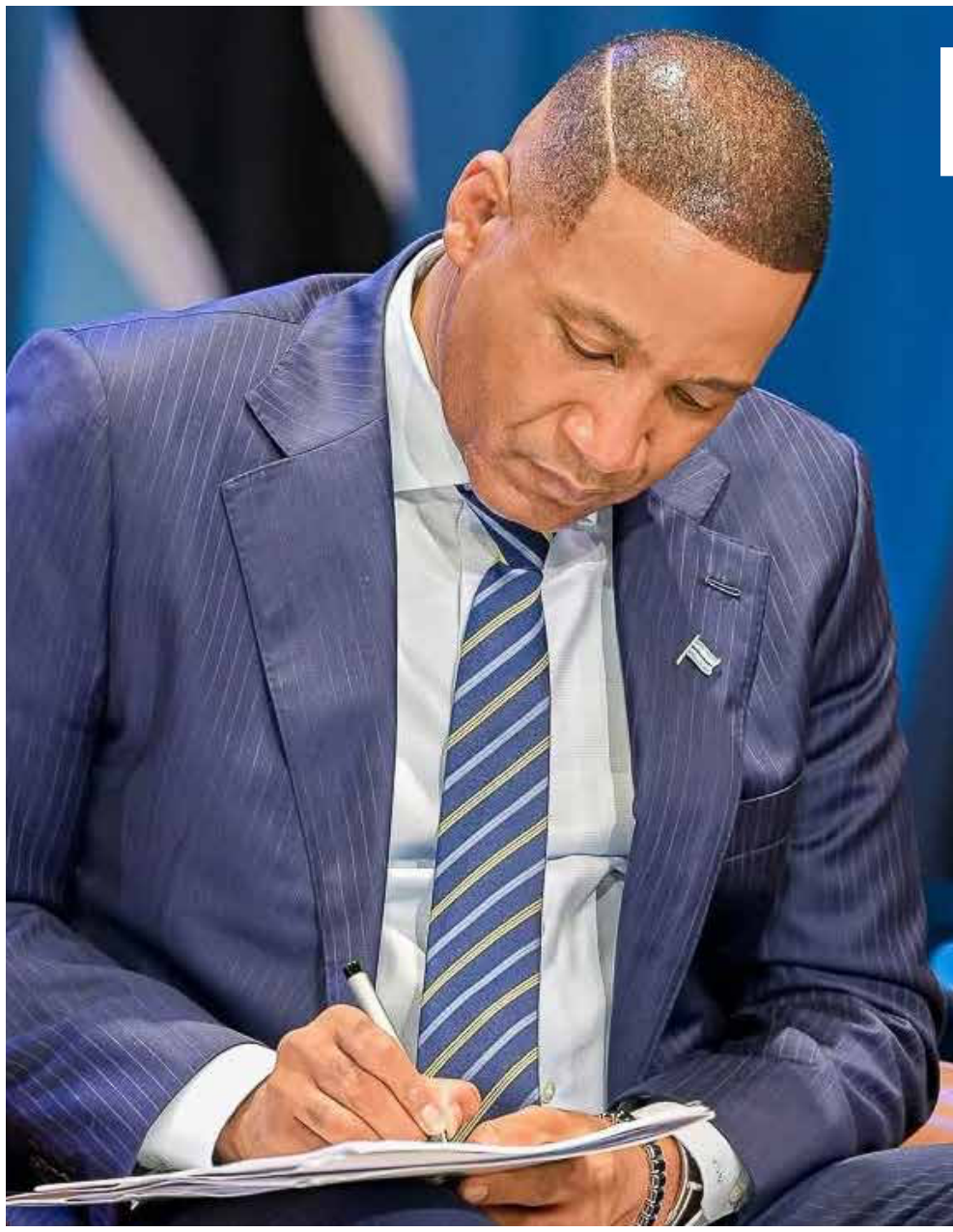
The Botswana
GAZETTE



26.
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28 JANUARY 2026
SINCE 1984



DEATH ROW INMATES PETITION PRESIDENT

Four of the death-row inmates whose appeals were rejected by the Court of Appeal have formally petitioned President Duma Boko for mercy, the Prisons Department has confirmed.

2.

Govt Given Ultimatum To Fix Health Crisis

The Ombudsman has issued an ultimatum to government by directing the Ministry of Health (MoH) to urgently implement far-reaching reforms to address the health crisis



6.

SPOTLIGHT ON PROLIFERATION OF DIRECTOR POSTS AT DIS

4.



DEATH ROW INMATES PETITION PRESIDENT



Duma Gideon Boko

Four of the death-row inmates whose appeals were rejected by the Court of Appeal have formally petitioned President Duma Boko for mercy, the Prisons Department has confirmed.

TEFO PHEAGE

About four of Botswana's death-row inmates whose appeals were rejected by the Court of Appeal have applied for presidential pardon.

The figure adds pressure on Boko to decide the fate of those condemned by law to die by hanging. It is not yet known how many petitions have been reviewed or what outcomes if any, as efforts to trace applications by this publication were unsuccessful.

The Permanent Secretary to the President, Emma Peloetletse, referred this publication to the Attorney General's Office, which in turn directed inquiries to the Ministry of Justice. Minister Nelson Ramaotwana did not respond to calls.

DEATH ROW NUMBERS

Records show that of the 19 people currently on death row, six have had their appeals dismissed and now await execution pending presidential action. The remaining inmates, sentenced by the High Court, are still pursuing relief at the Court of Appeal and will mostly likely appeal to Boko.

Boko is accused by critics of maintaining an undeclared moratorium by refusing to sign death warrants, effectively freezing executions even as sentences accumulate.

INMATES AWARE OF PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS

A source at Maximum Prisons, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that in addition to following their lawyers' advice to petition the President, death-row inmates keep up with radio news and are acutely aware of public discussions about their fate.

Botswana's Position in the Region

Botswana remains the only country in Southern Africa that still actively executes prisoners. The death penalty is mandatory for murder and other capital offences unless mitigating circumstances are shown.

According to Afrobarometer, more than eight in ten Batswana support the death penalty for the most serious crimes, a stance that has long bolstered resistance to abolition.

PRESIDENTIAL DILEMMA

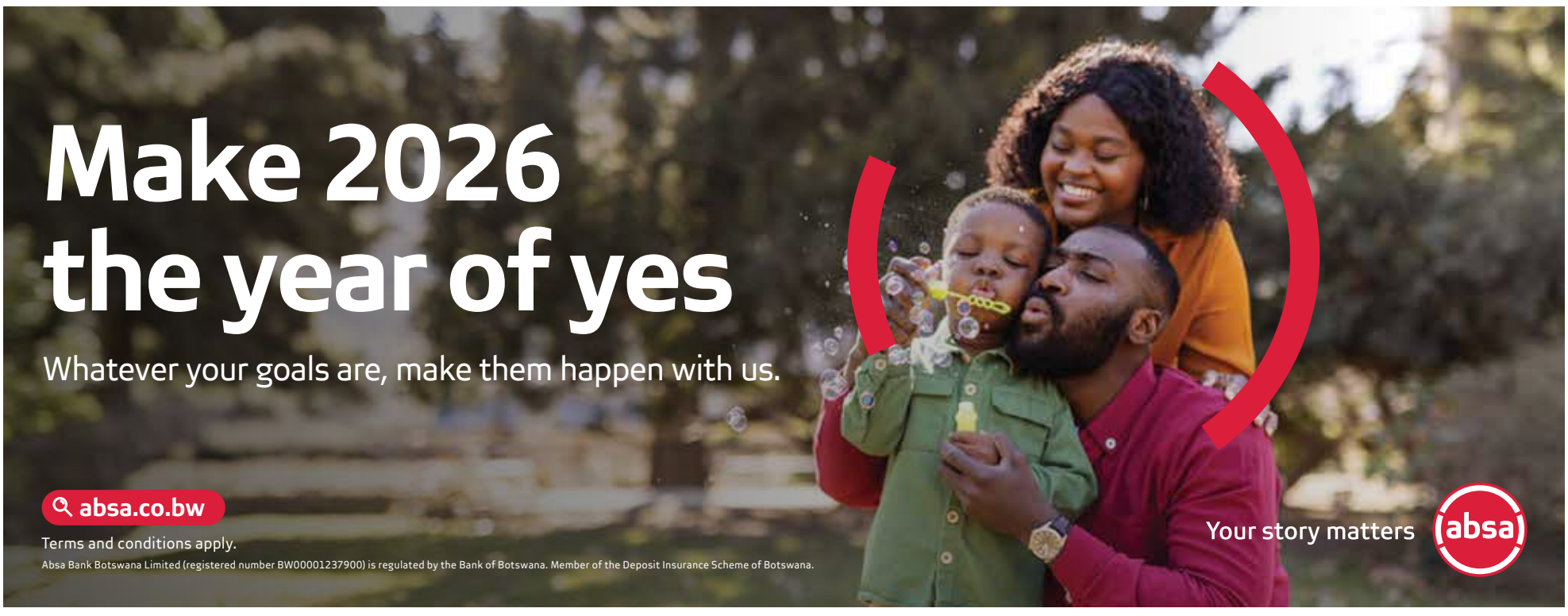
Under Section 53 of the Constitution, the President has the power to grant mercy, which places a heavy moral and legal burden on the office. Each death warrant requires his signature before the Botswana Prisons Service can act.

While Boko denies imposing a formal moratorium, his restraint has effectively halted executions since taking office, something which critics say causes severe emotional and psychological strain on prisoners and their families. Boko has stated that he will not allow his personal abolitionist views to interfere with the mandate of his office, underscoring his commitment to uphold the Constitution and the law.

Legal commentators warn that prolonged presidential inaction may create constitutional friction, as the judiciary continues to impose death sentences. Chief Justice Gaolapelwe Ketlogetswe recently emphasized at a press conference that the courts will continue to impose the death penalty to deserving offenders as stipulated by law.

PRESIDENTIAL OPTIONS

The President has two options regarding petitions for mercy according to legal experts: Grant mercy – commute the death sentence to life imprisonment or another sentence. Reject mercy – allow the execution to proceed, after which the Prisons sets an execution date.



BOCONGO: ConCourt Consultations A Mere Formality?

BOCONGO Executive Director Kutlwano Romeo Pelontle says public consultations on the new bill may be merely procedural, as the draft was introduced before input began



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (BOCONGO) has questioned whether ongoing stakeholder consultations on the proposed Constitutional Court will genuinely influence both the court's structure and the broader constitutional review process.

In an interview with the Botswana Gazette, BOCONGO Executive Director Kutlwano Romeo Pelontle raised concerns that "consultations are taking place after the Bill has already been drafted and introduced".

This, he said, casts doubt on whether public input can meaningfully shape the outcome. "Consultation should not be a procedural formality but a genuine opportunity for citizens to influence outcomes," Pelontle said.

CONCERNS OVER COURT'S STRUCTURE

BOCONGO has consistently raised concerns about the establishment of the Constitutional Court, arguing it could concentrate judicial power and undermine transparency and accountability in the legal system. The NGO also criticized the lack of comprehensive public education on the court's potential impact, warning that ordinary citizens may not fully understand its implications for constitutional governance.

INCLUSIVITY AND PARTICIPATION CONCERNS

While BOCONGO acknowledged the government's multi-sectoral engagement which includes council leadership, civil society organizations, trade unions, and the business community it stressed that ordinary Batswana must be given more meaningful opportunities to participate. The NGO also noted that relying heavily on Kgotla meetings, while important, cannot alone ensure broad-based participation.

CALLS FOR MORE ACCESSIBLE ENGAGEMENT

Pelontle further criticized the timing of consultations, pointing out that meetings held during working hours exclude many citizens. He urged the government to plan consultations deliberately, using varied platforms and flexible schedules to ensure all segments of society can engage meaningfully.

BOCONGO'S RECOMMENDATIONS

To strengthen citizen involvement, BOCONGO suggested that the government should conduct widespread public education campaigns to explain the Constitutional Court's role and implications. The organization also recommends using multiple consultation platforms and scheduling meetings at different times to allow broader participation.

After public backlash over a lack of consultation on the controversial proposed Constitutional Court Bill that has already been tabled in Parliament, the government recently began engaging stakeholders to consult the public about the Bill.

Deposit and Lending Interest Rates

Quarterly Report

October- December 2025

Type of Deposit	October 2025 Interest Rates (%)	November 2025 Interest Rates (%)	December 2025 Interest Rates (%)	Q4 Range Interest Rates (%)
Current	-	-	-	-
Call	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.35
Savings	0.00 - 3.40	0.00 - 2.50	0.00 - 3.00	0.00 - 3.40
1 Month	0.25 - 3.00	0.25 - 2.58	0.25 - 2.58	0.25 - 3.00
3 Months	0.00 - 5.10	0.00 - 14.00	0.00 - 7.70	0.00 - 14.00
6 Months	0.00 - 7.25	0.00 - 7.50	0.00 - 10.00	0.00 - 10.00
12 Months	0.00 - 12.50	0.00 -14.00	0.00 - 11.50	0.00 - 14.00
24 Months	-	-	12.00	12.00
Over 24 Months	-	9.00 - 13.40	-	9.00 - 13.40

	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025	Average Pricing
Monetary Policy Rate	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	
Prime Lending Rate	7.01%	7.01%	7.01%	
Mortgage Facility	19.01% - 24.01%	19.01% - 24.01%	19.01% - 24.01%	21.51%
Overdraft Facility *(Revolving Credit Lines)*	15.01% - 17.01%	15.01% - 17.01%	15.01% - 17.01%	16.01%
Credit Card	22% - 28%	22% - 28%	22% - 28%	25.00%
Lease Loans *(VAF)*	14.26% - 19.01%	22.51% - 30.01%	22.51% - 30.01%	26.26%
Unsecured Personal Loans *(excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)*	24.01% - 29.01%	24.01% - 29.01%	24.01% - 29.01%	26.51%
Other Term Loans	-	-	-	-

**Scheme related lending is as per the scheme contract*

For more information please enquire at your nearest

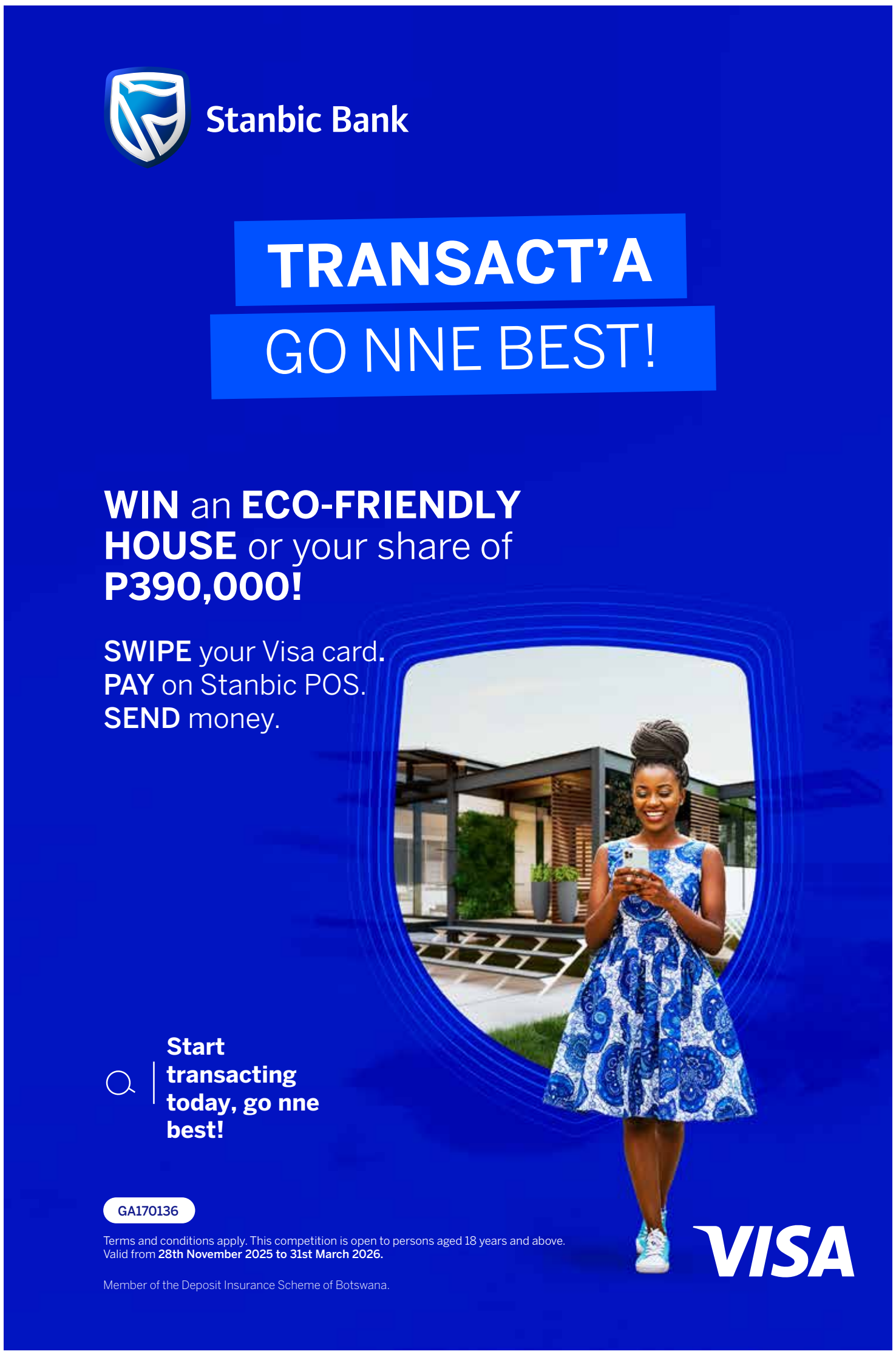
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Spotlight on Proliferation of Director Posts at DIS

Kgosi Khama IV wants the Minister to state how many Director positions exist at the DIS and whether the number is justified


(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)



GAZETTE REPORTER

Former President and Bangwato paramount chief, Kgosi Khama IV, is set to quiz the Minister for State President, Defence and Security at the Ntlo ya Dikgosi on the structure and staffing levels of the Directorate of Intelligence Services (DIS), specifically the number of Director positions within the agency.

According to the question listed on the Order Paper, Kgosi Khama IV will ask the minister to state how many Director posts currently exist in the DIS, and whether the number is justified given the size and mandate of the organization.

> "Until such time as Parliament amends the Constitution, the courts will continue to discharge their responsibilities accordingly,"

CLARITY

Khama who was instrumental to the formation of the DIS further wants clarity on who approves the establishment of such positions, a move that is expected to reopen debate on the growth, oversight and expenditure patterns of the country's intelligence services.

The DIS has in recent years attracted public and political scrutiny over its budget allocations, expanding infrastructure and perceived influence in state affairs. Critics have frequently questioned whether the agency's growth aligns with national priorities and existing oversight mechanisms.

SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

While the government has consistently defended the DIS as a critical institution for national security, it has rarely disclosed detailed staffing structures, citing security considerations as recently done on staff promotions.

The minister's response is therefore expected to shed light on how the intelligence agency is structured, who authorizes its senior appointments, and whether internal expansion is subject to independent oversight.

The matter is likely to generate robust discussion at the Ntlo ya Dikgosi, particularly among dikgosi concerned about transparency, fiscal discipline and the balance between national security and democratic accountability.

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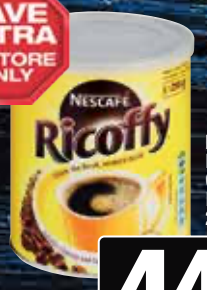
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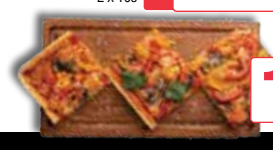
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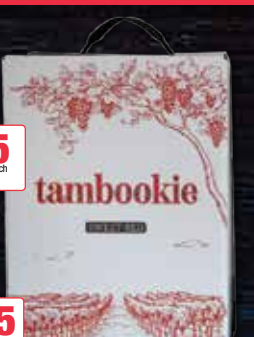
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Govt Given Ultimatum to Fix Health Crisis

The Ombudsman has issued an ultimatum to government by directing the Ministry of Health (MoH) to urgently implement far-reaching reforms to address the health crisis



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Ombudsman has ordered the Ministry of Health (MoH) to submit a detailed, evidence-based action plan by 30 January 2026 outlining how it will implement remedial measures to restore efficiency, accountability and patient safety across Botswana's public health facilities.

In a final investigation report released recently, the Ombudsman further directed the Ministry to submit progress reports one month, three months, six months, nine months and twelve months after the issuance of the report. Each update must detail actions taken, challenges encountered and measurable outcomes achieved.

"The current state of the public health system reflects structural, operational and policy gaps that require immediate and coordinated intervention," the Ombudsman said, warning that failure to comply could amount to a breach of statutory obligations under the Ombudsman Act of 2021.

The report follows an extensive probe into service delivery failures that have left public hospitals struggling to meet basic standards of care.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Among the most urgent recommendations is the development of a National Emergency Referral Policy to be implemented in collaboration with the Botswana Police Service, Emergency Medical Services and public health facilities. The policy is intended to improve communication, triage and referral processes during road accidents, mass-casualty incidents and inter-facility transfers, which currently place severe pressure on individual hospitals.

The Ombudsman also noted weak inter-agency communication which has undermined planning and service delivery.

On human resources, the report directed the Ministry to urgently fill critical vacancies, including intensive care nurses, radiologists, pharmacists, cleaners, healthcare assistants and revenue collectors. Particular attention must be given to remote areas experiencing chronic understaffing.

AUDIT

The Ombudsman further ordered an audit of transfer policies for health professionals, and the introduction of a fast-tracked system for renewing contracts of essential and foreign health workers within a maximum of 30 days.

The report also addressed confusion surrounding Botswana's free healthcare policy. Government has been instructed to issue a public clarification, stating that while no citizen should be denied essential healthcare, basic user fees must be applied — especially to non-citizens and private companies — to help sustain service quality.

OUTDATED SYSTEMS

Hospitals have been directed to modernise revenue collection through mobile payment platforms and digital billing systems, introduce secure cash-handling procedures, and hold hospital administrators accountable for meeting monthly revenue targets.

Persistent equipment breakdowns and heavy reliance on private referrals came under sharp criticism. The Ombudsman ordered a nationwide audit of medical equipment, stricter enforcement of maintenance contracts and increased funding for the Biomedical Engineering Service Unit. Funds currently spent outsourcing patients to private facilities should instead be redirected toward employing in-house specialists to build long-term capacity and reduce costs.

> "The current state of the public health system reflects structural, operational and policy gaps that require immediate and coordinated intervention"

To ease congestion at Princess Marina Hospital, the Ombudsman recommended the development of an additional primary or district hospital within Greater Gaborone, as well as expanded wards in overcrowded facilities across the country.

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Closing date for Applications: 20th of February 2026

ESAAMLG Flags Weak Supervision of Lawyers

Botswana has improved its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing compliance, but weak oversight of lawyers and other professions continues to pose financial crime risks



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana has recorded notable progress in strengthening its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) framework but remains under scrutiny due to persistent weaknesses in the supervision of lawyers and other non-financial professions, according to the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG).

The regional watchdog made the observations in its latest Enhanced Follow-Up Report and 5th Technical Compliance Re-Rating, which assesses Botswana's implementation of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards.

COMPLIANCE UPGRADED

ESAAMLG upgraded Botswana's compliance with Recommendation 28, which deals with the regulation and supervision of designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs), from Partly Compliant (PC) to Largely Compliant (LC).

The improvement reflects progress in regulating sectors such as real estate agents, casinos, and accountants. However, ESAAMLG cautioned that unresolved deficiencies related to lawyers, trust and company service providers (TCSPs), and dealers in precious metals and stones (DPMS) continue to present moderate money laundering and terrorist financing risks.

The report noted that Botswana has addressed "almost all" technical requirements under Recommendation 28, but highlighted the absence of risk profiling and risk-based supervisory plans for lawyers, TCSPs and DPMS as a major shortcoming.

RISK-BASED SUPERVISION STILL UNEVEN

Under Criterion 28.5, which examines whether AML/CFT supervision is risk-based, Botswana's rating improved from Partly Met to Mostly Met.

ESAAMLG credited several regulators — including the Real Estate Advisory Council (REAC), the Gaming Authority, the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) and the Botswana Accountancy Oversight Authority (BAOA) — for developing risk assessment tools and implementing risk-based supervisory procedures.

"These supervisory authorities now risk-profile their entities and develop and implement supervisory plans informed by the assessed risk profiles," ESAAMLG said.

However, the report states that authorities failed to demonstrate progress in supervising lawyers, TCSPs and DPMS, resulting in sub-criterion 28.5(a) remaining Partly Met.

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP TRANSPARENCY IMPROVES

Botswana also recorded progress on beneficial ownership transparency, with ESAAMLG re-rating Recommendation 24 to Largely Compliant.

This upgrade follows amendments to the Companies Act that prohibit bearer shares and require nominee shareholders and directors to disclose their nominators to authorities.

Despite the improvement, ESAAMLG identified minor gaps, including the lack of monitoring of the quality of international assistance received to trace beneficial owners abroad and the exclusion of societies from the legal persons' risk assessment. The watchdog said these shortcomings were not significant enough to affect the overall rating.

SANCTIONS FRAMEWORK STRENGTHENED

Further gains were recorded under Recommendation 35, which focuses on sanctions. ESAAMLG acknowledged legislative amendments that define "fit and proper" requirements and introduce measures to prevent criminals from controlling real estate businesses.

The only remaining deficiency relates to the absence of penalties under the Trust Property Control Act, which ESAAMLG described as minor given Botswana's terrorist financing risk profile.

In light of the findings, ESAAMLG confirmed that Botswana will remain under the enhanced follow-up process, requiring continued reporting on progress — particularly in addressing AML/CFT risks linked to the legal profession and trust services sector.

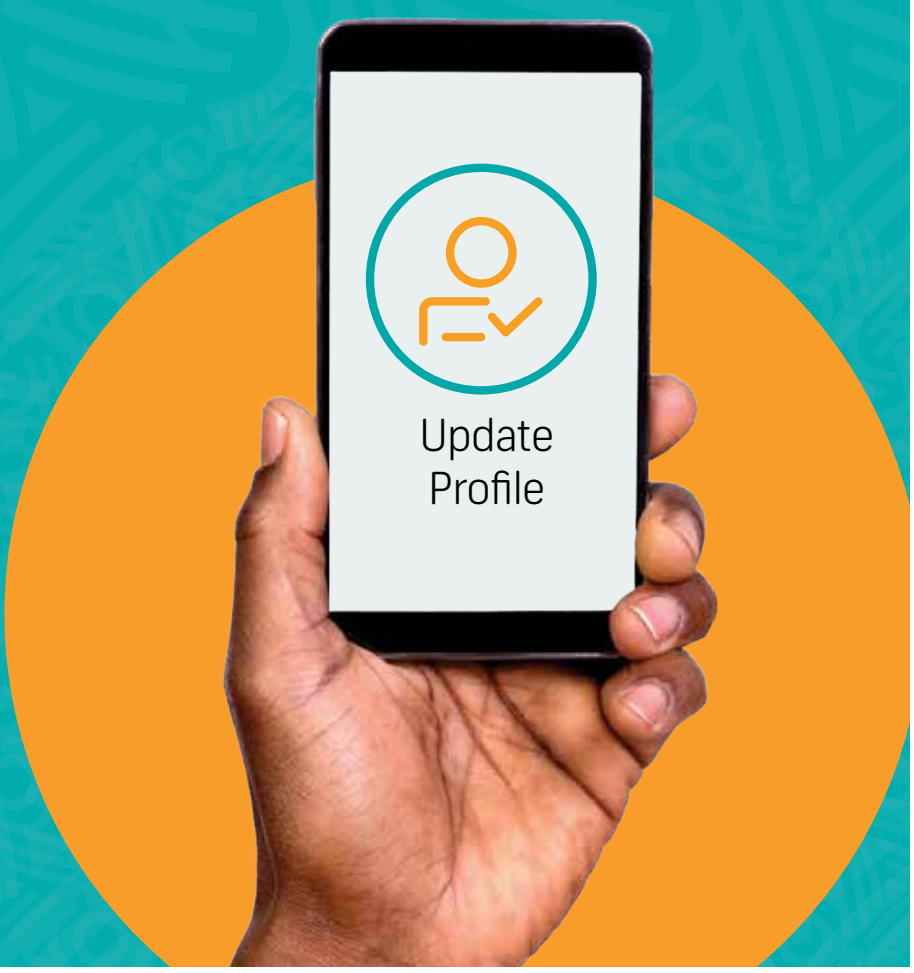
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Co-Director of Ceremonies: Ms. Banyatsi Tuke- Principal Community Development Officer



Country Director,IDM Botswana: Dr Theophilus Mooko welcoming guest



Ms. Matildah Van Zyl conveying appreciation to the Ministry on behalf of participants.



Deputy PS Mr. Kabo Diamond Moseki giving Keynote Address.



Awarding of Certificates.



Introduction of Guests- Ms. Gomolemo Tselakgopo-Deputy Director-Community Development (Social Development Department)



Distinguished VIPs in attendance



IDM Acting Assistant Director Academic Services- Mr. Thuto Tomeletso



Academic Lecturers- Ms. Lingani Masola (L), Ms. Motlhakeng Lethapa (M) and Ms. Patience Nehanda(R)



Participants celebrating their achievement.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Kabo Diamond Moseki, has lauded the Institute of Development Management (IDM) for developing a training solution that reflects an important shift in Botswana's approach to community development. The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach training creates a shift from service provision to self-reliance, community planning, decision-making, and social and economic empowerment.

Speaking at the certificate awarding ceremony of Community Development workers from across the country, Mr Moseki said the roll-out of Sustainable Livelihoods Approach training comes at a crucial time as Botswana advances its national transformation agenda, which calls for inclusive growth, poverty reduction, productivity, and resilient communities where no one is left behind.

"The training directly supports the transformation agenda by strengthening community capacity, diversifying livelihoods, and enabling meaningful participation in value chains, particularly in rural areas. This training has challenged us to reflect on how we engage communities, assess needs, build capacity, strengthen partnerships, monitor progress, and plan for sustainability. By doing so, you are better equipped to improve your practice and increase your impact as community development practitioners," he emphasised.

He reminded participants of their crucial role in shaping the future of communities, and the need for them to continue to innovate, collaborate, and challenge the status quo.

When welcoming guests, IDM Botswana Country Director, Dr Theophilus Mooko, said sustainability should not be generalised but contextualised, given the varying environments and geographical formations, adding: "As we place people first, let us not think for them and avoid importing solutions for them. Let us foster mindset change and enhance their livelihoods."

As an integral part of the community development strategy in Botswana, the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach provides an analytical framework for systematically examining the underlying processes and causes of poverty, and how communities might tackle their concerns. The approach focuses attention on the assets that people already have to foster new livelihood strategies. It is based on the core principles of people-centred, holistic, and dynamic analysis.

Representing participants, Ms Matildah Van Zyl appreciated the Ministry for affording them the opportunity to learn and sharpen their skills to improve their service delivery.

"As Community Development workers, we appreciate the skills and knowledge found in the communities within which we operate. We know their capabilities, the assets and resources they have. I urge each one of us to go back and implement what we have learnt by involving our people in their own development. Let us not plan for them; let us involve them more," she stated.

The partnership between the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs and IDM through the Public Health Management faculty dates as far back as 2010. Through this collaboration, a bouquet of training programmes has been developed to support sustainable socio-economic development under the IDM Centre for Continuing Professional Development.

To date, IDM has trained 106 officers from various districts, ministries, parastatals, and NGOs on the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach.

End//

DIS, Police Roped in Over Cannabis Cultivation

Botswana's entry into the regulated cannabis market comes with heavy security oversight and steep licensing fees while raising concerns over access for small-scale and citizen entrepreneurs



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's emerging cannabis industry is poised to become one of the most tightly regulated and expensive in the region, with the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) and the Botswana Police Service playing a central role in vetting licence applicants.

This follows the Cannabis Regulations of 2026, which are set to be enforced by the National Cannabis Control Authority (NCCA). The regulations stipulate that anyone seeking a licence for cultivation, manufacturing, transportation, import, or export of cannabis must undergo rigorous security clearance, including intelligence vetting by the DIS and criminal record checks conducted by the Botswana Police Service. Applicants are also required to formally consent to the use of their personal information for compliance with the law.

APPLICATION

For cultivation licences, applicants must submit a comprehensive application accompanied by an application fee, a police security clearance report, and any additional documentation required by the NCCA. Among the factors assessed are detailed cultivation area plans with geographical coordinates, THC (tetrahydrocannabinoil) testing plans from accredited laboratories, crop management strategies, seed certification under the Seeds Act, and environmental and social impact assessment plans in line with the Environmental Assessment Act. THC is the main psychoactive compound in cannabis.

PROOF OF FUNDING

Proof of funding is mandatory, reinforcing concerns that the sector is capital intensive and likely to be dominated by well-resourced operators. Cultivation licences are categorised into commercial cultivation, nursery operations, and seed production. Licence holders are authorised not only to grow cannabis but also to possess, process, and sell it, including activities such as drying, trimming, and altering chemical or physical properties for testing purposes.

LICENSING

The regulations for manufacturing are similarly stringent. Applicants for industrial or medicinal processing licences must provide police clearance, financial reports from a recognised financial institution, and evidence of adequate funding. The NCCA also assesses the suitability of facilities, security systems, and skilled personnel.

Import and export licences come with equally strict requirements, including proof of funding, operational procedures, premises and security master plans, disposal plans, and any additional documentation the Authority may demand. Transportation of cannabis is tightly controlled, with vehicles required to have fully enclosed, windowless, and locked compartments inaccessible from the inside, and fitted with electronic security systems including alarms, motion detectors, and panic buttons. Transportation licences are valid for 12 months and require police security clearance.

24HR SURVEILLANCE

Licensees must maintain 24-hour surveillance, intrusion detection systems, restricted access to operational and storage areas, and physical barriers to prevent unauthorised access. Any breach constitutes a criminal offence, punishable by fines of up to P250,000, imprisonment for up to five years, or both.

The cost of entry into the cannabis industry is high. Cultivation licences cost P3,325 per hectare for citizens, P6,981 for joint ventures, and P8,310 for non-citizens. Processing and manufacturing licences range from P150,000 per year for citizens to P400,000 for non-citizens. Transportation licences cost between P13,000 and P56,000 per annum, while import and export licences are set at P16,000 annually for citizens.



We're... Hiring!

BUAN

Join our team of Experts

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources invites applications from suitably qualified individuals for the following position:

FACULTY OF AGRIBUSINESS, EDUCATION AND EXTENSION

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 2025:11:16

LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION — ONE POSITION

JOB PURPOSE

The successful candidate will teach undergraduate and post graduate courses, provide research and academic leadership in agricultural extension and rural development, supervise students' research projects, and participate in individual and/or collaborative research in agricultural extension and related areas. The candidate will also be involved in curriculum review and development of new academic programmes for undergraduate and post graduate levels in agricultural extension and undertake other duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POSITIONS:

LECTURER

(i) Possess a minimum of a PhD in Agricultural Extension or related field from a recognized university.
(ii) Possess a Master's Degree in Agricultural Extension or related field from a recognized university.
(iii) Possess a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Extension or related field from a recognized university.
(iv) University teaching experience and a good research and publications record will be an added advantage.

SENIOR LECTURER

(i) A minimum of a PhD in Agricultural Extension or related field from a recognized institution.
(ii) Possess a Master's Degree in Agricultural Extension or related field from a recognized institution.
(iii) Possess a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Extension or related field from a recognized institution.
(iv) Extensive publications in a wide array of quality publication outlets and refereed journals. A minimum of six (6) research products, at least four (4) of which are refereed journal articles reflecting a spread of national, regional and international journals; lead and/or single author in at least two (2) refereed journal articles or book chapters.
(v) A minimum of Three (3) years of teaching experience at a university or equivalent institution.
(vi) Should have served at a position of Lecturer for at least three (3) years and has significant and original contribution to the discipline through research and/or scholarship.
(vii) Evidence of attraction of research grants from external sources.

GENERIC: The following competencies are requirements for consideration.

COMPETENCIES

- Research & Publishing
- Academic Curriculum Development and Review
- Lecturing and Teaching
- Research Mobilization and Funding

Fringe Benefits: These include motor vehicle purchase advance scheme, an optional 50% BUAN funded medical aid plan & group life assurance scheme. In addition, permanent and pensionable staff are offered a contributory pension scheme while contract staff are offered a gratuity of 30% of basic salary after successful completion of the contract.

Method of Application: Applications must quote the vacancy number, the post being applied for and be accompanied by detailed CV, true and certified copies of educational/professional certificates and national identity card, and details for at least 3 contactable referees of which one should be the immediate supervisor. Applications must be addressed to:

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

Director, Human Resources
Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Private Bag 0027
GABORONE

Email to: recruitment@buan.ac.bw
OR
Hand deliver applications to
Records Office, Block 300, BUAN

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

CLOSING DATE: 03 FEBRUARY 2026

www.buan.ac.bw info@buan.ac.bw

Hospitals Run on Staff Personal Cash



"Without the efforts of medical personnel on the ground, many patients would have gone untreated"- Ombudsman report

GAZETTE REPORTER

Hospital staff across Botswana have been forced to use their own money to keep patients alive, a recent ombudsman report has revealed, highlighting the severe strain on the country's public health system.

The investigation found that in several public hospitals, administrators and frontline medical personnel voluntarily pooled personal funds to purchase essential items such as swabs, sutures, and infant feeding tubes to ensure patients received treatment. In some cases, particularly involving pregnant women, patients who could afford it were asked to buy their own medical supplies.

"Without the efforts of medical personnel on the ground, many patients would have gone untreated," the report states, painting a grim picture of a health system struggling to meet even the most basic standards of care.

LONG-STANDING SYSTEMIC FAILURES

The ombudsman's findings come amid a medicine and supplies crisis officially communicated by the Ministry of Health (MoH) on 4 August 2025. The report notes that the shortages are symptomatic of long-standing systemic failures, which have eroded service quality in public hospitals and left both staff and patients in a state of anxiety and uncertainty.

As supplies dwindled, health facilities were forced to prioritise urgent services, with non-urgent surgeries postponed, disrupting healthcare delivery and leaving patients in prolonged pain or uncertainty.

> While the actions of health workers have saved lives, the report warns that reliance on personal sacrifice is unsustainable

THE INVESTIGATION

The investigation traced the crisis to chronic funding and procurement challenges. The availability of medicines and non-medical supplies depends on budget allocations from the MoH, with the Central Medical Stores (CMS) indicating that funding has long been inadequate. However, CMS also acknowledged that the problem predates recent fiscal pressures. The report notes that medicine shortages have been an ongoing issue since at least 2021, worsening sharply in 2025 and culminating in a public health emergency declaration that August.

Since 2021, CMS has relied on "letters of commitment" to procure medicines on credit from suppliers. The ombudsman found that this practice contributed to a mounting debt burden and repeated procurement crises, entrenching shortages across the system.

While the actions of health workers have saved lives, the report warns that reliance on personal sacrifice is unsustainable. It calls for urgent structural reforms in health financing and procurement to prevent further crises and restore public confidence in Botswana's healthcare system.

www.ndb.bw

Tender notice

TENDER NO. NDB 2025-26-23 PROCUREMENT NAME: PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF A BUSINESS CASE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF COMMERCIAL BANKING SERVICES FOR THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

Electronic tender offers are invited for the Procurement of Consultancy Services for the Assessment and Development of a Business Case for the Introduction of Commercial Banking Services for the National Development Bank

The procuring entity is: National Development Bank (NDB) Procurement Method is: **Open International Bidding**
To access and participate in this tender, bidders are required to register on the following link.

https://ngpms.ndb.bw/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FTiles.aspx and upload proof of payment on the system following the steps below:

Log in>Tenders>Published Tender>Pay>Select Payment Mode(offline)>Attach proof of payment (only image files & jpeg)>Submit.

Tender documents will be available for downloading from the NDB E-Procurement management system once the supplier registration process is complete.

- Tender documents will be available for downloading from NDB E-Procurement management system once the supplier registration process is complete.
- A non-refundable fee of **P1000.00** is required for the purchase of the tender documents, youth-owned companies shall pay half of the purchase price upon submission of proof showing youth-ownership. Payments shall be made by electronic fund transfer (EFT) or deposit into the account in favor of National Development Bank.
- Payment is to be deposited in the banking details below:
  NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK
  STANDARD CHARTERED BANK 0100110109400
  MALL BRANCH GABORONE
  NO PAYMENTS SHALL BE MADE PHYSICALLY AT THE NDB PREMISES.
- All responses must be submitted strictly on the NDB NGSM System. Late, faxed, emailed, post mailed or hand delivered responses/offers will NOT be accepted or considered.
- The Bid Submission Method is: Two folder Submission Method in which a tender's technical and financial bid offer is submitted in two (2) separate folders.
- All queries and clarification must be submitted on the NDB NGSM System no later than five (5) working days before the tender closing date.
- The closing date and time for receipt of tender offers is **0730hrs** on Monday **16th February 2026.**
- Tel No: **3952801** email: **tenders@ndb.bw**

The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority's Standardised Conditions of Tender for Services apply to this procurement, for which all the applicable Tender Data is contained in the tender document.

{Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, NDB is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer}

Gaborone
P.O. Box 225, Gaborone
Tel: +267 395 2801 | Fax: +267 390 9907
Call centre: +267 360 4999

Maun
P.O. Box 453, Maun
Tel: +267 686 0316 | Fax: +267 686 0645

Palapye
P.O. Box 10387, Palapye
Tel: +267 492 0552 | Fax: +267 492 0551

Francistown
P.O. Box 282, Francistown
Tel: +267 241 6044 | Fax: +267 241 6065

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Forensic Team Flags Surge in Corruption Tip-Offs



Tymon Katlholo, a senior member of the forensic audit steering committee says corruption-related tip-offs from the public have surged as the nationwide forensic audit nears completion

BONGANI MALUNGA

A senior member of the forensic audit steering committee, Tymon Katlholo, has confirmed a significant surge in corruption-related tip-offs from members of the public as the nationwide forensic audit approaches its conclusion at the end of March this year. Katlholo revealed that the audit has been progressing well as the steering committee is set to hand over the audit to the government upon completion.

> "We received a lot of promising leads but I must point out that there were a lot of credible and not so credible leads"

VOLUME OF INFORMATION

During a Ntlo Ya Dikgosi briefing last week, Katlholo noted that the volume of information received reflects growing public confidence in the process, with citizens increasingly coming forward to report suspected abuse of public resources, maladministration and unethical conduct across various sectors. The audit, which is in its second stage, was given an additional extension before the definitive date of completion was confirmed according to Katlholo.

INFLUX OF TIP-OFFS

He stated that the influx of tip-offs has added depth to the audit, enabling investigators to follow new leads and strengthen existing lines of inquiry. Katlholo emphasised that all submissions are being assessed in line with established procedures to ensure credibility and accountability, adding that the findings of the audit will be critical in shaping governance reforms and reinforcing anti-corruption measures once the exercise is completed.

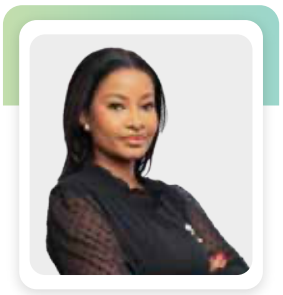
"On the 7th of August 2025, we launched a public engagement platform whereby we opened the door for the public to report any corrupt practices they may be aware of. We received a lot of promising leads but I must point out that there were a lot of credible and not so credible leads," Katlholo explained.

P75 MILLION AUDIT

The national forensic audit is conducted by international agency Alvarez and Marshal to the tune of P75 million. The international firm is working alongside a steering committee featuring key figures such as chairman Moses Pelaelo, Katlholo, Monty Chiepe, Mphaphi Phumaphi and Aobakwe Moemedi. Following the completion of the audit on March 31, the project steering committee will begin a report compilation that will be the final act of the exercise.

The Institute of Internal Auditors Botswana

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL AUDITORS BOTSWANA 2026


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ADDITIONAL MEMBER

2026 Hunting Quota Faces Legal Challenge

As conservationists threaten legal challenge over sustainability, consultation, and compliance concerns



(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Elephant Protection Society (EPS), a leading conservation group, is contemplating taking the Botswana government to court over the recently gazetted 2026 elephant hunting quota, after withdrawing a related challenge in December last year.

In a letter seen by *The Botswana Gazette*, EPS, through Mapitse Legal Practice, says that the publication of the 2026 hunting quota now places the organization in a position to pursue legal action should it remain dissatisfied. The letter argues that the gazetted quota raises serious concerns over sustainability, consultation, and compliance with conservation obligations.

BACKGROUND TO THE QUOTA DISPUTE

Botswana, home to the world's largest elephant population, annually sets hunting quotas for elephants and other species as part of its wildlife utilization policy. This year the quota for elephants has increased sparking protest from EPS citing lack of programmes that empower the communities of the concessions.

CRITICISM OVER QUOTA INCREASES

In an interview with ***The Botswana Gazette***, EPS founder Oaitse Nawa criticized the quota system as flawed and inadequately justified. He accused the government of increasing the quotas without sufficient stakeholder consultation or transparent scientific reasoning. According to the released 2026 trophy hunting quota, elephant numbers have risen from 410 in 2025 to 430 in 2026, figures sparking EPS protest. Other quotas include 17 leopards and 139 buffalos.

IMPACT ON ELEPHANT POPULATIONS

Experts warn that current quotas may disproportionately target large bull elephants, whose loss can destabilize elephant societies and reduce genetic diversity over time. EWB and other scientists recommend lower quotas to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience in the face of poaching, drought, and climate change.

EPS PREPARES LEGAL CHALLENGE

In its letter, EPS says that if the government fails to address concerns about legal compliance, public participation, and scientific justification, it will proceed with a judicial review of the 2026 quota. Such action would aim to challenge the validity of the quota on both procedural and substantive grounds. The society is finalizing its legal strategy, with Mapitse Legal Practice advising on grounds for judicial intervention.

GOV'T DEFENDS HUNTING POLICY

The government has maintained that regulated hunting is a tool for balancing elephant numbers with human-wildlife conflict, generating revenue, and empowering community trusts through quota allocations.

> According to the released 2026 trophy hunting quota, elephant numbers have risen from 410 in 2025 to 430 in 2026, figures sparking EPS protest

GOV'T DEFENDS HUNTING POLICY

While the minister of Environment and Tourism Wynter Mmolotsi could not be reached for comment as his phone was unavailable. He told Parliament last year that revenue from elephant hunting supports both conservation and community-led projects. He noted that P15.6 million was raised from special elephant quotas in 2025 alone to fund initiatives within the elephant range.

BDF Unveils Military Justice System

Move expected to enhance and accelerate justice in the military

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Defence Force (BDF) is set to officially launch its long-awaited Military Justice System today, Wednesday, 28 January 2026, at the Sir Seretse Khama Barracks Auditorium.

The military communications department said the launch represents a landmark moment in the evolution of the BDF, coming several years after the introduction of the Judge Advocate General, which laid the groundwork for the establishment of a formal military justice framework.

The initiative aligns with one of the five strategic pillars set by the BDF Commander, aimed at reforming the defence force and embedding a culture of fairness, accountability, and ethical conduct.

SIX MEMBERS OF THE OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

As part of the day's proceedings, six members of the Office of the Judge Advocate General will be officially sworn in by the Judge Advocate General. This will be followed by the ceremonial pinning-on of badges, a symbolic act to be jointly performed by the Chief Justice of Botswana, His Lordship Gaolapelwe Ketlogetswe, and BDF Commander General Mpho Churchill Mophuting.

The launch ceremony is expected to attract several high-profile dignitaries, including the Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Mohwasa, alongside senior military officers and officials from the judiciary.



A TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE, AND LEGALLY SOUND FRAMEWORK

A BDF communique described the Military Justice System as "a crucial step in ensuring that the defence force operates under a transparent, accountable, and legally sound framework, reinforcing public confidence and upholding the highest standards of military conduct."

The formal kick-off of the Military Justice System is seen as a transformative milestone for the BDF, reflecting a commitment to professionalising the force and strengthening the rule of law within its ranks.

DIS Shenanigans 'Cover-Up' Irks Khama

Former President, Ian Khama has accused the state of shielding alleged abuse of office and irregular promotions within the DIS

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO



Kgosi Khama IV has accused the government of entrenching wrongdoing within the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) by deliberately hiding behind claims of secrecy to evade accountability over controversial accelerated promotions.

SECRECY USED TO BLOCK SCRUTINY

Responding to ***The Botswana Gazette*** following criticism of what he described as a deliberate cover-up at the DIS, Khama said government's handling of concerns surrounding promotions at the intelligence agency revealed a calculated effort to insulate it from scrutiny, despite mounting allegations of abuse of office.

The former president singled out the Minister of Communications and Innovation, David Tshere, accusing him of dodging a direct question he raised in Ntlo ya Dikgosi regarding promotions within the DIS. Tshere, who was responding on behalf of the Minister of State President, Moeti Mohwasa, cited the classified nature of DIS operations as justification for withholding the information.

ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS CANNOT BE CLASSIFIED

Khama dismissed the explanation outright, arguing that administrative matters such as promotions have no connection to operational secrecy and must be subjected to oversight.

"By protecting the organization and its failed leadership, government is effectively endorsing misconduct. Under such circumstances, nothing better than abuse of office can be expected," Khama said.

ALLEGATIONS OF LONGSTANDING ABUSE

Khama further alleged that abuse of office within the DIS has persisted for years, warning that continued secrecy and the absence of accountability were eroding public trust and undermining the principles of good governance.

He said the failure to subject the intelligence agency to proper oversight sends a dangerous message that powerful institutions can operate above the law without consequence.

MATTER HEADED TO PARLIAMENT

Unmoved by the executive's response, Khama said he intends to escalate the matter to Parliament in an effort to force accountability. He said the issue would be pursued through his Member of Parliament, Baratiwa Mathoothe.

Khama's remarks followed a question he posed in Ntlo ya Dikgosi seeking clarity on how many DIS officers allegedly received accelerated promotions from C-scale to E-scale between 2020 and 2025, their professional qualifications, and whether the promotions complied with the Public Service Act and the DIS conditions of service.

MATHOOTHE CLARIFIES POSITION

Reached for comment, Mathoothe told this publication that Khama's reference to him should not be interpreted as a formal delegation of the matter.

"He mentioned my name simply because we were in the same House at the time. It does not mean he intends to channel the matter through me personally," Mathoothe said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TENDER NUMBER: 0017/2025-2026
PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES FOR TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS
TENDER BUMBER: 0018/2025-2026
PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS

The Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) - (hereinafter referred to as "the Authority") has been established under the BERA Act, 2016 (No 13 0f 2016) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") for the regulation of energy sector in Botswana, The Authority is responsible for providing an efficient an efficient regulatory framework for the regulated sector in accordance with the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority Act.

The procurement method is **Open Domestic bidding**.
The tender evaluation shall follow the **Least Cost based selection Method**.
Procuring entity – BERA HR & Admin Department
Eligible Botswana companies should be in possession of the following PPRA Codes:

PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES FOR TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS
Code 132: Cleaning Services
Sub Code 01: Building Cleaning Services (including windows, carpets and others)

PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS
Code 100: Security Services
Code 01: Security Guard Services.
The codes are to be verified online.

In line with the government's initiative to support citizen-owned companies, the following citizen economic empowerment schemes shall be considered for evaluation and award:

- Local Procurement Scheme (LPS)
- Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP)
- Economic Diversification Drive (EDD)

Interested companies may purchase the tender documents at a non-refundable deposit of P500.00 or P250.00 (for youth owned companies) payable by cash or bank guaranteed cheque made out in Favor of the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority.
Companies are advised to email proof of payment to tenders@bera.co.bw with copy to onkutule.mafule@bera.co.bw who shall send the tender document by email.

Bank details for EFT payments

Account Name	Bank	Account Number	Account Type	Branch Name	Swift Code
Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority	Absa Bank Botswana	1022004	Corporate Current	Government Enclave	BARCBWGXXXX

REFERENCE: Company name and Tender number
A single envelope procedure will be followed in evaluating the tenders.
Enquiries relating to this tender may be addressed to **tenders@bera.co.bw** with copy to onkutule.mafule@bera.co.bw at least five (5) working days before tender closing date.

CLOSING DATE

Responses shall be submitted not later than **1000hrs on the 12th February 2026** and shall be delivered as follows:
Chief Executive Officer
Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority
Plot 111 Millenium Office Park
Gaborone

BERA
BOTSWANA ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Regulating for Energy Security

www.bera.co.bw

Boko Confirms Namibia Part of De Beers Control Bid

Namibia has been confirmed as one of the countries to join Botswana and Angola in a regional consortium pursuing a controlling stake in De Beers



President Duma Boko has confirmed that Namibia will join a regional consortium, alongside Botswana and Angola, in pursuit of a controlling stake in the diamond giant De Beers. Namibia's participation comes after initial hesitations, signalling a renewed commitment to collective regional investment in strategic resources.

BONGANI MALUNGA

President Duma Boko has confirmed that Namibia will join a regional consortium, alongside Botswana and Angola, in pursuit of a controlling stake in the diamond giant De Beers. Namibia's participation comes after initial hesitations, signalling a renewed commitment to collective regional investment in strategic resources.

COMBINED INFLUENCE

The consortium aims to consolidate the participating countries' positions within De Beers, potentially reshaping the dynamics of the global diamond market. The regional bloc could leverage its combined influence to secure more favourable terms and ensure that a greater share of profits benefits local economies. Boko described the development as a "historic opportunity" for regional collaboration, highlighting the growing appetite among southern African nations to assert control over key natural resources.

Boko made the remarks on Monday as Angola's Ambassador to Botswana, Dr Beatriz Morais made a farewell courtesy call on Boko. In the meeting, Boko outlined the need for a regional alliance in the diamond industry.

OPAQUE TYPE FORUM

"We are looking to partner and collaborate in the area of diamonds, Botswana is acquiring the stake held by Anglo American in De Beers. On the back of that, Botswana will be looking to engage partners like Angola and Namibia because we are all diamond producing countries so that we are able to create an opaque type forum for diamonds in which the voice of African diamond producers will be heard and heeded," Boko revealed.

RIVAL BIDS

A fortnight ago De Beers Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Al Cook told international news agency Reuters that Angola, Botswana and Namibia have expressed joint interest in acquiring majority shareholding in De Beers. He reportedly mentioned that the southern African countries will be rivalled by a number of unnamed business-led groups in the bidding process.



The Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, has accused the Botswana Federation of Public, Private and Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) of having contributed to some of the governance challenges it now attributes to government, arguing that the federation has drifted away from its traditional watchdog role.

Motshegwa Blames BOFEPUSU for Governance Woes

The minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ketlhalefile Motshegwa has accused BOFEPUSU of abandoning its watchdog role after adopting a neutral stance in 2019

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, has accused the Botswana Federation of Public, Private and Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) of having contributed to some of the governance challenges it now attributes to government, arguing that the federation has drifted away from its traditional watchdog role.

Motshegwa said BOFEPUSU began deviating from its core mandate around 2019, when it allegedly adopted a posture of neutrality on key national issues, a move he believes weakened its ability to hold government accountable.

RETREAT FROM ADVOCACY

According to the minister, BOFEPUSU's retreat from active advocacy and oversight created space for governance shortcomings to persist, and sustained engagement by the federation could have helped prevent some of the current difficulties.

Motshegwa made the remarks in response to a social media post by BOFEPUSU last Friday in which the federation called on government to urgently address what it described as worsening unemployment, health and education crisis in the country.

Commenting on the post, Motshegwa, a former Secretary General of the Botswana Landboards, Local Authorities and Health Workers Union (BLLAHWU), accused the federation of being complicit in the problems it is now complaining about.

"The status of the country got worse that time when BOFEPUSU decided and started to be neutral in 2019 and onwards. To some extent, BOFEPUSU is an accomplice to the current problems they seem to complain about," Motshegwa alleged.

BOFEPUSU REJECTS MOTSHEGWA'S VIEW

BOFEPUSU, however, rejected the minister's claims, insisting that it remains firmly committed to holding government accountable.

In a response, the federation said: "The federation is continuing where you left off, holding government accountable. We have a record of many similar write-ups, speeches and press statements made by yourself whilst you were DSG. Please also be reminded that the federation took a resolution to be neutral in 2019, it was under your able leadership. We were continuing where you left off. Furthermore, the problem stated here predates that time.

The exchange highlights growing tensions between Motshegwa and organised labour, coming just months after the two sides appeared to signal a willingness to work together.

In November 2024, Motshegwa and trade union leaders held a courtesy call following his appointment, during which the minister assured unions that service delivery concerns, collective bargaining and workers' rights would be prioritised.

At the time, Motshegwa emphasised government's commitment to strengthening industrial relations and safeguarding workers' welfare, raising expectations of improved engagement between the parties.

The latest public spat, however, suggests relations between the minister and trade unions may be deteriorating, with both sides trading blame over responsibility for the country's socio-economic challenges.

Teachers' Unions Sound Alarm Over Staffing Crisis



Teachers' unions have raised alarm over a deepening staffing crisis in public schools, blaming government's continued reliance on an outdated 2009–18 stream establishment despite surging enrolment

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Teachers' unions have accused the government of fueling a growing crisis in public primary and secondary schools, warning that an acute shortage of teachers is pushing workloads to breaking point and threatening the quality of education.

Confirming widely publicised concerns, Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU) Secretary General Tobokani Rari told ***The Botswana Gazette*** that the crisis stems from the government's failure to review the 2009–18 stream establishment, which has long been overtaken by rising student enrolment.

CRISIS

"More than 75 percent of schools have outgrown their original establishments, with many doubling in size and creating permanent teaching needs that government has failed to declare," Rari said. "These undeclared posts are the root cause of the proliferation of temporary teachers. We demand the immediate declaration of these positions and the absorption of all qualifying temporary teachers into permanent, pensionable employment."

Rari added that, despite the surge in learner numbers, government continues to allocate school resources, including staffing, based on the obsolete 18-stream model

"Resources are still allocated on the old model, yet enrolment has significantly increased," he said.

UNTRAINED PERSONNEL

He also criticised the increasing reliance on untrained personnel, warning that some schools have resorted to assigning classes to Tirelo Sechaba participants, who are not qualified educators.

"This is watering down the teaching profession and pushing the education system towards disaster," Rari warned.

Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) Publicity Secretary Kenneth Lonkokile echoed the concerns, attributing the shortages partly to the non-renewal of temporary teachers' contracts that expired in December last year.

"Most schools across the country are grappling with staffing shortages. Government must act urgently before the situation further erodes learning outcomes," Lonkokile said.

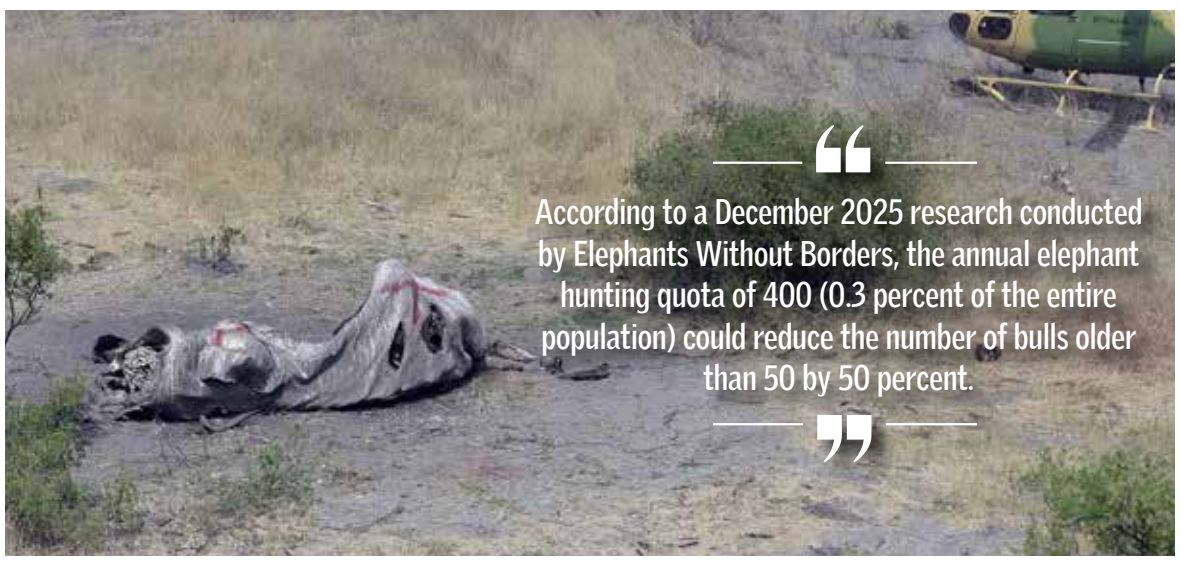
GOVERNMENT RESPONDS

Reached for comment, the minister of Basic Education and Child Welfare Nono Kgafela Mokoka said government had invited teachers' unions to meetings at the start of the school year to discuss challenges affecting the profession, but the unions did not attend.

"Even today we are still waiting for them. If they do not turn up, we will invite them again," the minister said.

Mokoka added that her ministry plans to conduct a comprehensive survey to compile and assess all challenges facing public schools, which will inform future interventions aimed at improving staffing and overall service delivery.

Khama Warns of Rapid Decline of Elephant Bulls



Conservationist Ian Khama has warned that dwindling elephant bulls threaten tourism revenues, biodiversity and community livelihoods, urging stronger awareness and conservation efforts nationwide

BONGANI MALUNGA

Former President and renowned conservationist Ian Khama has sounded the alarm over the rapid decline of mature elephant bulls in Botswana, warning hunting communities against complacency in protecting the endangered animals.

Khama stressed that the continued loss of large bulls could have serious consequences for the tourism sector, noting that mature elephants command the highest photographic tourism value and are vital to sustaining wildlife-based livelihoods.

INTENSIFY AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Addressing a Ntlo Ya Dikgosi session on Tuesday, Khama urged the government to intensify awareness campaigns on the importance of elephant bulls to communities benefiting from trophy hunting. He emphasized that conservation efforts must carefully balance regulated hunting with long-term preservation, particularly for species that underpin both ecological stability and tourism revenue. His question was deferred, with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism expected to respond at a later date.

SHARP DECLINE

The decline in elephant bulls is driven by trophy hunting, poaching, and prolonged drought. Khama warned that without deliberate intervention, Botswana risks losing a key component of its wildlife heritage, threatening biodiversity, community incomes, and the country's global reputation as a premier wildlife destination.

TARGETED HUNTING

A December 2025 study by Elephants Without Borders (EWB) found that the current hunting quota of 400 elephants per year could reduce the number of bulls older than 50 by up to 50 percent. Hunters typically target older bulls with large tusks for trophies or souvenirs, raising concerns that elephant bulls could be wiped out without reforms.

LOSING BILLIONS

EWB research indicates that elephant poaching and unsustainable tourism practices are costing Botswana roughly P2.5 billion annually. The group recommends reducing the hunting quota from 400 to 280 to promote the sustainability of elephant bulls.

NEWS BRIEFS
BONGANI MALUNGA

Recovery aid set for Pandamantenga farmers

The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture has announced plans to roll out recovery aid for Pandamantenga farmers whose farms were destroyed by flood waters in recent weeks. The Pandamantenga area, which is Botswana's central hub for commercial arable farming, has been affected by heavy rain as crop fields have been submerged in flood waters, resulting in heavy operational and financial setbacks for the farmers.

Ryan Neil, the chairperson of the Commercial Farmers Association stated in a television interview that every farmer in the area has been affected. "This storm has caused heavy infrastructure and crop damage. Every single farmer has been affected, the extent of the damage is still being assessed as we speak," Neil stated.



Batswana to help shape policy on foreign land ownership

The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture has confirmed that citizens will be engaged in determining the conditions under which foreigners may access land ownership in Botswana under an upcoming constitutional review. The move was relayed by Acting Minister, Dr Edwin Dikoloti during the Ntlo Ya Dikgosi session on Monday in response to Kgosi Bone Gobuamang who highlighted that transfer of land had become more frequent and less restrictive for foreigners in Botswana.

"As we embark on the legislative reviews and rewrite the constitution of this republic, the land ownership question will be a key consideration. Batswana will be given a platform to make a profound position regarding access to land by non-citizens," the Minister responded. The Minister clarified that under the Tribal Act of 2018, citizens are still given first refusal in land transactions as they are given an opportunity to match any offer by a foreign national after the land transaction has been advertised for full transparency.

Standard Chartered Flags 2026 Investment Opening

From technology to automotive and commodities, Standard Chartered's 2026 Global Market Outlook highlights where global capital is finding opportunity. The bank says diversification and awareness of global trends will be key for investors navigating the year ahead.



Why do global market outlooks matter? Tshepang Seisa of Standard Chartered Bank Botswana explains. Click here to watch.

Standard Chartered Bank's Global Market Outlook for 2026 sets out a cautiously constructive view of global markets, arguing that opportunities remain for investors willing to look beyond familiar asset classes and prepare for uneven returns. While uncertainty persists across global economies, the bank expects key asset classes to continue expanding, supported by structural growth themes and a gradual easing of financial conditions.

> We expect risk assets to perform well in 2026, but returns will be uneven.

MARKETS STILL EXPANDING

At the core of the outlook is the expectation that risk assets will continue to perform well in 2026. Standard Chartered believes strong earnings growth can still offset elevated valuations, particularly in sectors benefiting from long term structural shifts such as artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing.

However, the bank cautions that returns are unlikely to be broad based. Instead, markets are expected to show greater dispersion across regions and sectors, reinforcing the importance of deliberate diversification rather than concentration in a narrow set of assets.

EQUITIES AND GLOBAL GROWTH

Equities form a central pillar of the bank's strategy. Standard Chartered expects market leadership to remain concentrated in the United States and Asia excluding Japan, where earnings momentum and policy support continue to underpin growth.

Beyond technology, the outlook points to broader industrial and manufacturing linkages, including the automotive sector, where demand for advanced components, energy transition technologies, and AI enabled production systems is reshaping investment flows.

INCOME BEYOND DEVELOPED MARKETS

On the income side, the outlook favours Emerging Market bonds over Developed Market bonds. Standard Chartered sees EM bonds as offering a combination of attractive yields, improving fiscal discipline, and diversification benefits.

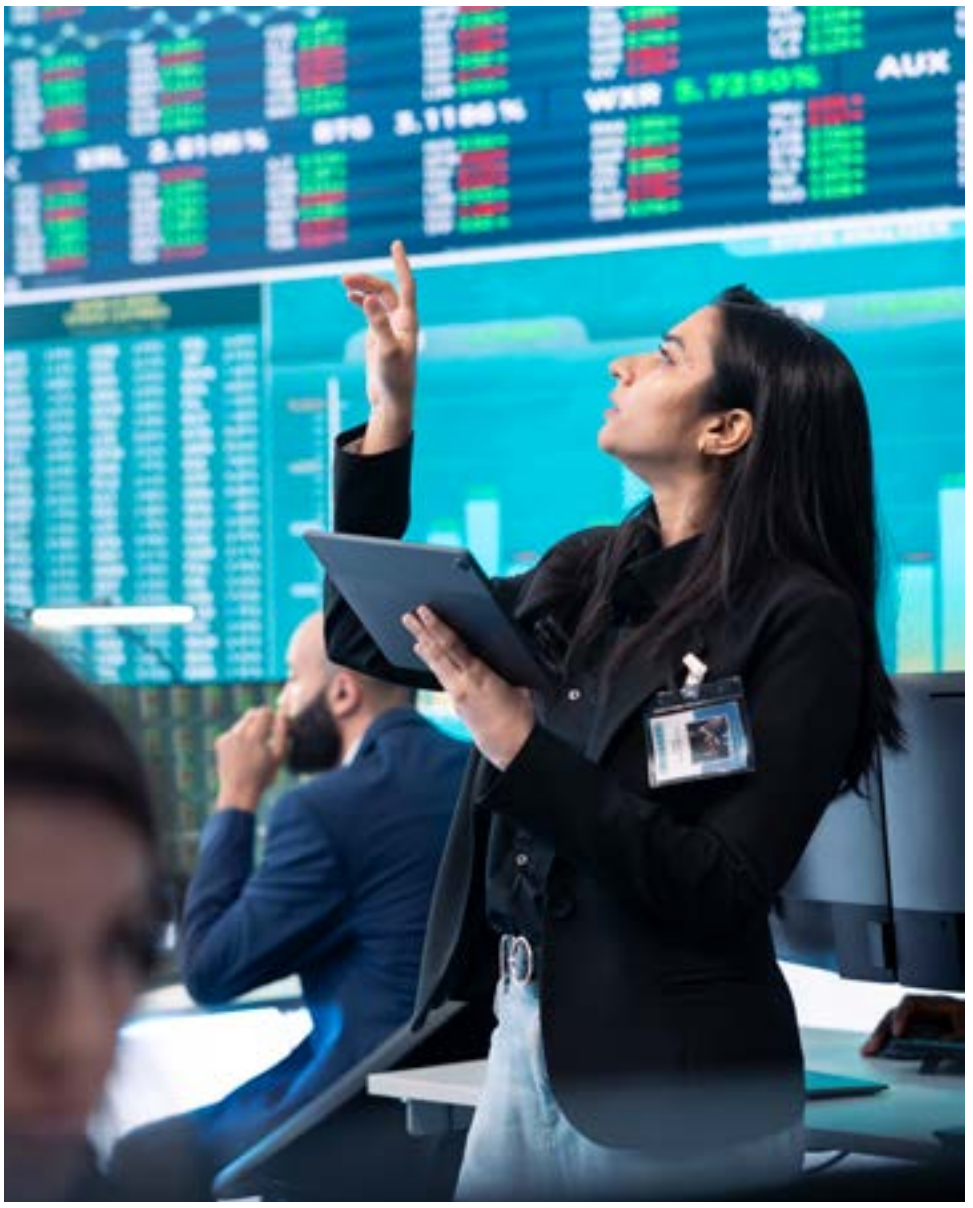
DIVERSIFICATION TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Diversification emerges as a recurring theme throughout the outlook. Standard Chartered expects gold to remain supported in 2026, driven by central bank demand, currency uncertainty, and shifting real yields.

RISKS THAT COULD SHIFT THE OUTLOOK

Despite its positive bias, the outlook identifies several risks that could alter market direction, including disappointment in AI driven growth, credit events, and changes in global liquidity conditions.

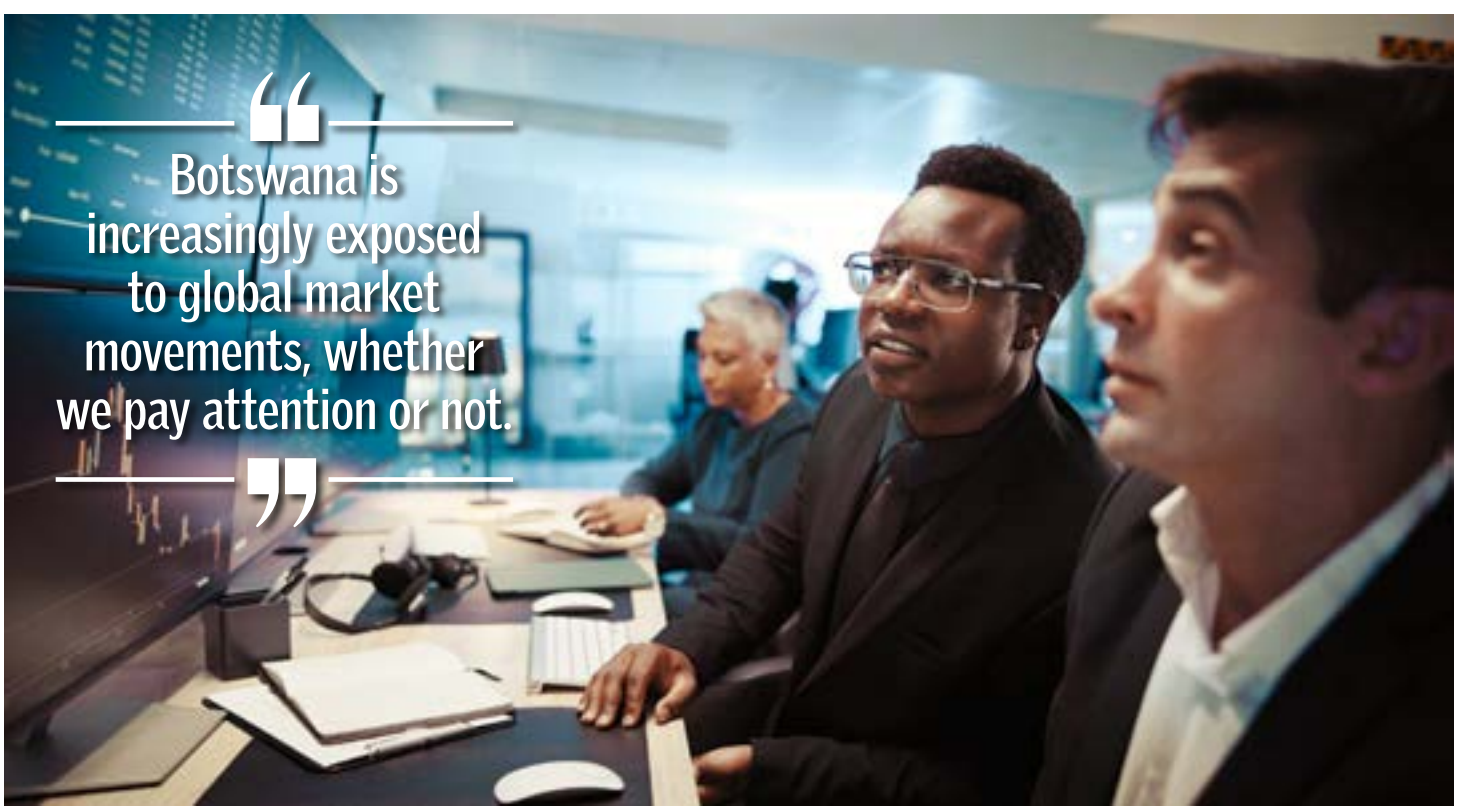
WHAT THIS MEANS FOR BOTSWANA



Standard Chartered Bank Botswana's Head of Capital Markets, Products and Solutions, Tshepang Seisa, says global market developments increasingly shape local financial realities. She notes that movements in currencies, commodities, and global capital flows now have a direct influence on household finances, business costs, and investment outcomes.

> Diversification is becoming essential as global markets grow more complex.

The full video interview with Tshepang Seisa is available via the accompanying link, where she unpacks the Global Market Outlook in greater detail.



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The upcoming World Athletics Relays, scheduled for May 2–3 in Gaborone, is expected to generate a noticeable boost for Botswana's business community, according to Thuso Palai, Director of Brand Management at the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre.

World Relays Boost Botswana Economy

Gaborone set to benefit as sectors gear up for May event

GAZETTE REPORTER

The upcoming World Athletics Relays, scheduled for May 2–3 in Gaborone, is expected to generate a noticeable boost for Botswana's business community, according to Thuso Palai, Director of Brand Management at the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre.

Speaking at a recent media workshop for the event, Palai highlighted that the economic impact will extend beyond the stadium. "There will be a spike in economic activities," he said. "Different sectors in the country, more especially those in the business sector, will benefit. It's not only at the stadium where there will be activity; it might not be you as an individual benefiting, but the next person will benefit."

> "Some often think money is being wasted by hosting, but these kind of events actually benefit.

SECTOR GAINS

Palai cited several industries poised to see increased activity, including aviation, transport and logistics, event management, catering, and the creative sector. According to him, the World Relays will stimulate economic activity in the lead-up to the event.

"Some often think money is being wasted by hosting, but these kind of events actually benefit," he said. "The SMMEs and vendors out there will stand to benefit as people flock to the stadium, using taxis and so it will be of great benefit to them."

EVENT RIPPLE

The influx of visitors and heightened business engagement is expected to generate revenue for small and medium enterprises while showcasing Botswana as a capable host of international sporting events.



Coca-Cola Bottler Ownership Set to Change

A proposed transaction before competition authorities would give Coca-Cola HBC sole control of Coca-Cola Beverages Africa, consolidating ownership of a vast bottling network that spans 14 African territories, including Botswana



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Competition and Consumer Authority has received a merger notification pursuant to section 49(1) of the Competition Act 2018 for the proposed sale and acquisition of a 75 percent shareholding in Coca-Cola Beverages Africa Proprietary Limited. The shares will be acquired by Coca-Cola HBC AG and Coca-Cola HBC Holdings B.V. from The Coca-Cola Company and Gutsche Family Investments Proprietary Limited.

According to the notification, "on implementation of the Proposed Acquisition, CCHBC will acquire sole control over CCBA." The transaction also includes a planned option agreement that would allow Coca-Cola HBC Holdings B.V. to acquire the remaining shares currently held by The Coca-Cola Company after completion.

ACQUIRING ENTERPRISE

Coca-Cola HBC Holdings B.V. is incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Coca-Cola HBC AG, a Swiss public company listed on the London Stock Exchange and the Athens Exchange. The notification states that "no enterprise holds a shareholding or other rights in CCHBC AG that are sufficient to confer control."

As of 31 December 2024, the principal shareholders of Coca-Cola HBC AG were Kar-Tess Holding, with approximately 23 percent of the issued share capital, and The Coca-Cola Company, which indirectly held approximately 21 percent.

Coca-Cola HBC operates as an authorised bottler of The Coca-Cola Company brands across 29 countries in Europe, Eurasia and Africa, distributing a wide range of beverages including sparkling soft drinks, water, energy drinks, coffee and ready-to-drink tea. The group, however, "does not have any business interests or activities in Botswana."

TARGET OPERATIONS

Coca-Cola Beverages Africa, the primary target enterprise, is incorporated under the laws of South Africa and is currently controlled by The Coca-Cola Company, which holds 66.52 percent of its issued share capital. The company is described as "an investment holding company with interests primarily in the carbonated and non-carbonated soft drink industry."

Its operational footprint is extensive. The company operates bottling plants and more than 100 active production lines that collectively service over 800,000 outlets across Africa.

BOTSWANA PRESENCE

In Botswana, Coca-Cola Beverages Africa indirectly controls Coca-Cola Beverages Botswana Proprietary Limited, a locally incorporated company with one bottling plant and three distribution centres. According to the filing, the company "prepares, packages, distributes and sells TCCC branded beverages to wholesalers and retailers within Botswana."

While the transaction changes ownership at the holding level, the notification does not indicate any alteration to local production or distribution operations in Botswana.

REGULATORY REVIEW

The Competition Act allows broad participation in the merger review process. As stated in the Act, "any person, including a third party not a party to the proposed merger, may voluntarily submit to the investigator or the Authority any document, affidavit, statement or other relevant information in respect of a proposed merger."

The notification formally places the transaction under regulatory scrutiny as authorities assess its implications within Botswana and the wider region.



PUBLIC NOTICE

TENDER NUMBER: 0016/2025-2026

IMPLEMENTATION OF A LICENSEE & REGULATORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LRMS)

The Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) - (hereinafter referred to as "the Authority") has been established under the BERA Act, 2016 (No 13 0f 2016) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") for the regulation of energy sector in Botswana, The Authority is responsible for providing an efficient an efficient regulatory framework for the regulated sector in accordance with the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority Act.

The procurement method is **Open International bidding**.
The tender evaluation shall follow the **Quality and Cost based selection Method**.
Procuring entity – BERA Operations Department
Eligible Botswana companies should be in possession of PPRA Code: Code: (Code 120 ICT Technical Support Services; Sub Code: sub-code 01: Systems Development service and Maintenance services)
Or
(Code 319 ICT Consultancy Services; sub-code 01: ICT Systems development).
The codes are to be verified online.
In line with the government's initiative to support citizen-owned companies, the following citizen economic empowerment schemes shall be considered for evaluation and award:

- Local Procurement Scheme (LPS)
- Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP)
- Economic Diversification Drive (EDD)

International companies should be in possession of appropriate procurement codes in their respective countries.
Interested companies may purchase the tender documents at a non-refundable deposit of P1500.00 payable by cash or bank guaranteed cheque made out in Favor of the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority. Youth-owned companies will pay half the price, which is P750.00.
Companies are advised to email proof of payment to tenders@bera.co.bw with copy to onkutule.mafule@bera.co.bw who shall send the complete tender document by email.

Bank details for EFT payments

Account Name	Bank	Account Number	Account Type	Branch Name	Swift Code
Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority	Absa Bank Botswana	1022004	Corporate Current	Government Enclave	BARCBWGXXXX

REFERENCE: Company name and Tender number

A two-envelope procedure will be followed in evaluating the tenders. More details on the method are contained on the tender documents.

Enquiries relating to this tender may be addressed to tenders@bera.co.bw with copy to onkutule.mafule@bera.co.bw at least five (5) working days before tender closing date.

CLOSING DATE

Responses shall be submitted not later than **1100hrs on the 13th February 2026** and shall be delivered as follows.

Bidders will be provided with an online link where documents/proposals will be uploaded.

Bidders who fail to comply will be disqualified.

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Tourism Funding Faces Structural Strain

Botswana's tourism sector struggles to recover from COVID-19, facing funding shortfalls, regulatory hurdles, and declining government demand

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana's tourism sector long seen as a pillar of economic growth and job creation is showing clear signs of financial strain, according to data and analysis presented by the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) at the Tourism Pitso 2026 Panel Discussion.

Since its inception, the Agency has funded 334 tourism businesses valued at P552 million, creating 2,485 jobs. But behind those headline figures lies a struggling loan book, with P50.8 million currently in arrears — a signal of deeper structural challenges in the sector.

"The sector is not performing as well as it should," said CEDA Caretaker CEO Khalala Mokefane, attributing the downturn to both economic shocks and long-standing market weaknesses.

PANDEMIC IMPACT

An internal analysis of CEDA's funding trends shows a sharp decline in both the number of businesses financed and total investment values since 2020. The downturn coincides with the COVID-19 pandemic, which dealt a severe blow to tourism operations, revenues, and investor confidence. The effects, according to the Agency, are still being felt across the broader economy.

Annual investment figures reflect this slump, with 2022 recorded as the weakest performing year. The slowdown has not only reduced new project funding but has also weakened the sustainability of existing tourism enterprises.

HIGH-IMPACT PROJECTS

Despite the challenges, CEDA's tourism portfolio includes 86 high-impact businesses — projects defined by their measurable economic and social benefits. These investments are concentrated in strategic ecotourism destinations such as the Okavango Delta, Chobe, and the Kalahari Trans Frontier Park (KTP).

The total investment in these high-impact projects stands at P194.7 million, supporting the creation of 618 jobs. The Agency has also financed citizen-owned enterprises in these areas, positioning tourism as both an economic and community development tool.

STRUCTURAL BARRIERS

Mokefane outlined multiple obstacles undermining the sector's financial sustainability. High start-up and operating costs remain a major barrier, especially for lodges, camps, and safari operations that require significant capital for land, construction, vehicles, and equipment.

Revenue instability is another critical risk. Many operators rely heavily on international tourists, making them vulnerable to seasonality and global disruptions. "This revenue instability increases perceived risk and makes lenders more cautious," Mokefane said.

Regulatory challenges further complicate investment. Licensing processes are described as complex, costly, and slow, delaying project implementation and access to finance. In the KTP, regulatory differences between Botswana and South Africa place local operators at a disadvantage, restricting activities such as night game drives and permanent infrastructure development.

Government demand, once a reliable market, has also declined. The introduction of local per diem rates in 2024 and reduced government travel have significantly affected accommodation facilities, shrinking bookings and revenues.

Poor road connectivity to tourism sites, lingering COVID-19 impacts, and gaps in business management skills among emerging entrepreneurs continue to weaken the sector's resilience.

As Mokefane noted, many clients lack "adequate financial planning skills and historical financial records," undermining creditworthiness and long-term sustainability.

Together, these pressures paint a picture of a sector still struggling to recover — and one where funding alone is no longer enough without structural reform, market diversification, and institutional support.



21st January 2026

CLARIFICATION ON CALL FOR COMMENTS ON BPC's 2026/27 TARIFF APPLICATION

1. The public is advised that the notice issued by the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) on the 17th of December 2025 is a tariff application and not a tariff increase. No tariff increase has been approved at this stage. Any decision will follow due regulatory processes and public consultation.

2. Kindly note the process as follows;
   a) Submission of a tariff application by Botswana Power Corporation to BERA with a proposed tariff structure and rates;

   b) BERA undertakes an initial review to confirm completeness of the application and assess compliance with regulatory requirements:

   c) BERA publishes a public notice on the application for proposed tariff adjustment in line with principles of transparency and receives public submissions as is the case now.

   d) The Authority further calls for a stakeholder consultation and public hearing to consult with stakeholders where affected parties may make representations for or against application. BPC will be required to present and respond to issues raised by stakeholders.

   e) BERA assesses the application considering inputs from all stakeholders in balancing consumer protection and financial viability of BPC.

   f) A decision is made and issued formally to the applicant and communicated to the public.

3. Stakeholders and the public are therefore invited to review and comment on the BPC tariff application through written submissions, by 30th January 2026.

4. Written comments on the BPC application can be sent to or tumelo.ledibogo@bera.co.bw and info@bera.co.bw . The Public Consultation Paper requesting comments is available at the BERA website (www.bera.co.bw/electricity/downloads).

5. The public hearing will be on **Tuesday 10th February 2026 at Grand Area Hotel** West Gate Mall (near BTV), Gaborone.

Gift Bakumbi
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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How Traditional Beer Brewed Botswana's Livelihoods

For generations, traditional beer brewing has quietly sustained families, educated children and powered an informal economy that refuses to disappear



Photo Credit: Social Media

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Before sunrise, fires are already crackling in many homesteads across Botswana. Large blackened pots simmer slowly, not just with sorghum and water, but with hope. For decades, traditional beer brewing has functioned as one of the country's most dependable informal businesses, sustaining households long before grants, loans or formal employment became widespread.

Bojalwa jwa Setswana and khadi were never marketed as enterprises. They emerged out of necessity. With minimal capital and basic equipment, parents — often women — transformed time, skill and patience into income. The returns were modest but reliable: money for food, school uniforms, exam fees and, occasionally, dignity in the face of limited options.

GENERATIONAL TRADE

Boitshoko Malebadi Matlakele, 79, from Borobadilepe village, about 26km from Goodhope, is one such story. Speaking in a telephone interview, she said brewing traditional beer allowed her to raise 11 children — two of whom have since passed — largely on her own.

"As we are speaking, they are old people with their own families," she said. "One of them is even a soldier at Glen Valley. I am very proud of how they have turned out."

Matlakele cannot recall exactly when she started brewing, only that the skill was passed down by her grandmother. "I stayed with her a lot because my mother travelled to places like Transvaal," she said. "My grandmother always told me this kind of business can sustain you, no matter what."

Though age has slowed her down, Matlakele is still active. Last year, she brewed voluntarily for a kgotla event in another village. "Even those who don't drink had a few sips," she laughed, recalling the reaction.

COMMUNITY BACKBONE

Kgosi Kedirile Letshabo of Molapowabojang, about 16km from Lobatse, said traditional brewing has long supported families in his village and others like it. "For years, there are families who have run this business to support their households," he said.

Today, brewers are required to comply with the Liquor Act. "They have to acquire permits to operate, and many come to village leadership to request them," Letshabo explained.

He recalled a well-known brewing spot, Kwa Ga Mma Kay-Abee, run by an elderly woman who raised children who later became respected figures in the village. "Everyone knew that place," he said. "It fed families."

QUIET ECONOMY

Because it exists largely outside formal registration and taxation systems, traditional brewing is often overlooked. Yet its economic footprint is visible in classrooms, graduation ceremonies and professional offices across the country. Many teachers, nurses and civil servants are products of households supported by this informal trade.

Still, the sector faces mounting pressure. Stricter regulation, changing social attitudes, rising input costs and tougher policing in some areas have reduced profitability. Younger generations are also less inclined to continue, viewing the trade as outdated or socially risky.

ENDURING DIGNITY

Despite these challenges, traditional beer brewing persists. It is not driven by ambition or growth targets, but by responsibility. For many parents, it was never about alcohol sales. It was about survival, independence and ensuring that children had better options than their parents did.

Long after sunrise, when the pots are emptied and the fires die down, the quiet legacy of this trade continues — in lives shaped, educated and sustained by what once simmered in those pots.

Botswana Exports Drop in November 2025

Copper and diamonds drive earnings decline amid rising imports

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana's export earnings fell by 10.8 percent in November 2025, dropping from a revised P4.3 billion in October to P3.8 billion, according to Statistics Botswana.

The decline was largely driven by copper and diamond shipments, the report shows. "Copper and Diamond exports declined by 13.7 percent (P127.1 million) and 4.2 percent (P101.6 million) respectively," it states.

EXPORT PERFORMANCE

Diamonds remained the dominant export commodity, contributing 59.3 percent of total exports at P2.9 billion. Copper followed with 20.8 percent (P803.3 million), and Machinery and Electrical Equipment accounted for 6.3 percent (P242.9 million).

KEY MARKETS

Asian markets absorbed the largest share of Botswana's exports. "Exports to Asia were the highest at 60.8 percent of



total exports," the report notes.

Diamonds and copper were the main commodities shipped to the region, at 78.3 percent and 21.4 percent respectively. Within Asia, the United Arab Emirates led, receiving 23.4 percent (P902.4 million) of total exports, followed by India at 21.0 percent (P811.6 million) and China at 13.1 percent (P504.0 million).

Diamonds were the primary export to both the UAE and India, representing 99.7 percent (P899.6 million) and 99.9 percent (P810.8 million) respectively, while copper was the sole commodity exported to China, valued at P503.9 million.

IMPORTS RISE

Botswana imported goods worth P7.3 billion in November. Fuel was the leading category, accounting for 20.0 percent of total imports, followed by Food, Beverages and Tobacco at 18.3 percent, and Machinery and Electrical Equipment at 16.7 percent.

TRADE PARTNERS

The SACU region remained the largest supplier, providing 70.5 percent of total imports. "Food, Beverages & Tobacco; Fuel; Chemicals & Rubber Products and Machinery & Electrical Equipment were the most imported commodity groups from the customs union," the report states.

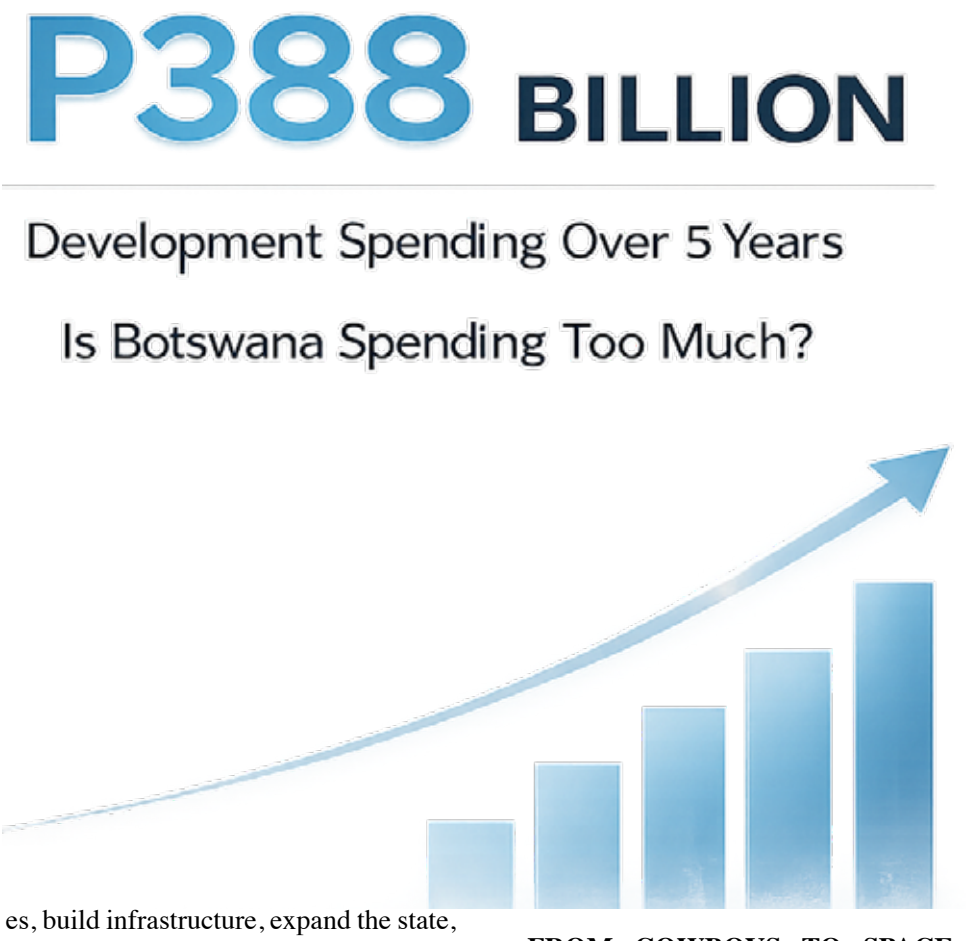
South Africa was the top source of imports, contributing 65.9 percent of the total, followed by Namibia at 3.8 percent.

FROM COWBOYS TO SPACEMEN

Why Botswana Must Abandon an Outdated Development Model

As Botswana prepares its 2026 budget, familiar development thinking continues to dominate policy. Economist Douglas Rasbash argues that the country's long standing resource led model is no longer fit for purpose and that a fundamental shift in economic thinking is now unavoidable.





DOUGLAS RASBASH

Botswana's so called Second Republic budget for 2026 is due within weeks. It is almost certain to follow a familiar script. Incremental spending adjustments, reassurances about fiscal discipline, renewed commitments to infrastructure, and another round of development projects intended to stimulate growth. Yet beneath this ritual lies a deeper problem. Botswana is attempting to confront 21st century economic challenges using a 20th century development model whose limits are now increasingly visible.

For decades, Botswana's economic strategy worked remarkably well. A small, landlocked country leveraged diamond revenues, sound governance, and disciplined planning to lift itself from poverty to middle income status. That success, however, has bred inertia. The very model that once delivered growth is now associated with stagnation, unemployment, rising inequality, and growing social strain. Traditional development, in its familiar form, is no longer generating sufficient jobs, diversification, or sustained GDP growth. What Botswana needs now is not more development spending, but a different economic paradigm.

THE LIMITS OF DEVELOPMENT

Traditional development economics rests on a simple logic. Extract resources, build infrastructure, expand the state, and growth will follow. This approach assumes abundant land, labour, and fiscal space. When problems arise, the response is more roads, more projects, more public investment. This logic remains clearly visible in NDP12.

> "Botswana is attempting to solve 21st century economic challenges with a development model whose limits are now impossible to ignore."

It worked when Botswana was capital scarce and infrastructure poor. Today, the context has changed. Unemployment exceeds 25 percent, with youth unemployment estimated above 40 percent. GDP growth has averaged below four percent over the past decade, including several years of contraction. The non mining private sector remains weak despite decades of incentives. Public expenditure already exceeds 30 percent of GDP, narrowing fiscal room for manoeuvre. Diamond dependence persists, accounting for roughly 80 percent of export earnings and around 30 percent of government revenue in good years.

These are not symptoms of underdevelopment. They reflect a mature but misaligned economy. Botswana's constraints are no longer physical. They are structural, behavioural, and institutional.

FROM COWBOYS TO SPACEMEN

Economist Kenneth Boulding distinguished between what he called the cowboy economy and the spaceman economy. The cowboy economy treats resources as abundant, waste as external, and growth as limitless. The spaceman economy recognises that resources are finite, systems are closed, and efficiency rather than expansion is the key to prosperity.

Botswana continues to budget like a cowboy in a world that now demands spacemen. The funding requirements of NDP12 amount to P388 billion over five years, roughly 30 percent of GDP, a historically unprecedented scale. Alongside this sits the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, which may require a further P430 billion. This reflects an enduring faith in the development model despite mounting evidence of its diminishing returns.

In a spaceman economy, value is created through knowledge, efficiency, services, and institutions rather than extraction and infrastructure. Growth is decoupled from resource use and environmental pressure. Employment emerges from distributed and flexible activity rather than large capital projects. This

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shift is empirical rather than ideological.

THE FAILURE OF RESOURCE LED GROWTH

Botswana's resource led model now faces three hard constraints. The first is volatility. Diamond revenues fluctuate with global demand, exposing the fiscal position to sharp shocks. International institutions have repeatedly warned that Botswana remains highly vulnerable to diamond cycles, with limited buffers as reserves decline.

> The development model that delivered the past cannot deliver the future.

The second constraint is employment. Mining is capital intensive and employs less than three percent of the workforce even at peak production. Infrastructure projects absorb labour temporarily but do not create lasting employment.

The third constraint is finiteness. Diamonds are exhaustible. By the 2030s, output is expected to decline structurally. Building a long term growth strategy on a shrinking asset base is not strategic planning. It is denial.

WHERE BOTSWANA IS STUCK

Three structural traps underpin the current stagnation. The first is over investment in enablers. Botswana excels at building roads, offices, and plans but struggles to create productive ecosystems. Infrastructure without producers becomes sunk cost.

The second is public sector dominance. Government remains the employer of last resort, crowding out private initiative and locking talent into low productivity roles. When parastatals are included, public employment far exceeds levels seen in advanced economies.

> Budgets are not just financial documents. They are signals of belief.

The third is policy without incentives. Botswana produces strong policy documents but weak incentive alignment. Entrepreneurs face high transaction costs, regulatory uncertainty, and limited market access. The result is compliance without creativity.

A DIFFERENT ECONOMIC MODEL

A post development, spaceman economy for Botswana would rest on five pillars. Digital and services exports would allow Botswana to export skills, services, and trust rather than physical goods. Energy and mobility decoupling through solar power and electric transport would reduce fuel imports and strengthen the trade balance. Institutional productivity gains through digitised government systems could deliver efficiency savings comparable to several percentage points of GDP.

Capital market reform is also essential. Pension assets exceed P120 billion, yet only a small share is channelled into productive domestic investment. Redirecting even a modest portion could transform the economy. Finally, labour market flexibility must replace the narrow focus on formal job creation with a broader emphasis on income generation.

WHY THE BUDGET MATTERS

Budgets signal belief. A budget that repeats the development template signals faith in spending more and building bigger. A reoriented budget would shift emphasis from physical capital to human, digital, and institutional capital. It would measure success by productivity rather than expenditure.

If Botswana remains on its current path, the risks are already visible. Rising unemployment, deepening youth disaffection, increasing fiscal stress, and missed opportunities in the global digital and green transition.

CHOOSING THE FUTURE

Botswana does not lack resources, intelligence, or stability. What it lacks is conceptual courage. The development model that delivered the past cannot deliver the future. The choice is stark. Remain a cowboy economy managing decline, or become a spaceman economy designing resilience. The 2026 budget can either rehearse old answers or mark the moment Botswana accepts that growth must now be earned differently.





From Chasing Headlines To Owning The Narrative

Why visibility alone no longer defines influence, and why organisations must now take responsibility for clarity, continuity and trust.

TAAZIMA KALA, CHART.PR, FCIPR

There was a time when corporate communications could be reduced to a single, familiar question: Did we get the coverage?

I remember rooms where mornings began with newspapers spread across the table, pages folded back to the clips that mattered. A front-page mention lifted the mood. A missed opportunity lingered longer than it should have. Over time, column inches became a shorthand for success, not because journalism lacked rigour, but because our profession learned to equate visibility with value.

WHEN COVERAGE STOPPED BEING ENOUGH

This is not a rejection of earned media, nor a denial of how PR has traditionally worked. It is an acknowledgement that what once defined success is no longer sufficient on its own. Journalism has evolved. Newsrooms are leaner, cycles faster, and the expectations placed on journalists heavier than ever. The relationship between organisations and the media today requires more clarity, preparation and respect, not pressure to perform as a blunt instrument of validation.

What has changed most is not the role of journalism, but how organisations must show up alongside it. Effectiveness is no longer measured by momentary visibility. It is measured by continuity, trust and relevance over time. Audiences are fragmented. Attention is scarce. Earned media still matters deeply, but it can no longer carry the full weight of explanation and institutional memory on its own.

FROM HEADLINES TO UNDERSTANDING

Most leaders have felt this shift. A story lands well, then disappears within hours. A complex decision is reduced to a headline stripped of nuance. The real question is no longer "Did we get coverage?" but "Did anyone actually understand what we were trying to say?" This is where the shift from chasing headlines to owning the narrative becomes unavoidable.

> Diversification is becoming essential as global markets grow more complex

The PESO model is no longer a neat set of channels. It now behaves as a connected system, where credibility flows across platforms and owned media increasingly provides the anchor that gives everything else coherence and longevity.

WHY CONTEXT NOW MATTERS MORE THAN REACH

This is not an argument against advertising or third-party platforms. Paid media remains essential for reach and commercial growth. The challenge arises when exposure is not supported by a coherent narrative ecosystem behind it. Trust is built through repeated, credible signals over time. Stakeholders expect organisations to explain themselves directly and consistently, not only through intermediaries.

Globally and closer to home, the pattern is clear. Organisations that communicate early, clearly and repeatedly tend to stabilise sentiment more effectively, even when the message itself is difficult. In Botswana and across Southern Africa, we have seen how quickly confidence can be affected when context is missing, particularly around economic adjustments, service disruptions or policy shifts.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OWNING THE PLATFORM

This shift requires a change in mindset. Owned media is not a replacement for journalism. Earned media remains essential for scrutiny and accountability. But it is episodic by nature. Owned storytelling creates space for explanation, learning and continuity. It allows organisations to speak between moments, not only when prompted by events.

It also raises the bar. When organisations own the platform, they own the responsibility. Weak thinking becomes visible quickly. Inconsistencies are harder to hide. The strongest owned content today feels measured, human and credible. It reflects organisations that understand who they are and where they are going, even when the path is still evolving.

> Effectiveness is no longer measured by momentary visibility. It is measured by continuity, trust and relevance over time.

A QUESTION ORGANISATIONS CANNOT AVOID

In an environment of economic pressure, regulatory scrutiny and rising public expectation, communications cannot be reactive or ornamental. Organisations need narrative infrastructure, not to control opinion, but to contribute meaningfully to it.

The future of corporate communications will not be defined by louder messaging. It will be defined by coherence, patience and credibility. The question facing organisations in Botswana and across the continent is therefore a grounded one: are we prepared to tell our own stories thoughtfully, continuously and with the discipline this responsibility demands?

The onus is on us to make the move.



Taazima Kala

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 2026

NNUNU EXPLAINS THE WAIT FOR SEPHONONO

Nnunu Ramogotsi's latest offering, Sephonono is not just an album, it's a memory vault. Eight tracks steeped in Tswana village life, womanhood, faith and cultural pride, delivered with the calm confidence of an artist who waited for life to catch up with her voice



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

In a music era obsessed with urgency, Nnunu Ramogotsi chose patience. Thirteen years after her genre-defining debut Mmasonoko (2012), the Afro-jazz songstress—fondly known as Africa's Jewel—has returned with Sephonono, an album shaped as much by time as by talent.

And the wait? It wasn't accidental.

"I guess I got comfortable in my space because Mmasonoko is such a great album," Nnunu explained to Time Out. "It scooped awards and I travelled around the world with it. I still get bookings because of the album."

WHEN LIFE HITS PAUSE

When she finally felt ready to release new music, life stepped in with its own arrangements—health challenges, interrupted studio plans in South Africa, COVID-19 delays, and devastating losses.

"My studio manager at the time then passed on, I had collaborated with the legendary Steve Kekana and he also passed and things were at stand still," she said. "There were a lot of challenges and I had to come back home to write new music."

What followed wasn't retreat—it was recalibration.

TWO DAYS, THIRTEEN YEARS

When the moment finally arrived, it arrived fast.

"The right moment came last year and it took two days and it turned out amazing," Nnunu said. "There is so much growth and maturity in my new sound, I have surprised myself with what my voice can do now."

Rooted in Tswana village life, Sephonono unfolds like an oral history—Nkoma restores balance, Leisong gathers elders around the hearth, Lo a Bidiwa summons the morafe to the kgotla, while the title track gently ushers a young woman into adulthood.

"Sephonono is a very personal album for me," Nnunu said. "Every track reflects a piece of my journey."

> "The right moment came last year and it took two days and it turned out amazing"

THE WAIT WAS THE WORK

At 13 years apart, Mmasonoko and Sephonono now sit like bookends—one introducing Africa's Jewel, the other affirming her timelessness. With a new website at https://nnunuramogotsijazz.com, streaming globally and buzzing social media love—especially for the title track "Sephonono"—Nnunu isn't catching up. She's arriving exactly on time.

Miss Botswana's Jubilee Moment

As Botswana marks 60 years of independence, Miss Botswana 2026 transforms the crown into a Diamond Jubilee declaration—where beauty, purpose and national pride take centre stage

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



Mark your calendars and your votes. The Miss Botswana Grand Finale 2026 is officially set for 21 March 2026 at the Molapo Creative Hub (Molapo Crossing), and this year, the crown carries more than sparkle. It carries history.

Aligned with Botswana's 60th Independence celebrations, the finale will honour Beauty, Fashion, Culture and National Pride, crowning women tasked with representing the nation's legacy on the global stage at a time when Botswana is reflecting on who it has been—and who it is becoming.

BEAUTY WITH A PURPOSE, POWERED BY THE PEOPLE

The journey to the crown is already intense. Following nationwide auditions held across the country, the Miss World Botswana Organization end of last year unveiled the Top 30 finalists—young women selected not only for poise, but for purpose.

Each finalist arrived with ambition, vision and a cause, embodying the Miss Botswana ethos of Beauty with a Purpose. But this year, the public isn't just watching—they're deciding.

> "As of now the contestants are still 30, they will be reduced to Top 20 from the 30th January on the last day of voting"

"As of now the contestants are still 30, they will be reduced to Top 20 from the 30th January on the last day of voting. The one's on top 5 voting will automatically get direct entry into Top 20," a Miss Botswana spokesperson told Time Out.

In other words, the crown is now partly in the hands of Batswana.

A REBRAND FOR A NEW ERA

As the competition evolves, so does its identity. The organisation has officially rebranded its Facebook page from Miss Botswana 2022 to Miss World Botswana Organization, signalling a renewed focus on global alignment and impact-driven initiatives.

"This transition reflects the organization's leadership and purpose-driven initiatives as Botswana steps into 2026."

The public has been encouraged to follow the page and join what the organisation describes as a journey of transformation, empowerment and national pride.

MORE THAN A PAGEANT

Miss Botswana 2026 is not just crowning a queen—it's curating a moment. One where beauty meets history, votes meet voices, and a Diamond Jubilee finds expression in the women ready to carry Botswana forward.

Is Theo Mojumi the Most Relatable Content Creator?

With one room, phone shots and zero pretence, full time content creator Theo Mojumi is quietly rewriting the rules of influence—proving that authenticity, not excess, is what truly connects

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

In a social media world obsessed with luxury aesthetics and soft-life fantasies, Theo Mojumi is doing the exact opposite—and winning. From a simple single room, the 26-year-old full-time content creator has grown a loyal TikTok following of over 63.9K and 74K Facebook followers turning everyday survival into powerful storytelling.

No flashy backdrops. No borrowed lifestyles. Just sharp camera angles, honesty and intention.

Theo's content has made him one of the most intriguing digital storytellers to watch. With clean and creative camera angles his content has earned comparisons to South African internet star Grace Mondlana—with many saying the only thing separating them is access to resources and consistent monetisation.

NORMAL AS A SUPERPOWER

Theo's content journey began far from viral ambition. After moving from Selibe Phikwe to the city, he was simply looking for stability—and a way to revive his merchandise business.

"While scrolling through TikTok I came across other people's authentic content that I resonated with," he told Time Out. "I was comfortable sacrificing my space and privacy, and I decided to experiment with authentic content creation."

The goal was modest: build a community of 5,000 people. What he built instead was trust.

NO SCRIPT, JUST SURVIVAL

Fans often describe Theo's page as a diary they didn't know they needed—and that's because very little is staged.

"Everything that I do is just me surviving the day," he says. "I do not plan unless it's a brand video."

There were moments of doubt. Views dipped as low as 200. But encouragement kept him going.

"I would get comments of people saying I inspire them and that's what really pushed me to create more despite the odds."

DREAMING BEYOND THE SYSTEM

Leaving his job as a security guard to pursue content full time was risky—especially in a country where creators are still not paid.

"The only thing keeping me afloat is brand deals," Theo admits, adding that he may explore monetisation opportunities outside Botswana before returning stronger.

> "Theo's content has made him one of the most intriguing digital storytellers to watch"

STILL, HIS VISION REMAINS CLEAR.

"I am building a solid brand that will survive the trends," he says. "Accepting who you are can take you places."

In a digital economy chasing perfection, Theo Mojumi is proof that real life—unfiltered—might just be the future of influence.



ZEST WAS NEVER JUST A RESTAURANT

As Zest prepares to close its doors at the Gaborone Club, the city reflects on a space that fed more than stomachs—it fed friendships, movements and moments that mattered



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

When Zest announced it would be closing its doors at the Gaborone Club at the end of the month, the news landed softly—but deeply. Not because Gaborone is losing a restaurant, but because it's saying goodbye to a space that felt like home.

"This space has been more than a restaurant, it's been a home for youth, artists, activists, friends, families, strangers who became friends," founder Calvin Williams told Time Out on behalf of his family.

Zest mattered because it created something rare in the city: a place that didn't rush you, didn't perform exclusivity, and didn't ask you to fit a mould. You came as you were and stayed longer than planned.

FROM MARKETS TO MOVEMENTS

Long before it became a permanent space, Zest was already building community. It started at local markets —Chill Step, Jam for Brunch, Thapong Night Market—when Gaborone's market culture was still finding its feet.

Zest took its name from the vibrant, fresh, and bold flavours rooted in our family kitchen— flavours that shaped our love for cooking and sharing food," he said.

"What began as a simple desire to make affordable, made-from-scratch meals grew into something far greater than we ever imagined**."**

From chicken strips and the signature secret sauce to huli huli chicken cooked on a bakkie-turned-rotisserie, the food was personal, rooted in family kitchens and shared openly.

A MEETING POINT FOR ART, ACTIVISM & FRIENDSHIP

At the Gaborone Club, Zest became a soft landing spot for artists, musicians, activists, families and young creatives. It hosted long conversations under trees, winter nights around fires, collaborations that began over meals and friendships that outlasted them.

"People were not only coming for the food, but for the feeling of connection around it," Williams reflected.

In a city hungry for third spaces, Zest quietly became one.

NOT AN END—A TRANSITION

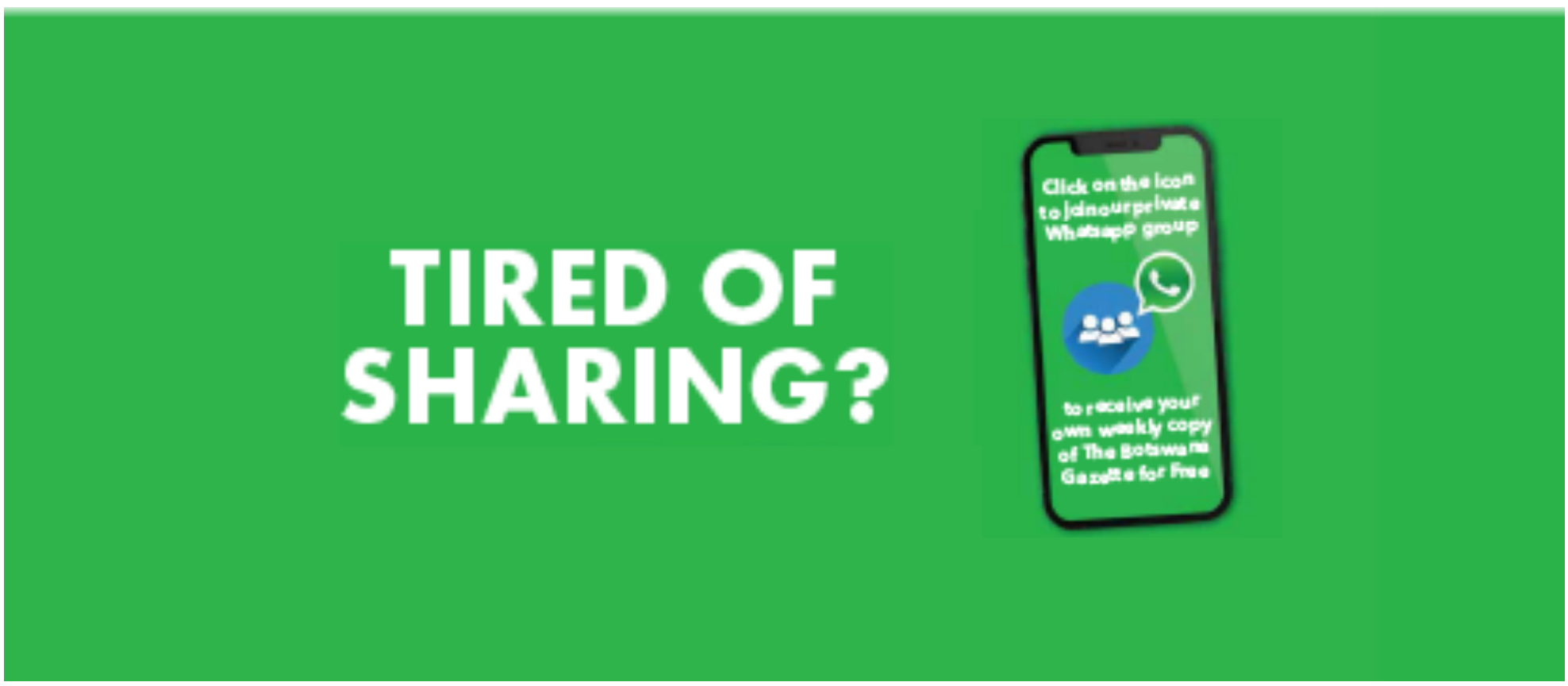
While this chapter as a full-time restaurant is closing, Zest isn't disappearing. Delivery services and private events will continue, with the same values intact.

"There has recently been the perception that Zest is simply closing. While this chapter as a full-time restaurant is coming to an end, we see this moment as a transition rather than an ending," said Williams.

> "People were not only coming for the food, but for the feeling of connection around it"

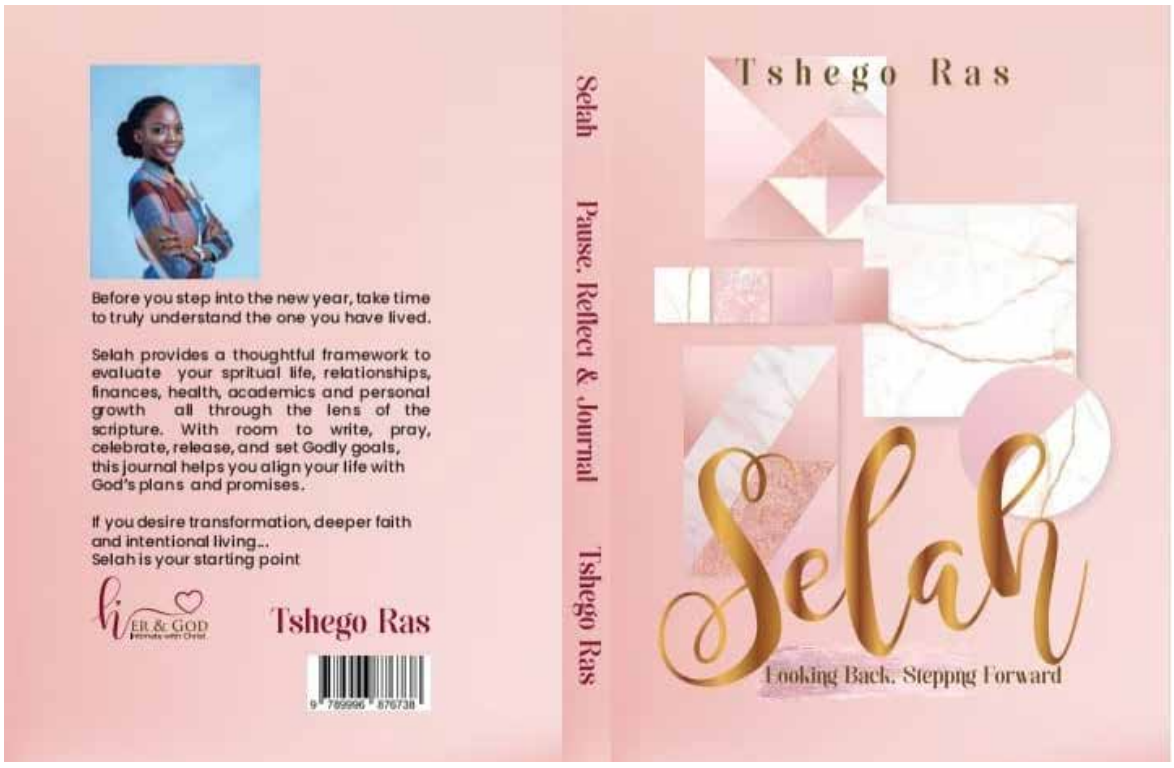
"What remains unchanged are the values that shaped Zest from the beginning: community, creativity, and shared experience**."**

As Zest invites the city to share one last meal at the Gaborone Club, the message is clear: this wasn't just a restaurant closing. It was a community saying thank you.



Why Pausing Has Become Revolutionary

Selah, a new guided journal invites women to slow down, reflect deeply and realign with God before stepping into what's next



GAZETTE REPORTER

In a culture obsessed with speed, productivity and "what's next," Tshegofatso Rasedikela is inviting women to do the opposite—pause. Published by Villescense Publishing Studios, Selah is an 81-page guided reflection journal designed for Christian women seeking clarity, healing and spiritual alignment.

Rooted in the biblical meaning of Selah—to stop, consider and discern—the journal encourages women to intentionally reflect on the year they've lived with God, not rush past it.

"At times, we blame God for outcomes He was never responsible for," Rasedikela explained. "Not because the answers were absent, but because we failed to pay attention."

THREE SECTIONS, ONE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Selah unfolds in three intentional sections: reflect, give thanks, and gear up.

REFLECT

This section guides readers through honest evaluation—spirituality, relationships, finances, emotional well-being, health and purpose—helping them recognise patterns and discern where God has been present.

"Many feel as though they are moving back and forth spiritually," Rasedikela notes, "when in truth, they are repeating patterns they have never taken time to recognize or confront."

> "At times, we blame God for outcomes He was never responsible for"

GIVE THANKS

Here, gratitude takes centre stage—acknowledging answered prayers, hidden graces, difficult lessons and the people God used as vessels along the journey.

GEAR UP

Rather than goal-setting pressure, this section focuses on prayerful surrender—realigning with God's will and stepping forward in faith and expectancy.

MORE THAN A JOURNAL

A born-again believer and founder of Her & God, Rasedikela's mission is clear: helping young women become whole, Spirit-led and secure in their identity in Christ.

Selah is available for P120. Orders can be placed via +267 72 916 997.



PHUTHEGO JUDGE
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO. CVHGB-000737/22

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED NO (Cited in the capacity as the Trustees for the time being) for BIFM (LOCAL PROPERTY FUND) **Plaintiff**
and
NITRAM TECHNOLOGIES SERVICES **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff **ONKEMETSE MEDUPE** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 27TH February 2026
TIME OF : 10:30 am
VENUE : Broadhurst Police Station

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x 6 Array Box Container Box; 1 x Solar Pest Repeller; 1 x 2 Solar Pest Repeller; 1 x 27 Solar Panels; 1 x 9 Solar Panels; 1 x 13 Solar Panels; 1 x 12 Solar Panels; 1 x 6 Solar Panels; 1 x 15 Solar Panels; 1 x 6 Solar Panels; 1 x 28 Solar Panels; 1 x 12 Solar Invertors; 1 x 21 Solar panels; 1 x Wireless Switch; 1 x Pumping Body; 1 x Pumping Body; 1 x3 Car Refrigerator; 1 x Pumping Body; 1 x AC Drive; 1 x Wireless Switch; 1 x 3 Solar Pumping Inverter; 1 x Solar Charge Controller; 1 x 6 Solar Charge Controller; 1 x AC Drive; 1 x 1 Solar Pumping inverter; 1 x 3 Solar Pumping Inverter; 1 x1 PV Array Combiner Box; 1 x1 Solar Inverter; 1 x1 Solar Inverter; 1x2 Solar Inverter; 1x15 Solar Panels; 1x1 Investors; 1x2 inventors; 1x1 Solar Inventor; 1x2 Solar Inventor; 1x Pv Pumping Inventor; 1x Battery connectors; 1x19 Solar Water Pumps.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Bank Transfer only.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 26TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026

Malete Attorneys
ATTORNEYS. CONVEYANCERS & NOTARIES

MALETE ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 18573, Phase
(Aresutalane Way)
PO Box 748 AAH
GABORONE

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT OF GRANT OF LEASE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Memorandum of Agreement of Grant of Lease No. **FT TG 641/2015** dated **2nd** day of **March 2015** made in favour of **EDWARD MUNAMAVA** in respect of:

CERTAIN : piece of land being Tribal Grant No. 280-PM
SITUATE : At Kgantshang in the Batawana Tribal Area
MEASURING : 19.4272 Hectares (One Nine point Four Two Seven Two Hectares)

Any person having objection to the issuance of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same, in writing with the Registrar of Deeds, Private Bag 0020 Gaborone, within three (3) weeks of the last publication of this notice hereof.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 26th DAY OF JANUARY 2026

SEDIMO LAW CHAMBERS
(Attorneys, Notaries & Conveyancer
Plot 750, Extension 2, (Opposite Clinic)
P. O. Box 4248
GABORONE
Tel: 396 0784

APPLICATION FOR LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of lost Deed of Transfer No.1516/2007 dated 27 July 2007 in favour of Goabaone Tsalaile.

CERTAIN : piece of land being Lot 24375, Gaborone
SITUATE : in Gaborone West Extension 22
MEASURING : 450 m^2 (Four Hundred and Fifty Square Metres);

All persons objecting to the issue of such copy are hereby requested to lodge such objections in writing, with the Registrar of Deeds, Private Bag 0020, Gaborone within three (3) weeks of publication of this notice.

MAKATI LAW CONSULTANCY, *Attorneys Notaries and Conveyancers*, Plot 15304, Lebethu Way, Broadhurst Gaborone.
Tel 3975726

SEGOPOLO J
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO: CVHGB-004261-24

In the matter between;
DIKGOTHOBELA ESTATE AGENCY PROPRIETARY LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
ALFRED POLOKO MOLLOWAKGOTLA **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION-MOVABLE PROPERTY

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment of the above Honorable Court, the undermentioned property will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff **ONKGOPOTSE MOTLHAGODI** to the highest bider as follows;

DATE OF SALE : 27TH FEBRUARY 2026
TIME : 11:00 am
VENUE : NTSHE HOUSE-FRANCISTOWN
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Toyota Fortuner Reg No. B748 ANI white colour, Mercedes Benz Reg No. B990 AVU grey colour, 1 x Defy washing machine, 1 x deep freezer, 1 x Tek fridge, 1x Trojan aluminum gym equipment, wails reg, 30 different waits equipment, 1 x Trojan lift banch, 1 x Trojan run equipment express machine, 2 dinner tables with 8 chairs, 2 display unit, 2 brown wooden chairs, 2 sides board, 1 logic TV, 1 star aqua TV, 1 TV stand, 1 stool, 1 superman bar sound, 2 setter couch, 1 x 3 setter couch, 1 setter couch, 1 reflex welding machine, 1 oxen welding machine, 1 trim lawn mower, 10000 liter jojo tank, 1 ground driller, 1 cutting machine, 2 step leathers.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed Cheque.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 26TH JANUARY 2026.

MATLALA ATTORNEYS, Suite F2 office, Plot 1873 Extension 4, Gaborone, Private Bag BO 224, Bontleng Gaborone. Tel 3937681/2/3

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CHANGE MARRIAGE PROPERTY REGIME

(In terms of Section 8 (1) (f) of Married Person's Property Act, 2013)

DANIEL MMALWE TLADI and **KEARABILWE TLADI (Nee Ntswetswe)** married in community of property on 27th October 2006, at Mochudi, wish to change the regime to out of community of property.

The parties intend to apply to the High Court of Botswana after the expiration of the three (3) weeks statutory notice from the date of the first Publication hereof.

Any person, creditor or debtor, who may have an interest in the assets and/or liabilities of parties' Estate, should they have any objections to the parties changing their property regime, is to notify the parties attorneys, Matlala Attorneys, before the High Court of Botswana once contemplated application is lodged.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 23TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

MATLALA ATTORNEYS
Suite F2 office, Plot 1873
Extension 4, Gaborone
Private Bag BO 224,Bontleng Gaborone
Tel: 3937681/2/3

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CHANGE MARRIAGE PROPERTY REGIME

(In terms of Section 8(1)(f) Of Married Person's Property Act, 2013)

1. **TEBOGO MOLEFHE** and **FIONA TRACEY VILJOEN** married in Community of Property on the 17th December 2011, at Francistown, wish to change their property regime to Out of Community of Property.

2. The parties intend to apply to the High Court of Botswana after the expiration of the three (3) weeks statutory notice from the date of first publication hereof.

3. Any person, creditor or debtor, who may have an interest in the assets and/or liabilities of the parties, should they have any objections to the parties changing their property regime, is to notify the parties attorneys, Serole & Partners, before the High Court of Botswana once the contemplated application is lodged.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 27TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025.

SEROLE & PARTNERS
Plot 54513, Unit 1
The Courtyard
P O Box 1679 ABG, Sebele
GABORONE

MAID WANTED

In Letlhakane
Age 40 plus, experienced
T&C to be discussed.
Contact: 75592866

Botswana Chess Trials Shake Elite Ranks

GAZETTE REPORTER

The battle for places in Botswana's national chess team has intensified, with the second qualifying stage of the 2026 National Team Selection Championships delivering drama, surprises and unexpected exits from some of the country's most decorated players.

As the dust settled over the weekend, several national team players and Olympians failed to advance, underscoring the growing depth and competitiveness of Botswana's chess landscape. "The chessboard drama is still simmering," said Botswana Chess Federation (BCF) spokesperson Goitsemodimo Makgatle. "Top players performed strongly, but there were also surprises that changed the shape of the competition."

FINALISTS REVEALED

Eight players from each category have advanced to the finals scheduled for February 13–15, 2026. In the Open section, the qualifiers are AFM Blessings Motshabi, Sebetlela Gaasite, CM Thuto Mpene, CM Thuso Mosutha, Simon Bokamoso, Mothudi Mogotsi Arnold, Oratile Kgotlane and Magowe Thabang.

In the Ladies section, the finalists are WCM Amolemo Mosweu, WIM Onkemetse Francis, WCM Otimile Maya, WCM Laone Moshoboro, Boitumelo Radikoro, Ndachipiwa Kgomotso, WFM Thapelo Francis and Motlhako Laone.

"These results show that no position is guaranteed," Makgatle said. "Even established national team players must fight for their places."

STRATEGIC SHIFT

Traditionally, Botswana's national team has consisted of four players from the Open section and five from the Ladies section. This year, however, the federation aims to retain eight players from each category, expanding the talent pool to ensure greater flexibility in international competitions.

"The intention this year is to have a broader base of players who can respond to national duties when needed," Makgatle explained. "This approach will help us avoid situations where we run out of available players due to unforeseen circumstances."

LOOKING AHEAD

With the finals approaching, the pressure is mounting. For emerging talents, the trials represent a rare opportunity to break into the national setup. For seasoned players, they are a reminder that reputation alone is no longer enough.

As Botswana chess prepares for a new cycle of international competition, the final showdown promises to redefine the country's hierarchy on the board.



Rollers, GU Welcome Sunbet Backing



Gaborone United and Township Rollers say the sponsorship arrived at a critical time for local football

GAZETTE REPORTER

Gaborone United and Township Rollers have thanked sports betting company Sunbet for sponsoring the two clubs, noting that the support has come at a time when local football is in need of sustained financial backing.

Sunbet was officially announced in August last year as a sponsor to both sides. The company became Township Rollers' title sponsor after injecting P1.5 million into the club, while Gaborone United received P1 million. Sunbet branding appears on the front of Rollers' playing kits and replica jerseys, while at Gaborone United the logo is displayed on the sleeve.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

The two clubs formally acknowledged the sponsorship during the Botswana Community Impact Day held in Gaborone on Monday.

Gaborone United head of operations Herbert Letsebe said the partnership had arrived at a critical moment for Botswana football, where many clubs remain heavily dependent on gate takings.

"The reality is that we need sponsorships as teams, mostly we rely on gate takings but we have employees," Letsebe said. "We need companies like Sunbet to come on board and thank them for that, they are somehow improving our football."

Letsebe also credited Sunbet for introducing the Charity Cup, describing it as an initiative that extends beyond football.

"Must be also lauded for coming up with the Charity Cup to uplift communities, we are happy to have contributed. We hope for a bigger and better Charity Cup in the future," he said.

WIDER IMPACT

Township Rollers interim chairman Thapelo "Fish" Pabalinga linked the sponsorship to broader community outcomes, saying sport and social development could not be separated.

"Sport and community development are inseparable," Pabalinga said. "When companies like Sunbet back both clubs and charitable causes, they create a multiplier effect: our athletes perform with pride, families benefit from vital services, and communities grow stronger."

He said Township Rollers was proud to be associated with a partner that recognised this responsibility and encouraged other companies to follow a similar path.

"Strategic, sustained contributions to sport and charity are investments in talent, stability, and the future of our nation," Pabalinga said.

He thanked Sunbet for its "trust, generosity, and continued partnership," adding: "We look forward to working together to create more positive outcomes on and off the field."

> "The reality is that we need sponsorships as teams, mostly we rely on gate takings but we have employees."

CSI FUNDING

During the same event, Sunbet Botswana handed over P278,298.84 in Corporate Social Investment funding to two community-based organisations. The total comprised P195,088.84 in statutory contributions, supplemented by P83,210.00 raised through the Sunbet Charity Cup, which previously ended in a tie between Gaborone United and Township Rollers.

The handover forms part of Sunbet Botswana's statutory obligations under the Regulatory Framework Agreement, which requires licensed operators to contribute a percentage of their Gross Gaming Revenue toward social responsibility initiatives.

BAA COURTS CORPORATE SUPPORT

Athletics body sharpens its product, betting on presentation, technology and broadcast appeal to draw sponsors.

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO



The Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) is intensifying efforts to attract corporate sponsorships by reworking how the sport is presented, its chief executive officer, Mabua Mabua, said in an interview.

"We want to sell athletics to the corporate world and we will be driving that more this season," Mabua told this publication by telephone. He pointed to a recent race in Francistown as an early marker of that strategy. The event was live-streamed and supported by professional personnel, an approach the association plans to expand.

"This past weekend we had a race in Francistown and it was live-streamed, professional people came on board to this," he said. "We want our races to be attractive and we saw where we need to improve."

> "We want a well packaged product because as already said, we want to sell it to the corporate world."

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

BAA plans to introduce new timing equipment at its next race on February 14. Mabua said the association has purchased world-class equipment and that representatives from the supplier will be in Botswana to train local officials on its use.

He added that the upgrades are part of a broader push to improve standards ahead of the national championships scheduled for April. "By the time of our nationals which will be on April we want everything to be well board," he said.

PACKAGING PRODUCT

According to Mabua, the association believes athletics in Botswana offers significant content that can be leveraged if properly packaged. The aim, he said, is to present a more compelling product to potential sponsors.

"We want a well packaged product because as already said, we want to sell it to the corporate world," he said. He noted that BAA is also finalizing work on its website, which is expected to be launched in February.

"BAA has massive content that we believe needs to be tapped on and if well packaged can appeal or corporates," Mabua said. "We are also working on our website which will be launched on February, so we are in full force."

EARLY SEASON SIGNS

Looking ahead, Mabua said the association expects a positive season, citing performances from the recent meet. He highlighted Galefele Moroko, who ran 53.97 seconds in the women's 400 meters, as an example of an athlete who has started the year strongly.

BTTA Names Youth Squad

Nationwide trials spotlight Botswana's emerging table tennis talent

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO



The Botswana Table Tennis Association (BTTA) has confirmed a list of players selected from Youth National Team trials held on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, following a nationwide selection process conducted in Maun, Mabeleapodi and Gaborone.

The trials, which drew participation from junior players across the country, were part of BTTA's efforts to broaden its talent identification programme and strengthen the youth national setup. From each centre, two boys and two girls were selected to advance to the next phase of assessment.

The selected players will be integrated into an expanded national training pool that already includes the current national rank one players, Boitlamo Nkele and Reneilwe Lekorwe. Further evaluations will take place during upcoming training camps before final selections are made.

REGIONAL TRIALS

In Maun, where eight boys and five girls took part, Leatlo Gabakgore and Katlo Kgosietsile were selected in the boys' category, while Oratile Lekgethiso and Jwame Mojuta were chosen among the girls.

Mabeleapodi hosted a smaller field of five boys and two girls. The boys selected were Kgotla Thebeyame and Tebogo Kotopo, while Kgotso Kootsene and Abigail Molaba advanced from the girls' category.

The largest turnout was recorded in Gaborone, with 30 boys and 28 girls competing. From this group, Thato Kgongwana and Tinashe Dzvaka were selected among the boys, while Carol David and Stephaney Batsholeng earned selection in the girls' division.

> "The level of competition was high, and it clearly shows that junior table tennis is growing in Botswana."

DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

BTTA Development Coordinator Godirileone Bagwasi said the trials reflected both growing participation and improving standards among junior players.

"We are very pleased with how the selection exercise went across all centres," Bagwasi said. "The level of competition was high, and it clearly shows that junior table tennis is growing in Botswana."

He noted that hosting trials in multiple regions was intended to widen access to the national programme.

"Taking the selection to different regions allowed us to reach more players and ensure inclusivity, which is a key part of our development strategy," he said.

NEXT PHASE

Attention now shifts to training camps, where the selected players will be assessed further before the final Youth National Team is confirmed.

"The selected players, together with our top-ranked athletes, will be invited to training camps," Bagwasi said. "These camps will help us further evaluate performance, discipline and readiness as we work towards the final Youth National Team selection."

BTTA said details regarding the camps and final selections will be announced in due course.



BOTSWANA POSITIONS AFRICA FOR WORLD RELAYS

Organisers say preparations are 75 percent complete as the country positions the World Athletics Relays as an African qualifying gateway

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana is framing the upcoming World Athletics Relays, scheduled for May 2–3, as a continental opportunity, with organisers deliberately seeking to widen access for African nations hoping to qualify for the global event.

Speaking at a recent press conference, the World Athletics Relays Chief Executive Officer, Moses Bantsi, said the approach reflects a conscious effort to ensure that Africa benefits from hosting the competition.

"We are saying this is an African event," Bantsi said. "We want to give other African countries an opportunity to qualify during the Lefika International Relays towards the end of March."

The Lefika International Relays are intended to provide qualifying opportunities ahead of the main event, reinforcing Botswana's ambition to make the meet more inclusive for African teams.

STRUCTURED PLANNING

Bantsi said preparations are being guided by a detailed and highly structured planning framework. According to him, the organising committee has developed 127 timelines spread across different operational sectors.

"We set ourselves timelines, about 127 of them, divided into each sector," he said. "We also placed ourselves into four working phases."

He explained that the first phase focused on planning, while the current phase centres on readiness.

"We had the planning phase, we are now in the readiness phase," Bantsi said. "The third stage will be the event itself, and the last phase will be post-event evaluation. For each phase, we put timelines to it."

PROGRESS UPDATE

Assessing overall progress, Bantsi said preparations are advancing, though some elements remain unfinished.

"How far are we with the preparation? We are at 75 percent," he said.

Following the Lefika International Relays, organisers will stage a Grand Prix event five days before the World Relays. Bantsi described it as a full-scale test event designed to stress-test logistics.

> "We are saying this is an African event."

"The Grand Prix will be kind of a test event," he said. "It comes five days before the World Relays, and we will be hands-on in logistics, from the airport, to the hotel and so on."

STADIUM CONCERNS

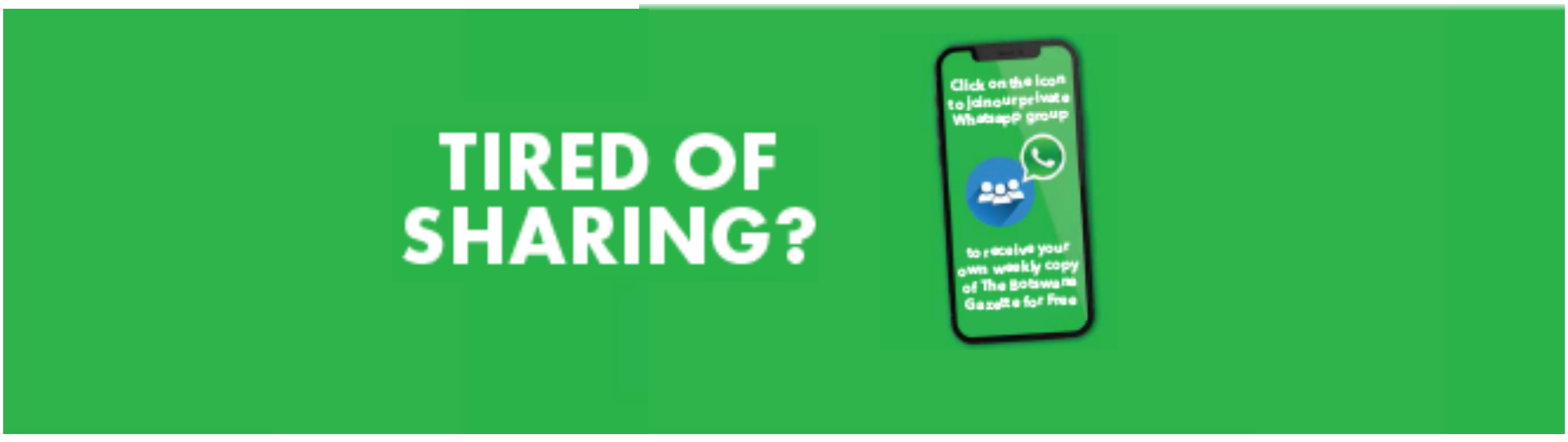
Bantsi raised concerns about the readiness of the UB Stadium, noting that the facility falls outside the organisers' direct control.

"As for stadium readiness, we are not the owners of the facility," he said. "We were supposed to be handed a clean stadium by the end of December, and that did not happen."

He added that a revised January timeline was also missed, but said discussions with stakeholders are ongoing to ensure readiness before the event.

Bantsi said ticketing details would be announced soon.

The World Athletics Relays will mark the first time the event is hosted in Botswana and on African soil.



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