilities extend well beyond crafting messages. First, they are tasked with clearly communicating the rationale for change, ensuring employees understand not just *what* is changing, but *why*. Second, they help motivate employees to actively engage with and support change initiatives. Third, they assist in establishing and reinforcing a shared vision of the future state.

PR also plays an important role in influencing decision-making upward, facilitating dialogue across hierarchical levels and supporting conflict resolution during periods of uncertainty (Capizzo, 2023). Equally important is the feedback loop. PR alongside HR practitioners listen to employee concerns, perceptions and anxieties, providing leadership with insights that allow for timely adjustments to change implementation. Finally, they help build alliances and coalitions both internally and externally, that are critical for sustaining momentum and legitimacy (Burnes and Hughes, 2023).

In essence, PR is the bridge between strategy and people. It aligns the rational Rider with the emotional Elephant, shapes the path forward and nurtures the culture required for change to take root. Without effective PR, change becomes something that is *done to* people. With PR, change becomes something people *own*. As organisations continue to navigate complex and transformational shifts, recognising PR as a strategic partner in change management is no longer optional, it is imperative.

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2026

Pole to Pole With Will Smith Premieres Today



On 14 January 2026, Botswana steps onto the world stage as National Geographic premieres Pole to Pole with Will Smith, a seven-part docuseries that journeys across continents and deep into the Kalahari

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana will be part of a historic television moment when Pole to Pole with Will Smith premieres on Wednesday, 14 January 2026 on National Geographic (DStv Channel 181). Announced by MultiChoice Botswana, a Canal+ company, the highly anticipated series marks a five-year, seven-continent expedition led by the Academy Award-winning actor.

Filmed over 100 days and spanning 26,000 miles, the series sees Smith confronting extreme environments while searching for answers to life's biggest questions, a journey inspired by his late mentor, Dr. S. Allen Counter.

BOTSWANA IN FOCUS

One of the most powerful episodes for Southern African audiences unfolds in Botswana's Kalahari Desert. Here, Smith immerses himself in the culture and resilience of the San people, one of the world's oldest hunter-gatherer communities.

Guided by San man Kane Motswana, Smith joins a traditional hunt, learning how ancestral knowledge has enabled survival in one of Earth's harshest landscapes. The episode offers an intimate portrait of resilience, climate adaptation and deep respect for nature, framed by the vastness of the Kalahari and the spirit of the Okavango region.

A JOURNEY THAT TRANSFORMS

"This journey was unlike anything I've ever experienced," Smith said in a statement. "Traveling pole to pole has not only changed the way I see our planet, it's changed the way I see myself."

Across the series, Smith skis Antarctic icefields, faces fears in the Amazon, treks Himalayan villages in Bhutan, and dives beneath Arctic ice, all alongside scientists and local experts.

> "Traveling pole to pole has not only changed the way I see our planet, it's changed the way I see myself"

WHY THIS PREMIERE MATTERS

For Botswana, the episode is more than a television moment. It is global visibility rooted in authenticity, a rare opportunity for international audiences to encounter the country's people, knowledge systems and landscapes through lived experience rather than spectacle.

WHEN AND WHERE TO WATCH

Pole to Pole with Will Smith premieres on National Geographic (DStv Channel 181) on Wednesday, 14 January 2026, airing weekly as a seven-part docuseries.





FAST TRACK CONTENT MONETISATION, BOTSWANA!

IShowSpeed didn't just visit Botswana, he cracked open a conversation the creative industry has been whispering about for years. The world is watching. The content is hitting. The money, however, is still not landing locally

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Botswana didn't need a script, a drone shot or a glossy campaign. All it needed was a livestream.

In a matter of hours, IShowSpeed turned streets, museums, malls and the Delta into global content — watched, clipped, memed and debated by millions. The world didn't just see Botswana. It felt it loud, chaotic, funny and real.

And in doing so, the American streaming sensation proved something local creatives have known for years: Botswana is content-rich but cash-poor by design.

WHEN VIRAL BECAME VALIDATION

Speed's visit didn't sell Botswana as a postcard but a place where people live, joke, dance and dream.

According to Business Botswana Creative & Media Sector Vice Chair Kabelo Rapinyana, that shift mattered deeply.

"It humanised the country and presented Botswana through the eyes of everyday people, especially young people," he said. "Seeing neighbourhoods like Old Naledi appear on a global platform created a sense of pride, validation and inclusion."

THE MONEY QUESTION

Speed didn't just show up — he streamed, monetised and moved on. That's the part that hit hardest.

While Botswana trended, local creators watched a painful truth play out in real time: the system that pays Speed doesn't pay them and If we don't monetise our stories, we're just providing free stages for someone else's success.

The Minister of Sport and Arts Jacob Kelebeng told Time Out: "We are currently in talks with social media giants. We will update in due course."

CONTENT IS AN ECONOMY

Speed's content reached audiences Botswana's tourism and diamond campaigns rarely touch — young, mobile, digitally fluent viewers who don't read brochures.

Rapinyana explained the ripple effect: "This kind of organic exposure stimulates interest in city tourism, supports local vendors and creates opportunities for digital content creators to monetise Botswana-based stories."

But here's the catch: virality without systems doesn't last. Without monetisation, creators burn out. Stories get exported for free. Attention becomes charity work.

CULTURE DID WHAT MARKETING COULDN'T

From street culture moments to Speed's interaction with the Mafitlhakgosi traditional group, Botswana's identity showed up layered — modern and ancestral, playful and disciplined.

Mafitlhakgosi founder Joseph Ikopeng says the impact is already visible. "The interaction sparked interest especially from locals living in Botswana and abroad," he said in an interview. "We are hopeful that more opportunities will come out of it as he has placed us on the global stage."

THE INTERNET

Not everything landed cleanly. Wildlife stunts drew criticism online. Some called it reckless. Others argued the authenticity outweighed the chaos. And the debate itself kept Botswana trending.

THE MISSED LINK

One major critique dominated creative spaces online: Speed wasn't paired with local streamers.

No creator exchange. No co-streams. No intentional passing of the mic.

"IShowSpeed gave hope to a lot of streamers in BW, this is priceless," Rapinyana said. "But I'm disappointed he didn't directly engage with local creators."

That absence exposed the gap Botswana must urgently fill — integration.

> "If we don't monetise our stories, we're just providing free stages for someone else's success."

WHAT SPEED REALLY TAUGHT US

Speed didn't bring anything Botswana doesn't already have. He brought proof that unpolished content works, cities matter, that youth culture is export-ready and that streaming is not a hobby but an industry.

Now the responsibility shifts. If Botswana doesn't fast-track monetisation, creator support and platform access, this moment becomes another viral memory not an economic turning point.

Planting Conservation Early

Environmentalist and beauty pageant titleholder, Seneo Perry turns her passion for wildlife into a children's book that gently introduces conservation, safari language and purpose to young minds

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Environmental advocate and former Miss Earth Botswana Seneo Perry has added "children's author" to her growing list of titles with her book The Little Girl Who Fell in Love with Elephants, now published on Amazon.com. Inspired by childhood trips into the bush with her father and hands-on conservation work, the book is a heartfelt tribute to Botswana's elephants and landscapes.

"The book was born from my deepest passions: Botswana's wild spaces, its elephants, and the stories that connect us to conservation," Perry said, adding that volunteering with Elephant Havens Wildlife Foundation shaped the story's emotional core.

WORDS THAT SHAPE AWARENESS

More than a bedtime story, the book intentionally introduces children to safari language as a gateway to environmental understanding. "Language shapes perception," Perry explained. "I wanted children to learn words like herd and elephant handlers so they begin to understand how



ecosystems function and why they matter."

DREAMING WITH PURPOSE

At the centre of the story is a young girl whose love for elephants sparks dreams of who she might become. Perry believes this connection is powerful. "When children see someone like them caring deeply for wildlife, it inspires a bigger dream," she said. "Your passions can shape your future and make a real impact… Children aren't just reading; they're building the foundation of conservation thinking and that's one of the key reasons I wrote it."

HOPEFUL CONSERVATION

Drawing from real-life rescue and rehabilitation work, the narrative balances honesty with hope. "I focused on emotions children already understand — wonder, friendship, curiosity," Perry said, ensuring the message remains empowering rather than overwhelming.

CONVERSATIONS THAT CONTINUE

Perry hopes the book sparks dialogue beyond its pages. "I want children asking, 'How can we help elephants?' and 'What can I do to make a difference?'" she said.



The Table Is Set for Kazungula

From river junctions to borderlines, Between U & I is turning the long table into Botswana's most stylish cultural moment. As 2026 kicks off, all eyes are on Kazungula where food, travel and identity are about to collide

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

If you weren't in Maun for the traveling Long Table Experience, you felt it anyway. The videos, sunset shots, the "you had to be there" captions that flooded timelines and triggered instant FOMO. Somewhere between the boat cruise arrivals and plates landing like poetry, the Between U & I Long Table Experience quietly became that cultural moment that people are still referencing.

Now, it's moving again. And this time, it's headed somewhere symbolic.

WHY KAZUNGULA HITS DIFFERENT

Kazungula isn't just another destination. It's where borders, trade routes and waterways converge — Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia in one breath. Taking the Long Table there turns a dining experience into a cultural statement.

Founder Uyapo Ketogetswe puts it plainly: "With Kazungula, we are leveraging its unique geographic position where borders, trade routes and waterways converge to create an experience that speaks to shared heritage and cross-border connection."

In 2026, the Long Table is evolving from a beautiful idea into an intentional platform for destination storytelling. And youth culture is watching closely. Experiences are the new currency not just where you go, but what it means.



FROM DINNER TO DESTINATION

What made Maun special wasn't just what was on the table, it was how guests got there. The journey mattered. The waiting mattered. The landscape mattered.

That philosophy is being doubled down on in Kazungula.

"The experience will extend beyond the table itself," Ketogetswe explained to Time Out. "Incorporating journey, landscape and local collaboration to encourage longer stays, deeper engagement and repeat visitation."

WHEN INGREDIENTS TELL STORIES

One of the most talked-about elements from Maun was how deeply local the menu felt without feeling predictable.

Waterlilies harvested from Maun's waterways became tswii. Ngamiland bream starred in battered fish tacos. Lerotse ice cream, made from freshly prepared kgodu ya lerotse, closed the night. Meanwhile, global premium beer brand Stella Artois elevated the experience from arrival to final toast. As guests stepped into the riverside setting, they were welcomed with a refreshing Stella-based cocktail: the Stella Star Martini.

> "This is where the Long Table quietly flexes. It proves that luxury doesn't have to be imported it can be grown, harvested and cooked right here"

THAT APPROACH ISN'T CHANGING.

"Our approach is built on place-based partnerships and sustainable local value creation," said Ketogetswe. "Ingredients are sourced within the host region wherever possible, while menus reflect local food systems, seasonal availability and traditional knowledge."

This is where the Long Table quietly flexes. It proves that luxury doesn't have to be imported — it can be grown, harvested and cooked right here.

CULTURE, BUT MAKE IT SCALABLE

The move to Kazungula also signals growth carefully managed, intentionally paced.

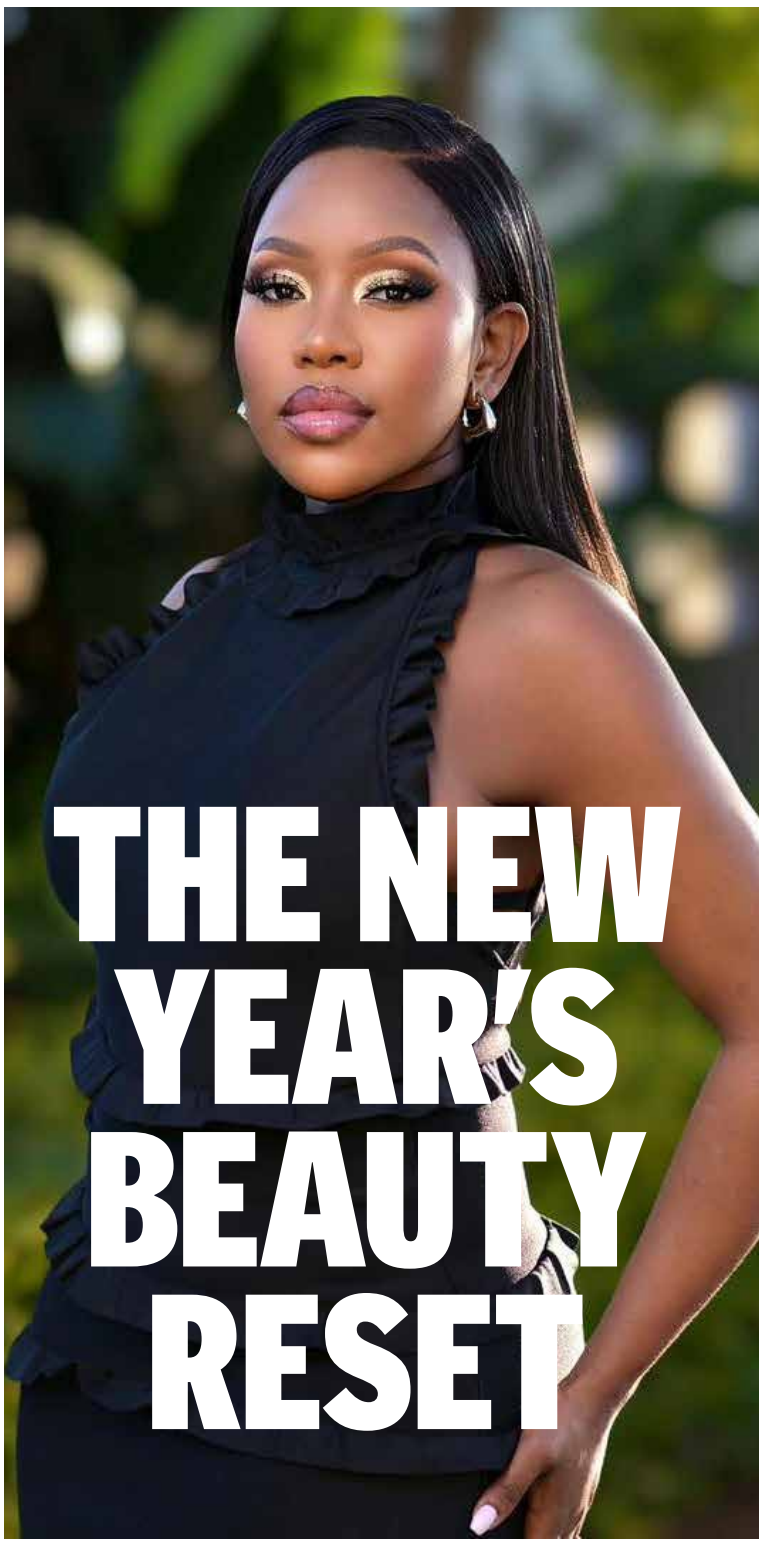
Between U & I is formalising collaborations with farmers, creatives, artisans and service providers, while partnering with brands that align with craftsmanship and cultural respect. It's how the experience remains aspirational without losing authenticity.

"The goal is balance," Ketogetswe says. "Honouring what is deeply local, while introducing guests to something unexpected — ensuring every table feels familiar, yet entirely its own."

THE NEXT SEAT

Scheduled for February 28, 2026, the Kazungula Long Table Experience is already being whispered about in travel circles and group chats. And if Maun taught us anything, it's this: seats won't stay open for long.

Because when food meets place, and place meets story, the table becomes more than a table. It becomes a moment.



The New Year's Beauty Reset Brunch returns to Gaborone with a refined soft-luxury aesthetic and a powerful focus on confidence, clarity and intentional beauty

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Set against the elevated backdrop of the Game City Rooftop in Gaborone, the New Year's Beauty Reset Brunch returns on 7 February 2026 with an atmosphere of quiet luxury, clarity and confidence. With a dress code of soft luxury shades of white and yellow, the event invites women to step into the new year polished, feminine and intentional.

FILLING A CRITICAL GAP

Hosted by influential beauty professional and content creator Jessica Molefe, the Beauty Reset Brunch was created in response to a missing link in Botswana's women's lifestyle space.

"One of the biggest gaps I identified was the disconnect between beautifully curated women's events and the lack of practical, usable skills that women can take home and apply to their everyday lives," Molefe told Time Out.

At the heart of the event is a live makeup and skin-preparation masterclass designed to equip women with confidence and competence. "It is not there for entertainment, it is there to equip women with the skills to confidently do their own makeup, understand their skin, and use beauty as a tool for self-expression and self-belief," she explained.

> "Beauty is not just about products, it is about how a woman sees herself, how she values herself, and how confidently she occupies space"

REDEFINING BEAUTY FROM WITHIN

In an industry often criticised for surface-level standards, the Beauty Reset Brunch repositions beauty as something that begins internally. "Beauty is not just about products, it is about how a woman sees herself, how she values herself, and how confidently she occupies space," Molefe said.

The experience blends practical education with identity-based conversations, resulting in what Molefe describes as "a mental and emotional shift; clarity, confidence and alignment."

LUXURY WITH PURPOSE

For Molefe, luxury is intentional. "Luxury with purpose means creating an elevated experience that is still deeply meaningful. It is not about excess, it is about intention," she said.

A CURATED LINE-UP

The brunch features an impressive line-up including leadership coach David Ini Grace, dermatologist Dr Eugene Hirschfeld of Sidilega Hospital, fitness expert Patlo Kgosidialwa of Snapback Fitness, with Bakes, Bakes, Bakes as MC.

Tickets are priced at P450, with limited seats available.

Zebra-Striping: The Drinking Rule Nobody Announced

More people are quietly rethinking how they drink — not quitting alcohol, not going cold turkey, but alternating it with non-alcoholic options. It's called zebra-striping, and it's changing nightlife, wellness conversations and festive habits

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Nobody made a press release about it. No influencer officially launched it. But scroll through social media stories, vlogs or updates and a pattern keeps popping up: a cocktail… then water. A beer… then a mocktail.

Dry January is starting to feel a bit loud — and a bit extreme. Instead, more people are quietly choosing something softer, more realistic, and frankly more sustainable: zebra-striping, the habit of alternating alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks on a night out. It's not about quitting the vibe. It's about keeping it.

FROM DRY JANUARY TO REAL LIFE BALANCE

For years, the festive season in Botswana has followed a familiar script: overindulge in December, repent in January. But online conversations suggest that script is getting tired.

Across social media, people are admitting what many already feel — Dry January sounds good in theory, but real life, weddings, festivals and birthdays don't always cooperate. Zebra-striping feels less like punishment and more like self-control without self-denial.

FESTIVE SEASON, UNFILTERED

Ask around and the answers are refreshingly honest. Some people moderate. Some go all in. Some swear they'll stop "after just one more weekend." And many admit their alcohol resolutions last… until the next event flyer drops.

What's changed is the conversation. Drinking is no longer just about turning up, it's about how long you can stay present, hydrated, social and functional the next day. Zebra-striping fits perfectly into a generation that wants enjoyment and control.

WHY THIS TREND IS STICKING

This isn't about moralising alcohol. It's about agency. Younger crowds are choosing balance over extremes, wellness over hangovers, and intention over autopilot.

WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT US RIGHT NOW

Zebra-striping reflects a wider cultural shift: Botswana's youth still want to celebrate, but they also want to remember the night, protect their bodies and show up the next day. Not sober. Not reckless. Just conscious.

Village Imaging
Independent Diagnostic Imaging

T/A PRONTO INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD
P O BOX 10153, GABORONE
TEL: +267 3912842 / 3912868
FAX 3912852
Email: doctor@vi.co.bw

RADIOGRAPHER POSITION

Required with at least 8 years of experience in Radiology Practice.
Must be registered with BHPC.
A relevant qualification in Radiography
Experience in X-ray, Ultrasound, Mammogram, Bone Density, CT & MRI.
Experience in Administration and Operational Management would be welcomed.

Deadline: **30th January 2026**

Applications to be sent to:
Operations Manager
Village Medical Day Care Centre
Po box 10153
Gaborone
Email: **manager@vmc.co.bw**

Inside the Festive Events Boom

From sold-out festivals to polished production and a policy shake-up that changed nightlife behaviour, Botswana's festive season signalled an entertainment industry stepping confidently into its next chapter

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Looking back at the festive season, Botswana's entertainment calendar did more than survive economic pressure, it thrived. According to Botswana Entertainment Promoters Association (BEPA) chairperson Goaba Mojakgomo, the December period showcased an industry comfortable with variety, scale and audience demand.

"We had a variety of events over the festive season," Mojakgomo said in an interview. "Lifestyle events such as the Day Club and Piano Sunsets in Maun, your usual music festivals like Born and Raised, Gaabo Motho and Home Coming, and then new entrants in the market like Pacers and others that supported and sustained restaurants and venues."

Hotels including Avani, Hilton and Hotel 430 also joined the festive economy with curated experiences, some deliberately designed as family-friendly alternatives to open-air music festivals. The result was a layered offering that appealed to different demographics, music tastes and spending habits.

SOLD-OUT SHOWS

What stood out most, Mojakgomo explained, was attendance. "From our general assessment overview, the majority of promoters that held events this festive season were able to pull impressive numbers as opposed to last year," he said.

"The majority of promoters sold out, that is just how impressive this year's events were, despite the economic hardships."

Despite ongoing economic hardships, promoters reported sell-outs across multiple shows — a rare and encouraging shift. Even more telling was reliability. "For the very first time, 10 out of 12 international artists showed up," Mojakgomo noted. "That says our promoters have stepped up in terms of delivering what is expected by the consumer."

Competition, he said, was healthy and visible. "You saw stages built in about three shows which were for the very first time dealt with in a managed way. The product promoters put out was quite impressive, better than what we have been accustomed to."

WHEN POLICY COLLIDED WITH PARTY CULTURE

Yet, not all the pressure came from ticket sales. The Liquor Amendment Regulations of 2025, which allowed liquor outlets to operate until 6am during the festive period, shifted consumer behaviour overnight.

"Some people who ordinarily would have gotten to our shows decided to go to pubs instead," Mojakgomo said. "Everybody wanted not to miss this first experience."



For promoters, the impact was immediate. "It hits on ticket sales, it hits on food stalls, it hits on liquor sales at events," he explained. "People would rather buy two for the price of one at a bar than one at an event."

THE ECONOMIC RIPPLE EFFECT

Still, the festive season delivered tangible benefits on the ground. In Serowe, Born and Raised Festival expanded vending opportunities dramatically. "The council demarcated land to host 80 food stalls outside the stadium, in addition to the 15 inside," Mojakgomo said. "Almost 100 vendors had an opportunity to sell and each one of them made money."

Medium-scale businesses also saw sales spike, boosted by extended trading hours and increased foot traffic.

WHAT COMES NEXT FOR FESTIVE EVENTS

As the industry looks ahead, Mojakgomo is clear: consultation is now essential. "We need to engage with the relevant ministry to amend this legislation so that it becomes healthy for all stakeholders," he said.

He added that promoters, musicians and alcohol associations were not adequately consulted. "If there is need for us to help with capacity on the ground, we are happy to assist. Our membership is spread across the length and breadth of this republic."

For an industry that proved its resilience and relevance this festive season, the next challenge is ensuring policy evolves in step with progress.

CLERK OF COURT
VILLAGE MAGISTRATE COURT
GRADE: COC
ISSUED BY: 20 MAR 2025
CLERK OF COURT: PLOT X01, GABORONE BOTSWANA
No. CCMVL-000579-25
Date

H/W NKAU

Plaintiff's Attorneys

SUMMONS COMMENCING ACTION **Sued by**

Plaintiff's Attorneys

MALETE ATTORNEYS
Plot 18573, Phase 2
Aresutalane Way
(Opposite CBD)
PO Box 748 AAH
GABORONE
Botswana

IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR THE GABORONE DISTRICT
HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO.

In the matter between:
ORENEILE MOTLHAPELE BOKOLE **Plaintiff**
and
BAME MODIKWA **Defendant**

TO: BAME MODIKWA, an adult of full legal capacity, residing at Botsabelo Ward, Tlokweng, and whose further and better particulars are unknown to the Plaintiff. [**Herein called "The Defendant"**].

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED that you do within **Fourteen** (**14 days**) after the service of this Summons upon you, enter or cause to be entered with me and also the Plaintiff or its Attorney at the address specified herein an **APPEARANCE TO ANSWER THE CLAIM OF, ORENEILE MOTLHAPELE BOKOLE**, an adult female of legal capacity, residing at Gaborone, and whose address for purposes of this action is **C/o Malete Attorneys, Plot 18573, Phase 2, Aresutalane Way, (Opposite CBD) Gaborone, PO Box 748 AAH, Gaborone.**
[Herein called "The Plaintiff"].

THE claim of **P16,500.00**, together with 10% Collection Commission and costs of suit on attorney and own client scale, particulars whereof are endorsed hereunder.

AND TAKE NOTICE THAT in default of your doing so you will be held to have admitted the claim and the Plaintiff may proceed therein and judgment may be given against you in your absence; but that, on payment of the said claim and costs to the Clerk of the aforesaid Court within the said time, judgment will not be given against you herein, and that if at least 24 hours before the expiration of the said time, you pay or lodge with the Clerk of the aforesaid Court a consent to judgment you will save judgment charges. **AND FURTHER NOTICE THAT**:

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT VILLAGE

CASE NO.CCMVL-002650/25

In the matter between:
ORENEILE MOTLAPELE BOKOLE **APPLICANT**
and
BAME MODIKWA **RESPONDENT**

ORDER

Before Her Worship **Thedi T- Senior Magistrate** on the 01-Dec_2025

UPON HEARING: Attorney Malete K. for the applicant, respondent in absentia and court having read the documents filed of record.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

The application is granted in terms of the draft order filed in the following terms;

1. That the applicant is granted leave to serve the respondent by way of substituted service by advertising in one of the local newspapers circulating in Botswana.
2. That the respondent pay costs of this application.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
CLERK OF COURT

CLERK OF COURT VILLAGE MAGISTRATE COURT 01 DEC 2025 GABORONE BOTSWANA

Rollers Financial Woes Deepen

Several players consider leaving club amid unpaid salaries and ongoing financial uncertainty

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO



Township Rollers Football Club continues to grapple with financial instability, with several players now considering terminating their contracts due to months of unpaid salaries. The turmoil began after Sebata Consolidated Holdings (Pty) Ltd withdrew from all commercial and operational involvement with the club around May 2025.

Sources close to the matter confirmed that the last full salaries were paid to players in August 2025. Since then, the club has struggled to meet its financial obligations.

"To be honest we owe players and we haven't been able to pay them salaries for a while now," said interim secretary general Ofentse Mosekiemang.

Mosekiemang and the interim committee assumed leadership in mid-October 2025. Despite ongoing efforts to secure financial backers, the situation has yet to stabilize.

CONTRACTS AT RISK

The failure to pay salaries has prompted some players to explore leaving the club. According to Mosekiemang, about four players have formally expressed interest in terminating their contracts, while others have submitted letters demanding outstanding payments.

"We got into the office on mid October and since then we haven't managed to pay full salaries," he said. "The last time we managed to pay them something was on November and it was half salaries. December we didn't pay them anything."

> "To be honest we owe players and we haven't been able to pay them salaries for a while now."

Mosekiemang emphasized that the committee understands the players' frustrations, noting that they too have financial obligations to meet. "We are not folding our arms as we are going around searching for financial backers," he added.

COACHING DEPARTURE

The financial instability has also affected the club's coaching staff. Former coach Srdan Zivojnov resigned in November and has since joined Black Lions, another FNB Premiership team.

The club remains under interim management as it seeks solutions, but the unresolved financial crisis raises concerns about the team's competitiveness and ability to retain key talent moving forward.

CLERK OF COURT
VILLAGE MAGISTRATE COURT
GRADE: COC
ISSUED BY: BDM
CLERK OF COURT: 20 MAR 2025
BOTSWANA
No. CCMVL-000519-25
Date

H/W NKAU

Plaintiff's Attorneys

SUMMONS COMMENCING ACTION
Sued by;

MALETE ATTORNEYS
Plot 18573, Phase 2
Aresutalane Way
(Opposite CBD)
PO Box 748 AAH, Masa
GABORONE

Plaintiff's Attorneys

IN

THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR THE GABORONE DISTRICT
HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO.

In the matter between:
FOOD BUSKET (PTY) LTD **Plaintiff**
and
MODIRI MOSES **Defendant**

TO: **MODIRI MOSES**, an adult male of full legal capacity, residing at Tlokweng, and whose further and better particulars are unknown to the Plaintiff.
[Herein called "The Defendant"].

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED that you do within **Fourteen (14 days)** after the service of this Summons upon you, enter or cause to be entered with me and also the Plaintiff or its Attorney at the address specified herein an APPEARANCE TO ANSWER THE CLAIM OF, **FOOD BUSKET (PTY) LTD**, a company duly registered and incorporated in accordance with laws of Botswana, and whose address for purposes of this action is **C/o MALETE ATTORNEYS, Plot 18573, Phase 2, Arsutalane Way, Near Baobab School, (Opposite CBD) PO Box 748, AAH, Masa, Gaborone.**
[Herein called "The Plaintiff"].

THE claim of **P21,888.00** together with 30% interest a tempora morae and 10% collection commission and costs of suit on attorney and own client scale, particulars whereof are endorsed hereunder.

AND TAKE NOTICE THAT in default of your doing so you will be held to have admitted the claim and the Plaintiff may proceed therein and judgment may be given against you in your absence; but that, on payment of the said claim and costs to the Clerk of the aforesaid Court within the said time, Judgment will not be given against you herein, and that if at least 24 hours before the expiration of the said time, you pay or lodge with the Clerk of the aforesaid Court a consent to Judgment you will save Judgment charges.

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT VILLAGE

CASE NO.CCMVL-000519/25

In the matter between:
FOOD BUSKET (PTY) LTD **PLAINTIFF**
and
MODIRI MOSES **DEFENDANT**

ORDER

Before His Worship **Daniel Nkau – Chief Magistrate** on the 29th day of October 2025.

UPON HEARING: Counsel Malete for the Plaintiff present and defendant absent and having read documents filed of record;

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

Application is granted as prayed;

a. Applicant be granted leave to serve the respondent by way of substituted service by advertising in one of the local newspapers circulating in Botswana.
b. The respondent pays costs of this application.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
CLERK OF COURT

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE SUSAN PAMELA ADEY: ESHFT 001073-25 who died at **FRANCISTOWN ACADEMIC HOSPITAL, FRANCISTOWN** on the 9th **day of September 2025.** The First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the above Estate will lie open for inspection at the Chambers of the Assistant Registrar and Master of the High Court at Francistown for a period of Twenty One (21) days from the date of the second publication hereof.

DATED at **FRANCISTOWN** on this **8th** day of **December 2025**

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

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE NOEL ERIC YORK: ESHFT 00975-25 who died at **BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE** on the **22nd day of May 2022.** The First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the above Estate will lie open for inspection at the Chambers of the Assistant Registrar and Master of the High Court at Francistown for a period of Twenty One (21) days from the date of the second publication hereof.

DATED at **FRANCISTOWN** on this **8th** day of **December 2025**

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

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS
Administration of Estate Act [Cap.31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estate Act (Cap:33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of the High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
THULANI MASUKU	ESHFT-001302-25	03/03/26	0900 HRS	SARM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025
MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE OF PROPERTY REGIME

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

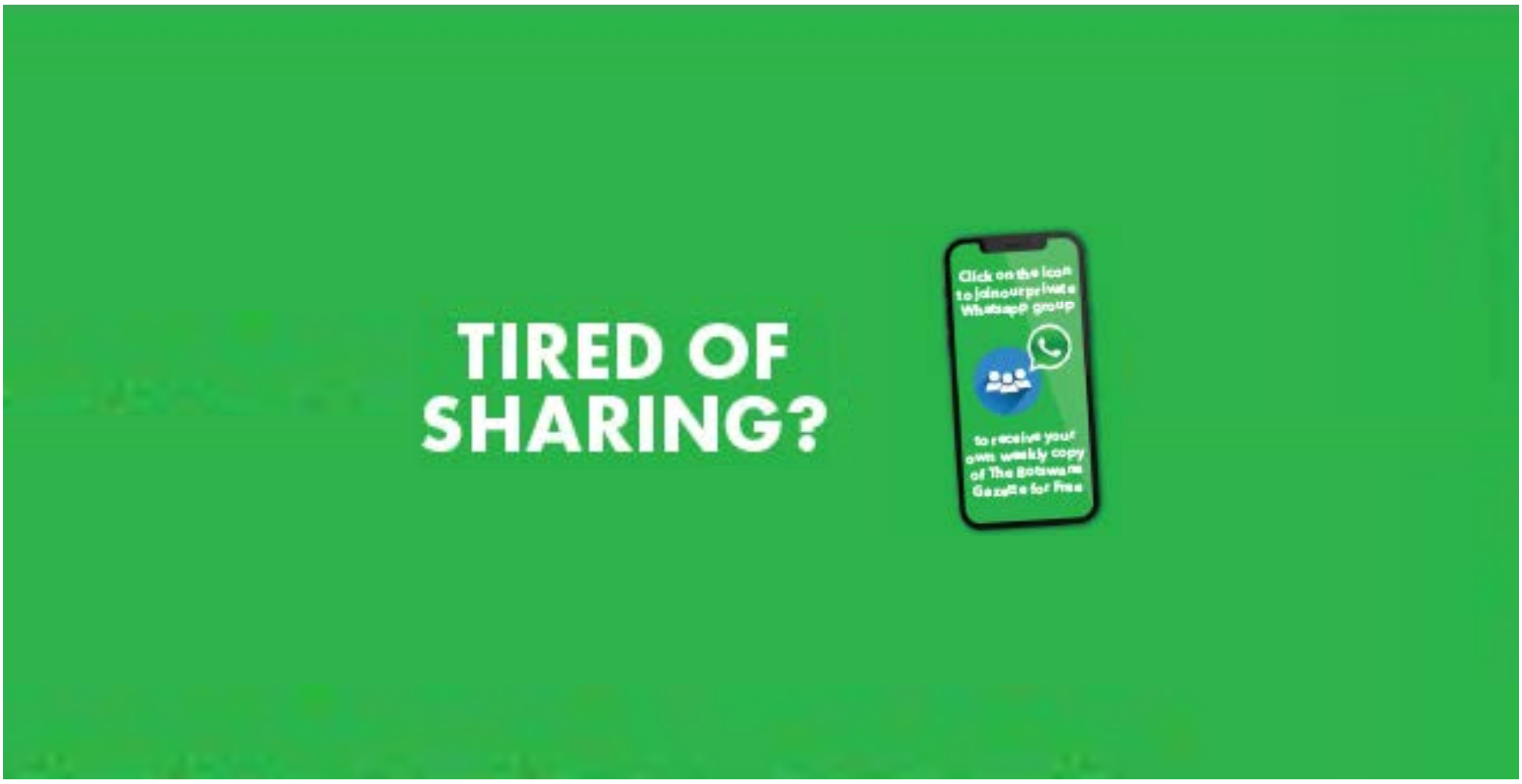
BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT, Mr Kealeboga Patso Kudumane and **Mrs Warona Koketso Kudumane,** currently married in Community of Property wish to apply to the High Court to be granted leave to change their property regime to that of Out of Community of Property.

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

Gaborone International Commerce Park
Plot 158, Unit 6
P.O. Box 201140, Bontleng
GABORONE
Tel: (+267) 3115465 **Fax:** (+267) 3115464





CORRAL TORREIRA CALLS FOR TIME

New Centre Chiefs coach stresses patience, training and youth development as he begins his project in Mochudi

GAZETTE REPORTER

Miguel Corral Torreira has set a clear tone at Mochudi Centre Chiefs, insisting that patience and structured work on the training ground will define his tenure at one of Botswana's most storied clubs.

Speaking after his appointment as head coach recently , the UEFA Pro Licence holder said time is essential if the team is to reach its potential. "I need time to better my players. I need training sessions," Corral Torreira said. "My goal is to improve the young players and the team. Overall, my objective is to help Botswana players and Botswana football to improve."

SQUAD FOCUS

The Spaniard indicated that his immediate attention will be on developing the current squad rather than making sweeping changes. While Centre Chiefs have already signed a striker, Corral Torreira suggested stability matters more than numbers. "The club signed a new striker, and I am happy with the squad," he said. "As I said, I need more time to better my players. However, I'm happy with my players — it's a good squad."

PLAYING STYLE

Corral Torreira outlined a philosophy rooted in proactive football, but with clear limits. He said he favours an attacking approach built on possession, quick ball recovery and high pressing. "I like offensive football and good possession of the ball. We will try to recover the ball very fast and press high," he said. "Finding the final third is very important for me."

Still, he warned that style alone does not guarantee results. "You can have good possession, but if you don't have a good defensive spirit, it's difficult to win the game," he said, highlighting the need for balance and discipline.

CLUB CHALLENGE

The coach described his appointment as both an honour and a test. "It's a big challenge, and I am proud to be here," Corral Torreira said. "This year is going to be good for all of us. This is a very big club, and I am looking forward to starting the training sessions."

> "I need time to better my players. I need training sessions."

He replaces Pontsho Moloi, who parted ways with Centre Chiefs earlier this year. Moloi joined the club in January 2025, overseeing a record of 13 wins, 13 draws and two defeats.

With expectations traditionally high at Centre Chiefs, Corral Torreira's message has been consistent: progress will be measured not by haste, but by patience and work on the training ground.

Botswana Chess Battle Heats Up

Top Open and Ladies players vie for National Team spots in FIDE-rated tournament

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Chess Federation (BCF) will host the 2026 National Team Selection Chess Championships (FIDE-rated) – the second qualifying stage – on January 24 at the University of Botswana in Gaborone. The competition will feature players who qualified from the first stage: the top 20 from the Open section and the top 18 from the Ladies section.

KEY PLAYERS

The Open section qualifiers include Gaasite Sebetlela, Kgotlane Oratile, Magowe Thabang, Kitso Innocent Kgosietsile, CM Moakofi Notha, Kuda Bayani, CM Ndawana Mosenya, Kobe Gofaone Kobe, Mothusi Mogotsi Arnold, CM Thuso Mosutha, Mokwena Kingsley, Pudungwane Lesole, Phillime Thabo, CM Thuto Mpene, Nophaus Sole, AFM Motshabi Blessings, Monare Tshepo, Simon Bokamoso, Motshabi Boikobo, and Kao Chameya.

In the Ladies section, qualifiers include WIM Onkemetse Mendu Francis, Ndachipiwa April Kgomotso, WCM Maya Otimile, Bonno Ntlhale, WCM Mosweu Atang Amolemo, Tsotlhe Madingwane, Boitumelo Radikoro, Motlhako Kaone, Otimile Melissa, Rebatenne Boitshepo Rebatenne, WCM Moshoboro Laone Phoebe, Bonno Thandi, Gorata Mere, Dikwetla Eyane Niza, Moshoboro Adeola, Sekula Kayla One, Mogwera Omaatla, and WFM Francis Thapelo.



COMPETITION FORMAT

According to BCF spokesperson Goitsemodimo Makgatle, "The 2nd Qualifying Stage is extremely important for chess in Botswana. It provides a structured pathway for our top players to showcase their skills and compete at a high level. For aspiring players, it's an opportunity to test themselves against the best in the country, gain experience in competitive play, and take a step closer to representing Botswana internationally."

Makgatle added that the competition allows the federation to evaluate players not just on ratings, but on "performance under pressure, strategic thinking, and consistency over multiple rounds. By identifying the strongest players, we can prepare a National Team that is competitive internationally."

Top eight players in both sections, determined by tie-breaks, will advance to the final stage. IM Providence Oatlhotse and WFM Natalie Banda, as the highest-rated players in the country, automatically secure spots on the National Team.

FINAL STAGE

Makgatle concluded: "Players who reach the final stage gain recognition as some of the top chess talents in the country. They also get the chance to compete for a spot on the National Team, receive mentoring from higher-rated players, and improve their FIDE rating. Ultimately, it opens doors for international exposure and further development in their chess careers."

FNBB Kazungula Marathon Marks Fifth Year



TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Preparations for the 5th edition of the FNBB Kazungula Bridge Marathon (FNBKBM) are well underway, with organizers confident of delivering a well-organized event. Slated for Saturday, February 28, 2026, in the Chobe region of northern Botswana, the marathon has grown into a notable fixture on the country's sporting calendar.

"Preparations are going very well and are at an advanced stage. Planning, stakeholder engagements, route confirmations, and operational logistics are progressing as scheduled. We are confident that we will deliver a well-organized and memorable edition of the FNB Kazungula Marathon. Remember this year it's the 5th anniversary of the event," said Marketing Director Losika Seboni.

RACE UPGRADES

This year, the event introduces adjusted race distances. The 5km race has been extended to 8km, and the 10km to 15km, ensuring that all participants have the opportunity to run across the iconic Kazungula Bridge. The bridge, connecting Botswana and Zambia, remains a signature feature of the marathon. Runners can also expect improved race-day experiences and enhanced post-race activities.

SAFETY FIRST

Logistical and safety arrangements are firmly in place. The marathon will be supported by medical teams, traffic management services, and volunteers. Coordinated efforts with security agencies—including Botswana Defence Force, local police, wildlife authorities, and the fire brigade—aim to guarantee route control and emergency readiness throughout the event.

"Hydration stations will be strategically positioned along all routes, and medical support teams will be on standby throughout the race. Start times and race operations have been planned with weather conditions in mind, ensuring runner safety, adequate hydration, and quick medical response if required," Seboni added.

PARTICIPATION STRONG

Interest in the marathon has been robust, with hotels and accommodations in Chobe filling up, signaling strong local and international participation. Registrations remain open until January 20, with runners able to sign up via the official registration portal at http://www.peaktiming.co.za.

WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

Beyond the races, participants and visitors can enjoy post-marathon events, including a silent disco boat cruise—adding a distinctive social and tourism dimension to the marathon weekend. The event features races across 42.2km, 21.1km, 15km, and 8km distances.

"Participants and visitors can also look forward to exciting post-marathon activities, including the much anticipated silent disco boat cruise, adding a unique social and tourism experience to the overall marathon weekend,"

Tebogo and Co Start Season Early

As Coach adjusts competition timing as Botswana athletes prepare for a demanding 2026 athletics calendar.



Kebonyemodisa Dose Mosimanyane, who coaches some of Botswana's leading athletes including Letsile Tebogo and Bayapo Ndori, says a group of athletes under his guidance will begin competing earlier than in previous seasons.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Kebonyemodisa Dose Mosimanyane, who coaches some of Botswana's leading athletes including Letsile Tebogo and Bayapo Ndori, says a group of athletes under his guidance will begin competing earlier than in previous seasons.

Speaking in a telephone interview from Maun, where he is currently based with his athletes, Mosimanyane said most of his training group has entered the pre-competition phase.

"Most of my athletes are on a phase called pre competition in training, which means they are readying for competitions," he said.

DOMESTIC START

He confirmed that some athletes will open their season at the first Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) competition of the year, scheduled for January 24 in Francistown.

"And some of them will take part in the competition in the first competition of the year organised by Botswana Athletics Association which is scheduled for Francistown on January 24," he said. "Then others will join in the second competition of the season."

EARLY SHARPENING

Mosimanyane said the decision to start competing earlier is aimed at fine-tuning athletes for major international events, including the World Athletics Relays, which will be held in Botswana between May 2 and 3.

He noted that the 2026 competition calendar differs from last season's, with international races taking place earlier in the year, prompting adjustments in preparation and race exposure.

REGIONAL RACES

As in previous years, some athletes under his guidance are expected to begin competing in South Africa toward the end of February and early March. The coach said a number of them will be based there for extended periods to train at high-performance centers.

HOME SPOTLIGHT

Botswana will host the World Athletics Relays in Gaborone on May 2 and 3, 2026, an event expected to attract elite relay teams and place the country at the center of the global athletics calendar.

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Runners to cross iconic bridge into Zambia in expanded race lineup

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